

continued from inside page

...with his precise, active, athletic style.” The *Baton Rouge Advocate* reviews him as “generating a collective gasp of amazement in the audience.” *Kansas City’s Journal of the Performing Arts* said Ciraldo’s “instrument was a clear extension of the performer.” He is Professor of Music at The University of Southern Mississippi School of Music. Ciraldo’s hobbies include mechanical watches, running, hi-fi rabbit holes, cooking, and bothering his wife.

Rachel Taratoot Ciraldo joined the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra as their principal Flutist in 2005. She is also the Principal Flutist of the Meridian Symphony Orchestra and Second Flutist of the Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra. She is an active chamber musician and performs regularly with classical guitarist, Nicholas Ciraldo, in Duo Cintemani, and in Lagniappe Trio, with harpist Stephanie Gustafson-Amfahr and violist Christopher Lowry. She is an award winner of several international flute competitions, including the National Flute Association’s Young Artist Competition, Byron Hester Flute Competition, James Pappoutsakis Memorial Flute Competition and the Flute Festival Mid-South Young Artist Competition. She was Instructor of Flute at Southeastern Louisiana University and has served as a Visiting Instructor of flute at Louisiana State University and the University of Southern Mississippi. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Indiana University and a Master of Music degree from Boston University. Her main teachers include Amy Porter, Thomas Robertello, Marianne Gedigian, and Jill Felber. As a resident of Hattiesburg, Rachel serves on the development staff of and is a performer in FestivalSouth, a month-long cultural arts festival, affecting social and economic growth of the Gulf region through arts programming and advocacy. Rachel has practiced yoga for 15 years, loves traveling, home improvement projects and gardening, and has one amazing son, Luca.

A native of Idaho Falls, Idaho, tenor **Jonathan Yarrington** is Assistant Professor of Voice at the University of Southern Mississippi. Prior to joining the faculty at USM, Dr. Yarrington was a member of The Dallas Opera Studio from 2011-2014, singing nearly one hundred performances in the title roles of their education and outreach productions. An active recitalist and concert performer, he has commissioned and performed new music for tenor and oboe, and he specializes in German and Czech art song. Dr. Yarrington holds the Doctor of Musical Arts in Vocal Performance degree from the University of North Texas.



THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
PRESENTS

Faculty & Guest Recital

“The Covid Collection”

Kelly Lester, Dance & Choreography
Latisha Hamilton Earnest, Voice
Rachel Taratoot Ciraldo, Flute
Jonathan Yarrington, Voice
Nicholas Ciraldo, Guitar

Thursday 3 February 2022

Marsh Auditorium

8:00pm

School of Music
A SOUND TRADITION
usm.edu/music

Program

Parts, Together.....Azariah Felton

Bicicleta de Baiano.....Roberto Velasco

with Kelly Lester, dance & choreography

Homenaje.....Manuel de Falla

Suite española, Opus 47: No. 5, Asturias.....Isaac Albéniz

Lesson in A Major, Book IV, No. 1.....Julio Sagreras
Movimiento perpetual

Prelude, Fugue, and Allegro, BWV 998: Prelude.....J.S. Bach

Una limosna por el amor de Diós.....Agustín Barrios

Peace in the Valley.....Thomas Dorsey

with Latisha Hamilton Earnest, voice

Prelude Miniatures: No. 2, Rubato.....Matt Van Brink

Some Other Time.....Leonard Bernstein
Waltz for Debby.....Bill Evans

with Jonathan Yarrington, voice

Codex.....Radiohead

with Rachel Taratoot Ciraldo, flute

Kelly Ferris Lester is Director, Center for Faculty Development, and Professor of Dance at the University of Southern Mississippi. She earned her BFA in Theatre and Dance from the University of Memphis and her MFA in Choreography and Performance from The College at Brockport (SUNY). Lester currently serves as President for the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO, 2021-2022), and she has focused her presidency on the JDEI (Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) project and strategic planning for the organization. Lester is a co-founder of Hub Dance Collective for which she regularly performs and shares choreography. Her choreography has been featured at many national festivals including ACDA Galas (2011, 2016), and a tour of The Body Politic with collaborator and dancer Elizabeth Lentz-Hill (2016-2018).

Latisha Hamilton Earnest is a native of Sylvarena, MS, and has always been passionate about music. Latisha began singing and playing guitar at an early age. Latisha received her associate's degree in Music Education from Jones College and was active in ensembles such as the JC Concert Choir, JC Voices, and Jones Onstage Show Choir. She was also a member of the guitar and theater programs. Latisha earned her Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from the University of Southern Mississippi, with an emphasis in Choral music and guitar, where she studied under Professor Ciraldo. She was a member of the women's acapella group, Southern Belletones, and Southern Chorale. In 2021 Latisha received her Master's degree in Music Education from Southern Miss. She is married to Ryan Earnest. The couple resides in Laurel, MS. She currently serves as Choral Director and Guitar Instructor at Laurel High School. Outside of the classroom, Earnest performs as a gospel quartet singer and guitar accompanist for her family group, The B&H Gospel Singers. Earnest and her family perform faithfully throughout the United States. She is a church musician and lead singer of her soul band "Latisha and Friends". Latisha is grateful to be able to spread her love for music to others daily!

Nicholas Ciraldo reached early success at the Tredrez-Locquemau, Gaetano Zinetti, GFA, Portland, and MTNA guitar competitions and now enjoys numerous performances across four continents, playing in such venues as the United States' Jordan Hall, Germany's Berliner Dom, and Brazil's Teatro José Maria Santos. He has released three full albums for solo guitar to critical acclaim. *Soundboard* states that Ciraldo's "performances are, without reservations, marvelous, with abundant technique and commitment to the music, one of the best." Allmusic.com defines his playing as "confident, goes right to the heart of the music..."

continued on back page