



Arthur Houle, Founder & Director
www.pianofestival.org

Judges & Director Program:
"A Laugh Affair with the Piano"
(An eclectic mix of the serious and the light-hearted)

Colorado Mesa University
Moss Performing Arts Center Recital Hall
Grand Junction, CO

Friday, April 12, 2013
7:30 P.M.

Suggested donation: \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors & \$5 for students

Schroeder Meets the Pink Panther (1975; revised 1977 & 1985).....Arthur Houle (b. 1955)
Nocturne in B Major, Op. 62, No. 1: Andante (1845-1846).....Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)
Arthur Houle

The Story of Beethoven's Mysterious Odyssey, Based on Recent Musicological Findings
John Salmon

"Add On Bach".....John Salmon (b. 1954)
John Salmon & Arthur Houle (selections TBA)
(*Invention No. 8 in F* with Sydnee Martinez; *Invention No. 14 in Bb* with Lisa Bush)

5-minute Intermission

A tribute to Dave Brubeck (1920-2012): Selections TBA
John Salmon

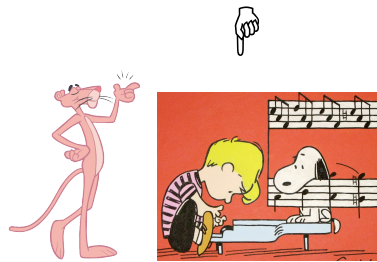
PROGRAM NOTES



Notes by Houle:

Riddle: What do you get when you cross a Houle with a Guaraldi and a Mancini? Answer: *Schroeder Meets the Pink Panther*. Vince Guaraldi (1928-1976) was most famous for composing and performing the cheerful jazz trio music for animations of the comic strip *Peanuts*. Guaraldi was still alive when I penned the first version of this homage for bass and piano and titled it *Interplay No. 2*. The whimsical revised title did not occur to me until 2007, but I think it was always stewing in the back of my mind - especially since I'm also a fan of Henri Mancini (1924-1994), composer of the *Pink Panther* theme.

My students know that I have a clinical condition known as "string envy," coveting all string instruments, including the bass. So it was inevitable that I would write *Schroeder Meets the Pink Panther*, which is conceived as a fun melodic "dialogue" between bluesy bass lines and the piano. (Its creation was, in part, spurred by a passing comment by a teacher: "You don't write very contrapuntally, do you?") The essentially "bass" quality of the composition comes through even in tonight's piano solo piano version, written in 1985. This rescoring was challenging, for I could not avoid writing some rather unpianistic technical passages (e.g., unwieldy parallel 6ths, quick changes of register, wide stretches, polyrhythms, and hand-over-hand crosses). So sit back, relax, and enjoy the fun while I try to make it sound easy.



Nocturnes evoke images of night; they are essentially wordless arias with broken chord accompaniments. The title "nocturne" was first used by Irish composer John Field (1782-1837) in 1812. Chopin admired Field's nocturnes and used them as a model for writing his own. Chopin was also inspired by the nocturnes of Polish composer Maria Szymanowska (1789-1831) as well as by the great opera singers of his day. Chopin's nocturnes, however, have greater depth, variety, and melancholy character than those by Field or Szymanowska.

Chopin's last two nocturnes (Op. 62) are considered by many to be his most mature and compelling. The *Nocturne in B Major, Op. 62, No. 1* was nicknamed "The Tuberose" by James Huneker (writer and critic, 1857-1921). A tuberose is a plant with a bulblike root and sweet, white funnel-shaped flowers. While Chopin was strongly averse to attaching specific titles to his works, he would often proffer such imagery in private to his students and friends. Chopin's predilection for fiorature (literally, "flowerings" – improvisatory vocal embellishments) is abundantly evident in this highly adorned nocturne. The continuous "chain" trills in the return of the theme are particularly luscious and indicative of Huneker's appellation ("authentic" or not).

Notes by Salmon:

Dave Brubeck died December 5th, 2012, just one day shy of his 92nd birthday. He played a large role in my musical development, beginning with that day, as a precocious five-year-old, I managed to put the classic LP *Time Out* on our family's stereo. I was captivated by the hypnotic 5/4 rhythm of "Take Five," Paul Desmond's wistful saxophone solos, and Brubeck's polychords in "Strange Meadowlark."

Back then I would have never guessed that our lives would intersect professionally -- but they started to around 1992 when my first article about him, "What Brubeck Got From Milhaud," was published. For the next twenty years, I recorded and edited his music, especially the piano music performable by classically trained musicians. To my great honor, Dave dedicated two piano pieces to me, "The Salmon Strikes" and "Bach Again," both of which I have recorded.

Tonight my tribute will focus on his iconic jazz tunes, with my improvisations. While I cannot predict with certainty what I will play, the set is likely to include "Dziękuję," "In Your Own Sweet Way," "The Duke," and "It's a Raggy Waltz."

Biographies

John Salmon holds B.M. and B.A. (philosophy) degrees from Texas Christian University, the "Solistendiplom" from the Freiburg Hochschule für Musik, an M.M. from the Juilliard School, and a D.M.A. from the University of Texas-Austin. His awards include a fellowship from The Beethoven Foundation (now the American Pianists Association), the Premio Jaén, the Loren Eiseley Memorial Award from the University of Maryland Piano Competition, and the Gina Bachauer Memorial Award from Juilliard. Salmon performs internationally and has recorded for Radio Suisse Romande, RAI Italian Radio, Spanish National Radio, Canadian Broadcasting Corp., WFMT Radio in Chicago, C-Span and PBS television. Salmon is also active as a jazz pianist and has released CDs of the music of the legendary Dave Brubeck. Dr. Salmon is founder and former director of the annual "Focus on Piano Literature" symposium at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, where he is Professor of Piano.

Gary Smart

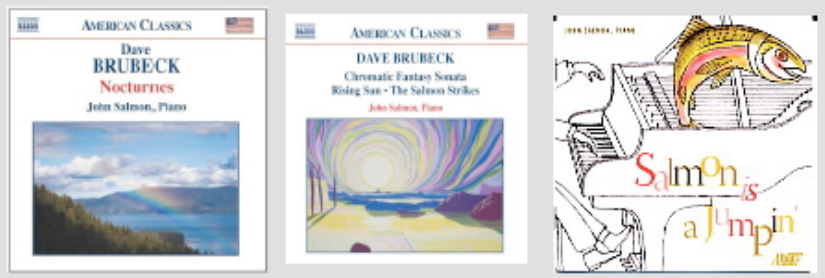
We regret that Gary Smart, due to illness, could not join us this year to adjudicate and perform. We are grateful for his service to the festival last year and hope that he can join us again at a future festival. Note to students: In the event of a split decision with Drs. Salmon and Atkinson, Dr. Houle will serve as the tie-breaker for prize awards.

Arthur Houle is Professor of Music and Director of Keyboard Studies at Colorado Mesa University. He holds degrees from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, New England Conservatory and the University of Iowa. A piano teacher since the age of thirteen, Dr. Houle has taught at major institutions in the United States. Recently he was named a "Music Teachers National Association Fellow" for his outstanding contributions to the music teaching profession.

CDs by John Salmon* can be found online:

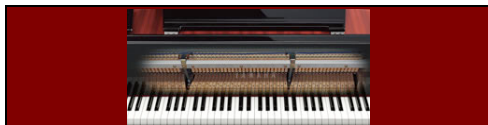
www.albanyrecords.com

www.naxos.com



*That's him emerging from the piano – no, not the fish...that other creature, sitting at the piano ☺

We are grateful to **J. B. Hart Music** (downtown Grand Junction) for their ongoing support in sponsoring the Clavinova sessions and for lending us a digital piano for the duration of the festival!



We are also grateful to the following individuals for their support:

Evelyn Billberg, assistant coordinator
Mary Leah Chavies
Karen Combs
Dr. Carl* & Michele Feghali
*GJ Smiles:
970-245-9546
www.gjsmiles.com
Azam and Arthur Houle

Bijan and Jenny Houle
Peggy Krause
Malinda Lyons
The Seatons
Frank & Jayne Steuart
Susan Torgrude
Drea Wagner

We need and appreciate your generous support!
Donations have tax benefits, and are payable to
Colorado Mesa University Music Department.

IMPORTANT: Please write "piano festival" in
the memo portion of checks.

Mailing address for donations:
Dr. Calvin Hofer
Chair, Department of Music
Colorado Mesa University
1100 North Avenue
Grand Junction, CO 81501
(Telephone: 970.248.1163)

Thanks also to our many volunteers who help behind the scenes
and to the **Grand Junction Music Teachers Association** (www.gjmta.org),
J. B. Hart Music & Colorado Mesa University for their sponsorship.



J.B. HART MUSIC
417 Main St., Grand Junction, CO 81501
(970) 242-9282
1-800-310-9282
www.jbhartmusic.com

Next festival: April 4-5, 2014.
Luke Gillespie will be special Guest Artist
& third adjudicator.

We also appreciate the day-to-day support and tireless contributions of our music department chair, **Calvin Hofer**, and our *very fine* ☺ fine arts administrative assistant, **Lyn Ross**.

Finally, a hearty "thank you" goes to **Frank & Jayne Steuart** for their hospitality in hosting John Salmon at their home.

☞ *Festival participants: Please don't forget to sign in ☞ before and after this program!*

Upcoming:

• Winners' Recital 🕊️ & Awards Ceremony

Tomorrow evening, Sat., April 13, 7:30 P.M., MPAC Recital Hall (\$10/\$8/\$5).

Festival participants please note: Tomorrow at approx. 🕒 4:00 – 4:30 P.M., the names of the festival First Prize & Honorable Mention winners will be posted on the MPAC hallway bulletin board. Students should consult this in order to know if they are performing at the Winners Recital.

• Wednesday Music Club Student Winners Recital

Wed., May 1, 1:00 P.M., MPAC Recital Hall (Free admission)

MUSIC HUMOR: The Beatles HEY JUDE "Flow Chart"

(from <http://loveallthis.tumblr.com/post/166124704>)

