**Chamber Music @ AEIVA**

**Thursday November 15, 2018**

**5:00 Reception, 5:30 Concert**

**Program**

Two Songs on Poems of Conrad Aiken Ed Robertson

         Heaven, You Say, Will Be a Field in April (1995)

         Music I Heard With You (2006)

from *Brighthope (*1985) Ed Robertson

Daybreak in Alabama (1997) Ricky Ian Gordon

           Poem by Langston Hughes (1956 - present)

Patrick Evans, baritone

Chris Steele, piano

Ballade Frank Martin

 (1890 - 1974)

Jay Evans, trombone

Chris Steele, piano

Three Rilke Songs\* Craig Brandwein

Have Patience from Letters to a Young Poet

If Only for Once from The Book of Hours

God Speaks from The Book of Hours

Emily Jaworski, mezzo-soprano

Ian Keel, motion graphics

Intermezzo in A minor, Op.116, No.2 Johannes Brahms

Intermezzo in B minor, Op.119, No.1 (1833- 1897)

Chris Steele, piano

Suite Italienne Igor Stravinsky

 I. Introduzione (1882 - 1971)

 V. Minuetto

 VI. Finale

Laura Usiskin, Cello

Chris Steele, piano

\*World premiere

*Special thanks to the UAB Department of Music, AEIVA, and the UAB Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for making this event possible*

**Biographies**

**Craig Brandwein***(pseud. Brandwynne)* is an Assistant Professor of Music Technology at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. Previously, he was an Associate Professor of Audio Production and Design at Living Arts College in Raleigh, North Carolina. He has been in the music business for over 40 years as an accomplished musician, composer, writer, producer and engineer. Craig has written and produced music for various artists, such as the late Lynn Anderson. He has composed music for Network Television, (CBS, NBC & ABC), Corporate Clients as well as Musical Theatre.

In 2010, he received an EmmyTM nomination for music composition and arranging, as well as in 2011 a TellyTMAward and a 2012 “People’s Choice” TellyTM Award for a promotional video. In 2013, a few of his projects were selected for the 56th & 57th Grammy Awards nomination ballot. He co-produced the “Sing With Max” album, which has earned a Mom’s Choice Award and Dove Foundation Seal of Approval.

He has scored music for film and television, his credits include Composer and Music & Sound Supervisor. As a film producer, Craig has been a key element on such films as “We Remember,” a Holocaust survivor DVD; “Youngsville”, horror film; “Changeover”, a feature drama; and “Max & Wrigley”, a 3D animation show (in development). He is also a staff producer, songwriter and VP for Center Sound Records.

**Jay Evans** is currently Principal Trombonist of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, a position he has held since October 2000. As a soloist with the orchestra, Jay has performed in numerous concerts including Jim Pugh’s Concerto for Trombone and Nino Rota’s Concerto for Trombone and Orchestra. He was also featured in a memorable concert with Olivia Newton-John and the ASO, performing on the Australian Aboriginal instrument, the didgeridoo.

Spending his early years in Iowa, Jay’s parents were tremendously supportive of his music studies. His father, a former tuba player, would humbly quote, “…and I modestly took my place as the one and only bass, and I oompahed up and down the square” in reference to his being the only tubist of the Mason City High School band, inspiring Meredith Wilson, while visiting, to include these lyrics in his musical, “The Music Man.”

Jay received a Bachelor of Music degree at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, while holding the position of Principal Trombone of the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra. He later received a Master of Music degree from North Texas State University, during which time he performed with the Dallas Cowboys Band. He later moved to New York City to perform monthly with the National Orchestra Association in Carnegie Hall and frequently performed with the Metropolitan Opera, New York Philharmonic, American Symphony, New York City Opera National Company, Springfield (MA) Symphony, and Miss Saigon on Broadway.

As a Fellow in Trombone at the Tanglewood Music Center, Jay performed with notable conductors Leonard Bernstein, Seiji Ozawa, and Jeffrey Tate. He was also a participant at the Spoleto Festival Duo dei Monde in Spoleto, Italy and Charleston, SC. Jay toured extensively throughout North America, Japan, and Australia with the Broadway production of *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber in Concert* starting Michael Crawford and Sarah Brightman. And, as a member of the highly acclaimed “Dallas Brass,” Jay performed throughout the United States. Special appearances included solos with the New York Pops with Skitch Henderson in Carnegie Hall, the Philadelphia Pops with Peter Nero, and the Cincinnati Pops with Erich Kunzel conducting.

Before settling in Alabama, Jay held positions with The Lyric Opera of Chicago and Grant Park Orchestra. He still returns regularly to perform with Chicago’s Music of the Baroque and spends summers as a member of the Grand Teton Music Festival.

Jay is currently a Low Brass Instructor at the Alabama School of Fine Arts, the University of Montevallo, and UAB, and maintains an active private teaching studio. He is a Shires Instruments Artist/Clinician.

**Patrick Evans** is a native of Birmingham who returned home after 27 years away to join the UAB Department of Music Faculty as Professor and Chair in July of 2015. He was Associate Professor in the Practice of Sacred Music at the Yale University Institute of Sacred Music and was Director of Music for the daily ecumenical worship in Marquand Chapel at Yale Divinity School. He was chair of the voice area and director of the opera program at the University of Delaware, where he was a tenured Associate Professor from 1994-2004. As an administrator, he served as Director of Admission for the School of Music at DePauw University, and as Interim Executive Director for More Light Presbyterians, a national non-profit working for justice for LGBTQ people in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

As a baritone, Dr. Evans has performed in opera, oratorio, and recital performances throughout the United States and abroad, including the Tanglewood Festival, Cleveland Art Song Festival, and the Pacific Music Festival in Sapporo, Japan.

In demand as a lecturer, practitioner, and clinician in the field of sacred music, he was Artist in Residence/Visiting Artist at Broadway Presbyterian Church in New York City, for 15 years. Since 2016, he has served as Choir Director at First United Methodist Church, Birmingham. He has served as Artist-in-Residence at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and is a member of the North American Academy of Liturgy.

Mezzo-soprano **Emily Jaworski** joined the UAB Music department in the fall of 2018. Prior to her appointment at UAB, she taught applied voice, class voice, vocal pedagogy, and diction for singers at Plymouth State University in Plymouth, New Hampshire. In addition to her studio teaching, she served as the music director for department productions of Avenue Q, Sweet Charity, The Wedding Singer, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, and Les Miserables. Before joining the faculty at Plymouth State, she taught choir, music history, and AP Music Theory at John Stark Regional High School in Weare, NH.

Dr. Jaworski frequently appears as a workshop leader and clinician to share her knowledge of yoga for singers, and body awareness for choirs. She completed her 200-hour yoga teacher training curriculum and is a registered yoga teacher. Emily is also a dedicated student of the Alexander Technique, having studied with Betsy Polatin, Kate Conklin, Peter Jacobson, Victoria Cole, and Elizabeth Daily.

Emily is a multi-disciplinary performer, and recently collaborated with colleagues to create Brilliant Being, which combines improvised movement and vocals with interactive multimedia projections and new music. Brilliant Being has been selected for performance at the Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space for 2019.

In recent seasons, Emily was honored to sing the mezzo solos in three world premieres by Jonathan Santore: Solstices in 2014, Battle-Pieces in 2016, and Requiem: Learning to Fall in 2017. The Requiem appears on There Are Many Other Legends, a CD compilation of Santore’s work, released by Navona records.

Dr. Jaworski is also a Unitarian Universalist musician, and is currently enrolled in the Music Leader Certification program sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association. She will also serve as the music coordinator for the annual General Assembly in Spokane, WA (2019) and Providence, RI (2020).

**Ian Keel** is a senior at UAB with a major in Music Technology. Although his primary area of study is music production, he is no stranger to all forms of media. Keel performs in both Commercial Music And Computer Music Ensembles here at UAB. Apart from school curriculum, he has served as Director of Photography for the Kaleidoscope as well as the Lead Photographer for Audiostate 55 events including the Mercedes Benz 2020 GLE Release Celebration featuring artists such as Robin Thicke, Leann Rimes, and India Arie. Keel plans to graduate in the summer of 2019.

**Chris Steele** held previous positions at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts as Staff Pianist, at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) as both Lecturer of Music Theory and Ear Training, and as Faculty Fellow for the UNCG Grogan College Music Learning Community. At UNCG he studied with Andrew Harley and James Douglass and held assistantships in both accompanying and music theory/ear training. At The Florida State University, he studied with Carolyn Bridger.

An active performer, Steele is a member of the UAB Chamber Trio and has collaborated with members of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra and the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra. As a proponent of new music, he is a member of the Birmingham Art Music Alliance, and has performed at the Society of Composers Region IV Conference and the Mid-South Chapter of the National Association of Composers Concert. He has also presented lecture-recitals on the late compositional style of Gabriel Fauré, including at UNCG’s biennial Focus on Piano Literature Symposium.

**Ed Robertson** is Professor Emeritus of Music at the University of Montevallo, where he was Professor of Music and Coordinator of Music Theory and Composition. At the University of Montevallo he established the UM Music Technology Lab. He earned his Doctor of Music at Florida State University, where he was a student of John Boda. He has also studied with Thea Musgrave, David Davis, and Jack Jarrett.  Prior to his graduate work at Florida State University, he served as Director of Choral Activities at the University of Richmond.

His works have been performed on five continents and in venues such as the Metropolitan Opera House, Carnegie Hall, and Symphony Hall in Atlanta. Robertson's compositions have received positive reviews in Fanfare magazine, the Oxford American, and numerous other publications. His instrumental, vocal, and choral compositions are available on compact disc, and he has been the recipient of a number of commissions. His music has been published by Carl Fischer, Lawson-Gould, Hinshaw, Willis, Belwin-Mills, Colla Voce, Shawnee, and others.

A winner of multiple ASCAP awards, he has been recognized by the University of Richmond for "outstanding achievement in the arts". Dr. Robertson was three times named Distinguished Teacher of the Year in the University of Montevallo College of Fine Arts. Also at UM he was twice selected as University Scholar, and the UM Alumni Association granted him its Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award. He was the Carnegie Foundation/Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Alabama Professor of the Year in 2004.

Cellist **Laura Usiskin** enjoys a versatile career as a soloist and chamber musician. Her playing has taken her to concert halls throughout the United States and Europe, including the Kennedy Center, Palazzo Chigi Saracini (Siena, Italy), Symphony Hall (Boston), and New York venues including Alice Tully Hall, Weill Hall, Zankel Hall, Merkin Hall, Miller Theatre, Barge Music, Steinway Hall, Klavierhaus, and more.

She has received such awards as the Prix d’Instrument at the Écoles d'art Americaines (France), the Aldo Parisot Prize at Yale University, and was a finalist for the Pro Musicis International Award. She completed the nationally acclaimed Artist In Residency with the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra as well as a fellowship with the Yale Baroque Ensemble. Usiskin has held tenured orchestral appointments with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, and Orchestra Iowa, where she served as Principal Cello.

Usiskin has performed chamber music with such renowned artists as Richard Stoltzman, Ani Kavafian, and Emanuel Ax. Recent solo performances include concerts of the complete J.S. Bach solo suites in Los Angeles and Connecticut as well as concertos of Dvoràk and Shostakovich with the Montgomery Symphony and Orchestra Iowa respectively. Usiskin is a member of multiple chamber groups including the Bayberry String Quartet, Arté Piano Trio, and new music ensemble BAMA Players.

In 2011, Usiskin founded the Montgomery Music Project, an El Sistema strings program for school students in Montgomery, Alabama. Under her direction, the program gave intensive string instruction to hundreds of low-income children across three counties. She served as the Executive Director of the program from its inception through 2013.

Usiskin currently serves on the faculty of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, through which she founded the concert series Chamber Music @ AEIVA. She also teaches at Birmingham-Southern College, the Alabama School of Fine Arts, STEP Birmingham, and privately. Usiskin's cello studies began at age five with Gilda Barston of the Music Institute of Chicago and continued with Richard Hirschl of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She graduated from Columbia University cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience and Behavior, The Juilliard School with a Master of Music, and Yale University with a Doctor of Musical Arts.