

Loyola University New Orleans  
School of Music and Theatre Arts  
Presents

**Junior Recital:**  
***Chris Casillas,***  
***saxophone***

*from the studio of*  
Khari Allen Lee

*with*  
Maggie Probst, Accompanist



Sunday, March 19, 2022, 7:30 p.m.  
Nunemaker Auditorium

# Program

*Fantasie sur un Thème Original*

Jules Demersseman  
(1833-1866)

*Pequeña Czarda*

Pedro Iturralde  
(1929-2020)

Maggie Probst, piano

*How to Train Your Saxophone*

John Powell  
arr. Chris Casillas

*Kingdom Hearts Medley*

Yoko Shimomura  
arr. Chris Casillas

## **Saxophone Ensemble**

Spencer Moore, alto

Silas Eden, alto

Isabella Bonzani, tenor

Liam Case, tenor

Erika Torres, baritone

*On the Sunny Side of the Street* Jimmy McHugh, Dizzy Gillespie  
arr. Chris Casillas

*Sway (¿Quién Será?)* Pablo Beltrán Ruiz, Luis Demetrio,  
and Michael Buble  
arr. Chris Casillas

*You Make Me Feel So Young* Josef Mytrow, Mack Gordon,  
and Frank Sinatra  
arr. Chris Casillas

*Moon Over Bourbon Street* Gordon Sumner  
arr. Chris Casillas

*For Once in My Life* Ron Miller, Orlando Murden,  
and Harry Connick Jr.  
arr. Chris Casillas

**Jazz Combo**

Collin Ledesma, trumpet

Oliver Tuttle, trombone

Peter James, piano

Tony Bianchini, bass

Mack Tracey, drums

# Notes

## *Fantasie sur un Thème Original*

Jules Demersseman was a French composer who lived and worked in the height of the romantic era of music. Predominantly a flautist, he composed many concertos for the flute, but he was also one of the first French composers to write for the newly developed saxophone at the time.

*Fantasie sur un Thème Original*, which translates to “Fantasy on an Original Theme,” is the only piece he wrote for saxophone, as he died from tuberculosis at the young age of 33.

## *Pequeña Czarda*

*Pequeña Czarda*, which translates to “Little Dance,” is a fairly newer piece composed in 1929 by Pedro Iturralde, a Spanish composer and saxophonist. A Czarda is a type of courting dance common amongst the Romani people. This style of dance is characterized by a vast contrast of slow, lyrical portions and fast, upbeat portions, and is normally accompanied by the klezmer style of music which shares the similar contrasts to Czardas. Klezmer music also is characterized by the use of extended techniques such as portamento playing and glissandos, and the use of the Phrygian and Mixolydian modes, as well as what is called the Mediterranean scale which is a variation of the harmonic minor scale. Czardas and klezmer music are very common in the Eastern and Mediterranean areas of Europe, and can be seen in a number of different cultures including Jewish, Romani, and Middle Eastern.

## *How to Train Your Saxophone*

A variation on the movie title of *How to Train Your Dragon*, *How to Train Your Saxophone* is a medley of some of the recognizable musical themes from the movie. I have always been inspired by Celtic folk music and instruments, and *How to Train Your Dragon* is a perfect example of how I would love to use similar instruments when I compose. The themes heard in this piece include *This is Berk*, *Forbidden Friendship*, *Romantic Flight*, finishing with *Test Drive*. I chose to arrange a medley from this movie because I feel like it combines many things about me: I play saxophone, I plan on going into screen composing, I love Celtic music,

and *How to Train Your Dragon* is one of my favorite and most nostalgic movies.

### *Kingdom Hearts Medley*

As the name suggests, this is a medley of the music from the video game *Kingdom Hearts*. The epic music of the *Kingdom Hearts* franchise is often regarded as one of the capstones of the video game music industry. Yoko Shimomura uses vast orchestral ensembles which often feature piano which is her primary instrument. The songs heard in this piece include *Hikari*, *Dearly Beloved*, *Vector to the Heavens*, *Roxas's Theme / The Other Promise*, finishing with another part of *Hikari*. Similar to *How to Train Your Sax Ensemble*, I arranged this piece because it speaks to my desire to become a screen composer, video games have been a big part of my life, and *Kingdom Hearts* is a very nostalgic game to me as I grew up playing it.

### *On the Sunny Side of the Street*

This popular jazz standard has been performed by many artists including Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra, Dizzy Gillespie, and more since it was composed in 1930 by Jimmy McHugh and lyricist, Dorothy Fields. It is an uplifting song talking about leaving your worries at the doorstep and thinking on the bright side by “directing your feet to the sunny side of the street.” This particular arrangement of *Sunny Side of the Street* is influenced by the recording done by Dizzy Gillespie, Sonny Stitt, and Sonny Rollins from the “Sonny Side Up” album.

### *Sway*

*Sway* is a bolero-mambo written by Mexican composers Luis Demetrio, and Pablo Beltrán Ruiz. It was originally a melancholy song called *¿Quién Será?* with Spanish lyrics depicting a man wondering if he will ever love again, but Norman Gimbel took the song and made English lyrics for it that depicted a man talking about how his lover hypnotizes him when she sways when they dance. This song was made popular by Dean Martin, but has also been covered by other artists, including Michael Bublé who’s version inspired the one you will hear tonight.

### *You Make Me Feel so Young*

Another popular swing era standard, *You Make Me Feel so Young* was originally debuted in the musical film *Three Little Girls in Blue* in 1946, but has since been covered by many artists including Frank Sinatra, Michael Bublé, and Ella Fitzgerald. The song's lyrics portray a man in love who is brought the same joy that a child feels when he is with his lover. This particular arrangement is heavily modeled after Frank Sinatra's adaptation, but in it are subtle hints and nods to Ann Hampton Callaway's adaptation of *Let's Fall in Love*, another standard that shares a very similar chord progression.

### *Moon Over Bourbon Street*

An upbeat contemporary ballad written and performed by Gordon Sumner, otherwise known as Sting. This song is about a man from New Orleans who has been turned into a vampire who is struggling with his instincts and carnal hunger. He is particularly interested in a virtuous girl, but is fighting his bloodlust because he does not want to trap this innocent young woman into the life of a vampire the same way he was years ago. I very often find myself inspired by the musical and lyrical works of Sting, especially the ones during his solo career. I am playing soprano saxophone on this song because that is what Branford Marsalis played most often when touring with Sting.

### *For Once in My Life*

Originally written by Ron Miller and Orlando Murden, *For Once in My Life* is a song that has been adapted by many great artists including Harry Connick Jr., Stevie Wonder, Frank Sinatra, Diana Ross, and many more. Stevie Wonder's version is perhaps the most well known one and it is performed in a soulful gospel style which differed from some of the earlier ballad and swing adaptations. Harry Connick Jr. took this into account and gave his version a soulful big band gospel feeling to it, and his adaptation is what inspired the version you will hear tonight. *For Once in My Life* is about someone who is happy that he has finally found someone who loves and needs him/her.

# About the Artist

Born and raised in Houston, Texas, Chris Casillas is a multi-instrumentalist and composer who specializes in saxophone and piano. He is self-taught on piano and has been playing since age 8, but he chooses to study saxophone traditionally. He has studied saxophone since age 10, and now studies it at Loyola as his primary instrument. He gains inspiration from a plethora of artists and musical styles across the spectrum, and has experience in playing jazz, classical, rock, blues, and soul. He will be going on to pursue screen scoring in graduate school and as a career. Coming from many different musical backgrounds, he hopes to use and showcase these different sides to him in this recital in the form of classical concertos, composition and arrangement, and jazz improvisation.

# Upcoming Events

**Junior Recital: Silas Eden, saxophone**

Sunday, Mar. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Nunemaker Auditorium | Free admission

**Junior Recital: Austin Wallace, bass**

Tuesday, Mar. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Nunemaker Auditorium | Free admission

**Junior Recital: Riley Vagis, voice**

Wednesday, Mar. 23, 7:30 p.m.

Nunemaker Auditorium | Free admission

**Junior Recital: Dakota Wilburn, trombone**

Thursday, Mar. 24, 7:30 p.m.

Roussel | Free admission

**Senior Recital: KC Nichoalds, voice**

Friday, Mar. 25, 7:30 p.m.

Nunemaker | Free admission

**Graduate Recital: Taylor White, soprano**

Sunday, Mar. 27, 3 p.m.

Roussel | Free admission

**Junior Recital: Nora Cullinan, voice**

Sunday, Mar. 27, 7:30 p.m.

Nunemaker | Free admission

**Loyola Brass Faculty**

Monday, Mar. 28, 7:30 p.m.

Roussel | Free admission

**Head Over Heels**

March 31-April 2 & April 6-9

Marquette | Ticket required

**Loyola Band Festival & Wind Ensemble**

Saturday, Apr. 2, 7:30 p.m.

Roussel | Free admission

**Jazz Underground: Amina Scott**

Thursday, Apr. 7, 7:30 p.m.

Nunemaker | Ticket required

**Saxtravaganza**

Monday, Apr. 25, 7:30 p.m.

Nunemaker | Free admission

For more information and to **subscribe** to our mailing list,  
visit [presents.loyno.edu](http://presents.loyno.edu) or call (504) 865-2074.