The Belhaven University Department of Music
Dr. Stephen W. Sachs, Chair

presents

The Belhaven Composers Forum
Student Composers Concert VII

March 9, 2010
7:30 p.m.
Belhaven University Center for the Arts
Recital Room & Concert Hall
BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC MISSION STATEMENT

The Music Department seeks to produce transformational leaders in the musical arts who will have profound influence in homes, churches, private studios, educational institutions, and on the concert stage. While developing the God-bestowed musical talents of music majors, minors, and elective students, we seek to provide an integrative understanding of the musical arts from a Christian world and life view in order to equip students to influence the world of ideas. The music major degree program is designed to prepare students for graduate study while equipping them for vocational roles in performance, church music, and education. The Belhaven University Music Department exists to multiply Christian leaders who demonstrate unquestionable excellence in the musical arts and apply timeless truths in every aspect of their artistic discipline.

The Music Department of Belhaven University directs you to “Arts Ablaze 2009-2010.” Read about many of the excellent performances and presentations scheduled throughout this academic year at Belhaven University by the Arts Division. Please take a complimentary copy of “Arts Ablaze 2009-2010” with you.

The Music Department would like to thank our many community partners for their support of Christian Arts Education at Belhaven University through their advertising in “Arts Ablaze 2009-2010”. It is through these and other wonderful relationships in the greater Jackson community that makes an afternoon like this possible at Belhaven. We praise God for our friends and are truly thankful for their generosity. Please mention The Arts at Belhaven University when you visit our community partners.

If you would like to receive email news-concert updates from the Belhaven University Music Department, please add your name and email address to the sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer. It would be our pleasure to keep you informed regarding the recitals/concerts to be presented by the Music Department at Belhaven during the Spring Semester, 2010.

Thank you to those working behind the scenes to make today’s program a success: music faculty supervisor, Dr. Paxton Girtmon; student workers – Anna Cullnane, door manager; Eleana Davis, usher; John Mathieu and Temperance Jones, stagehands; Joshua Harton, recording/sound and lighting technician.

Upcoming Events:
Saturday, March 27, 2:00pm, Concert Hall  Abby Wiggins, Junior Recital
Friday, April 9, 7:30pm, Concert Hall  Belhaven String Chamber Orchestra Concert
Saturday, April 10, 3:00pm, Concert Hall  All State Strings Concert
Tuesday, April 13, 7:30pm, Concert Hall  Belhaven University & Jackson Community Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble Concert

Saturday, April 17, 7:30pm, Concert Hall  Guitar Ensemble Concert
Tuesday, April 20, 7:30pm, Concert Hall  Best of Belhaven II
Saturday, April 24, 7:30pm, Concert Hall  “Glory To God” – Belhaven University and Jackson Community Symphony Orchestra & Choral Arts Concert

There will be a reception in the foyer after the program.
Please come and greet the performers.
Please refrain from the use of all flash photography.
Please turn off all pagers and cell phones.
PROGRAM

Write your responses in the space to the right of each program note: a word, an image...

A Fight to the Death
My Song for Krisan

*Thomas Callen, piano*

Two months before my sister was married, she asked me to write a wedding song. I thought about all the things that come with marriage—the ups and downs, joys and sadness—but, as a whole, it is a beautiful thing. I tried to portray all this in My Song for Krisan.

In *A Fight to the Death*, imagine two people sword-fighting. The music is fast and upbeat, as a fight might be. As they swing and parry, running back and forth, so does the music. In the end one of the fighters gets stabbed, making the other the victor.

Cryptic
Tropical Storm

*Matthew Forester, marimba*

An example of making a mountain out of a molehill: one day I was improvising on the marimba, played something that I thought was interesting and decided to write it down. What happened over the next two days was the creation of *Cryptic* from intuition—"by feel" rather than scientifically and mathematically. The title stems from what it sounded like to me after it was completed: eerie, ominous, and mysterious, as if some dark, ancient ritual was being performed and I was hearing its melodies.

It isn’t often that a percussionist creates a piece that is also a true challenge for him or her to play. *Tropical Storm*, however, was one of the toughest melodic pieces that I ever had to conquer. Listen for properties of the storm in the music— the looming clouds, the thunder and lightning, the rain, the tempest, the eye, the second wall, and the resolution.

Prelude
Twilight at 3 o’Clock

*Hannah Thomas, piano*

*Prelude* and *Twilight at 3 o’Clock* are my among my first completed works. *Prelude* is short and sweet, the thematic material stemming from composing while falling asleep at the piano. *Twilight at 3 o’Clock* is subtle and mysterious, the left-hand's bell motive sounding out the hour. While neither of the works are long or complex, I prize them; they represent my growing abilities and fascination with composition. More works will follow.
Victory for the Righteous
Matthew Forester
*Thomas Callen, violin; Jacqueline Bateman, viola; Joseph McCullough, cello; Damien Bone, bass; Matthew Forester, conductor*

*Victory for the Righteous* is actually a collaboration between me, my brother Andrew, and my cousin Nathan. They wrote the second half of this song four or five years ago. This semester, I arranged it for strings and added an introductory section. Everything came together in a haphazard but beautiful way, and I learned a lot about writing for strings. I tried to preserve what was originally written, including the title my brother and cousin first gave the song.

The Four Seasons for Piano
James Octavius White

*Fall  
Winter  
Spring  
Summer*

*Ellie Honea, piano*

*The Four Seasons* is not based on Vivaldi’s concerti. It is simply an expression of my perspective on the many different seasons we go through each year.

Orpheus
Matthew Forester & Michael Shofner
*Matthew Forester, percussion; Michael Shofner, electric guitar*

This piece began as an improvisation and developed into a composed work. It follows the familiar Greek myth about Orpheus, the “father of songs”. When his wife Eurydice tragically dies, Orpheus sings such lamentations that the gods weep. They advise him to go to the underworld to appeal to Hades and Persephone, who agree to let Eurydice return, so long as he leads her out and does not look back at her until they are both in the upper world. Tragically, Orpheus looks back just before they reach the upper world, locking Eurydice in the underworld forever.

**DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC FACULTY AND STAFF**

Dr. Stephen Sachs, pianist, chair; Dr. Paxton Gittmon, director of bands, woodwind specialist; Dr. Andrew Sauerwein, composer, theorist; Dr. Christopher Shelt, coordinator of vocal activities, director of choral ensembles, Song Xie, violinist, director of string ensembles; Nancy Bateman, cello adjunct; Dennis Bonds, jazz guitar adjunct; Richard Brown, string bass adjunct; Melvin Champ assistant band director adjunct; Sybil Cheessman, flute adjunct; Dr. Dennis Cranford, music theory adjunct; Lisa Davis, French horn adjunct; Mark Davis, low brass adjunct; Dr. David Dick, music theory and trombone adjunct; Judy Dobson, clarinet adjunct; Carol Durham, organ adjunct; Gena Everett, vocal adjunct; Dr. Rebecca Geisler, vocal adjunct; Reca Gittmon, drill team instructor adjunct; Anne Gray, vocal adjunct; Barry Hause, classical guitar adjunct, director of guitar ensembles; Paul Heindl, percussion adjunct, director of percussion ensembles; Andrew Lewis, piano adjunct, Randy Mapes, double reed adjunct; Ana Catalina Ramirez, clarinet adjunct; Anne Katherine Ragsdale, piano adjunct, Elizabeth Richardson, vocal adjunct; Carolyn Sachs, piano adjunct, Singing Christmas Tree director; Nicole Harwell, staff accompanist; Lloyd Turner, trumpet adjunct; Rodney Vaughan, vocal adjunct; Dr. Brenda Wilder, piano adjunct; Karen Johnston, administrative assistant

**BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, OUR MUSIC MAJORS!**


**BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, DECEMBER 2009 GRADUATES!**

Ann Johnson, Johanna Rossman, Valerie Tate