UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts | Music

SAVANNA NYGARD

SENIOR RECITAL

Saturday | May 18 | 5pm
Winifred Smith Hall

Works by Vivaldi, Doppler, Messiaen, Delibes, and more



with
Junko Nojima, piano

Special Guests
Andrew Nguyen, piano
Hope Tian, soprano

From the studio of Professor
Patricia Cloud

Savanna Nygard

FLUTE

Bachelor of Music
Senior Recital



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Biography

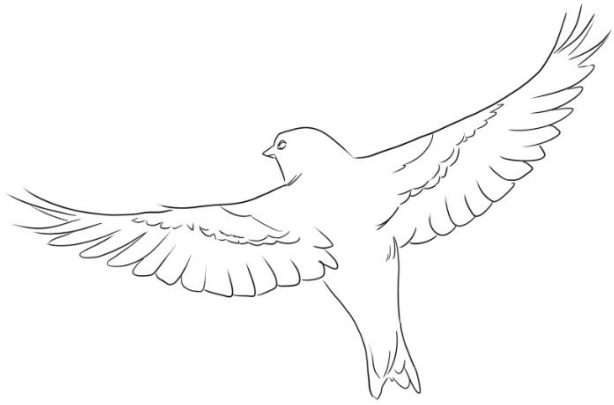
Savanna Jolie Nygard is an award-winning soloist and collaborative artist in the flute studio of Professor Patricia Cloud, and is principal chair in the UC Irvine Symphony Orchestra and Opera Orchestra under the baton of Dr. Geoffrey Pope.

A winner of the 2023 UCI Concerto Competition and recipient of the Alice Lowell Memorial Scholarship, Savanna will begin graduate performance studies at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music under professors Thomas Robertello and Carmen Maret.

Savanna studied privately with Oberlin professor Alexa Still and with Marin Symphony Youth Orchestra (MSYO) director Andrei Gorchov. After four years of study with MSYO, Savanna received the Hugo Rinaldi Fellowship in 2019 and in that year also won the College of Marin Symphony Orchestra Youth Concerto Competition as a high school junior. She received the John Philip Sousa Award for Performing Arts Excellence and highest honors as a lifetime member of the California Scholarship Federation.

A native of Marin County, Savanna is an avid birder and has identified more than 200 species in the western United States. When she's not practicing or birding, she spends her free time writing, illustrating, and animating. Her favorite composers include Tchaikovsky, Schubert, and Amy Beach.

Savanna has been nominated for the rare honor of membership in the Phi Beta Kappa Society. She will be inducted as a lifetime member this June.



Flute Concerto No. 3 "Il Gardellino" in D major, RV 428

Allegro - Cantabile - Allegro

Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741)

The third in a set of six concerti published around 1728, Vivaldi's "Il Gardellino" ("The Goldfinch") is also the last of his tenth opus to receive a programmatic title. Though presented as a standard three-movement Baroque concerto, this piece choreographs the characteristic trills, ornaments, and diatonic runs of its period in such a way that evokes the image of a warbling songbird. Vivaldi's depictions of birdsong were prevalent in many of his concerti and also in his operas, but unlike the springtime warbling in "The Four Seasons," the third flute concerto features melodic patterns, arpeggios, and leaps that are astonishingly close to the natural calls of the bullfinches and goldfinches he would have heard in his day. Though Vivaldi is not unique in his avian inspiration, Baroque birdsong symbolism was most often used to suggest the resplendence of aristocratic gardens; Vivaldi's careful ear to the natural world is more finely tuned to the pastoral imagery of the countryside.



30. Lesser Goldfinch

57. American Goldfinch



"Le Rossignol"

Léo Delibes (1836 – 1891)

with Hope Tian, soprano

Léo Delibes' "Le Rossignol" (The Nightingale) is a lustrous, pastoral art song for a trio of soprano, flute, and piano. With its capricious trills and cascading scales, the flute plays the role of the titular songbird, which belongs to a family known for their warbling, flute-like song. The nightingale's tune in particular is unique in the natural world due to its "loud, whistling crescendo," which Delibes is careful to incorporate into the music itself in the form of quick, contrasting dynamics. Atop the atmospheric piano and the call of the nightingale, the soprano enters, adopting the role of a young shepherdess who hears the birdsong and heralds the coming of spring—and of love. After some playful call and response with the flute, she breaks into a lovely peasant waltz proclaiming the wonders of romance and springtime, but not before a variation in the minor key when she realizes that love may not be as persistent as the birds that return each year. Nevertheless, she returns to the major theme, and declares that both she and the nightingale will still sing of love for as long as spring shall last.

4. Hermit Thrush



Lyrics

Écoutez la chanson
Du rossignol volage;
Aux bergers du village,
Il donne la leçon, écoutez!
Ah! Écoutez la chanson!

Chantons, chantons l'amour
Tant que le printemps dure.

Sous la jeune verdure,
Et la nuit et le jour,
Chantons, chantons l'amour!

«Il revient tous les ans,»
Dit une pastourelle,
«Car la rose nouvelle
Renaît chaque printemps;
Il revient tous les ans.»

Ah! Non, non…
L'amour ne revient pas,
Pastourelle frivole.
Dès que l'amour s'envole,
C'est pour toujours, hélas!

L'amour ne revient pas!
L'amour, l'amour, l'amour
Ne revient pas!

Listen to the song
Of the flighty nightingale;
To the village shepherds,
It preaches them a tale, listen!
Ah! Listen to its song!

Sing, sing of love,
As long as spring shall last.

Under the vibrant greenery,
All day and all night,
Sing, sing of love!

"It returns every year,"
Says a young shepherdess,
"Like the new rose
Reborn each spring;
It returns every year."

Ah! No, no…
Love returns not,
Frivolous shepherdess.
For once love flies away,
It disappears forever, alas!

Love returns not!
Love, love, love,
It returns not!

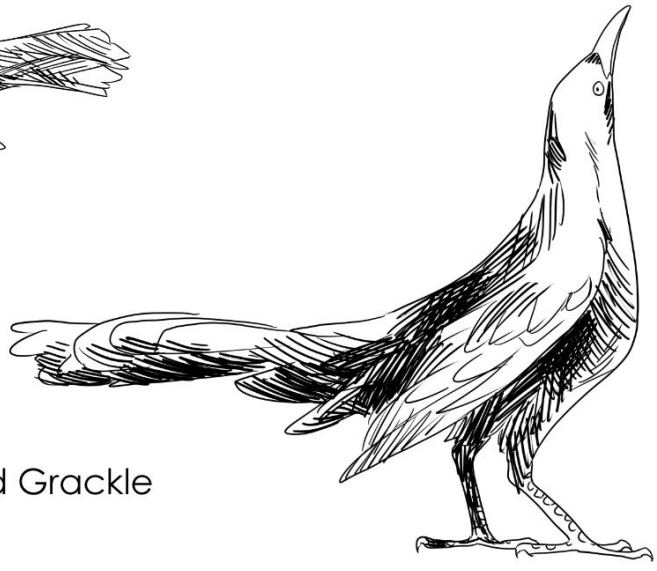
Le Merle noir

Olivier Messiaen (1908 – 1992)

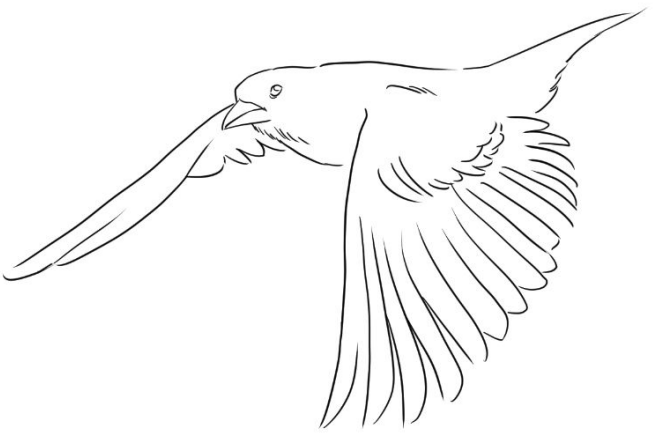
As a professor at the Conservatoire de Paris, Olivier Messiaen found himself tasked with the composition of an examination piece for the institution's flute students. *Le Merle noir* ("The Blackbird") is renowned for its experimentalism and risk-taking—it sports neither key signature nor time signature. However, the work's atonality and free time aim not only to provide a challenge for the Conservatoire's virtuosic performers, but to imitate the music of the natural world as well. Messiaen, a passionate self-made ornithologist, was particularly fascinated by the patterns and pitches sung by different species of birds. Though not the earliest of his compositions to evoke the melodies of songbirds, *Le Merle noir* was the first to authentically transcribe the song of a blackbird. The harsh articulations, warbling leaps, extreme dynamic contrasts, and even extended techniques such as flutter-tonguing featured in the piece all correlate to the real-life sounds that Messiaen studied. As the British music critic Paul Griffiths mused, Messiaen was "a more conscientious ornithologist than any previous composer, and a more musical observer of birdsong than any previous ornithologist."

35. Red-Winged Blackbird

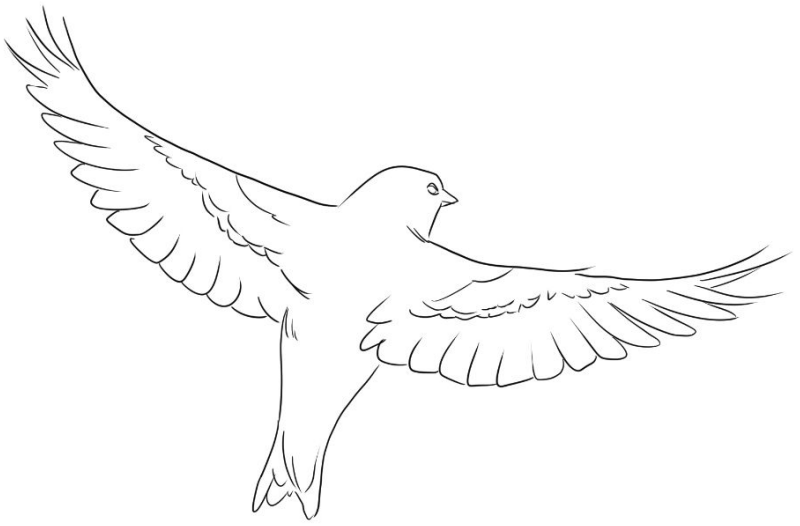




84. Great-Tailed Grackle



Intermission



L'oiseau des bois

Albert Franz Doppler (1821 – 1883)

Franz Doppler was a Romantic-era flute virtuoso and composer best known for his dazzling showpieces written for the instrument he knew so intimately. He and his brother Karl, also a flutist, formed a sensational duo and traveled across Europe, performing duets they'd written together. *L'oiseau des bois* ("The Bird in the Woods") is a wonderful example of Doppler's virtuosic ease and stylistic programmaticism. Originally scored for a quartet of French horns, the accompaniment encapsulates the wisdom of an ancient forest. As gentle sunlight leaks through gnarled branches, a lone songbird appears in the form of the flute. The chorale pauses as the woods seem to hold their very breath, just for a moment, before she joins their harmony in warbling virtuosity. Laden with sweet-tempered trills, flighty scales and runs, and the occasional chirping arpeggio, *L'oiseau des bois* brings to life the bucolic nostalgia of nature's music through the whimsical character of the composer's favorite instrument.

159. Townsend's Warbler



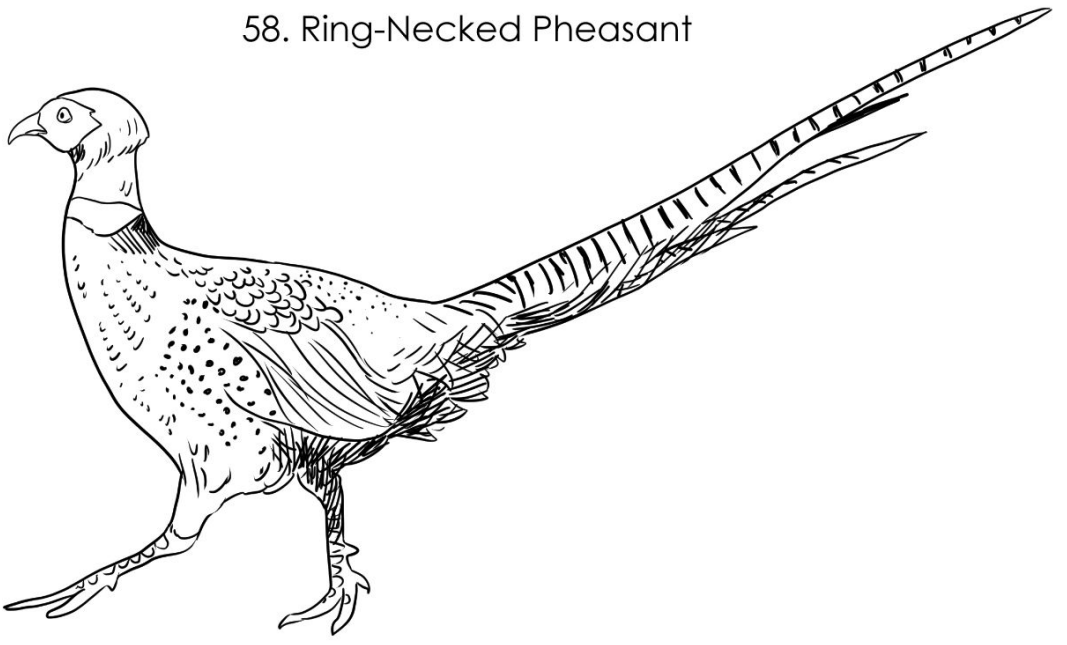
Chant de Linos

André Jolivet (1905 – 1974)

with Andrew Nguyen, piano

André Jolivet was a twentieth-century French composer fascinated with the science behind atonality, often drawing inspiration from ancient musical instruments and practices. *Chant de Linos* for flute and piano was commissioned in 1944 for the Conservatoire de Paris as a *morceau de concours*, or competition piece. Virtuosic and technically demanding for both instruments, this piece features uncommon time signatures, a full spectrum of dynamics, overlapping rhythms, and extended techniques such as flutter-tonguing on the flute. Jolivet crafted this work around the Greek legend of Linus, a master musician who taught the hero Orpheus and the demigod Hercules. Revolving around an atmospheric modal scale, *Chant de Linos* brings to life the image of an ancient Greek mourning chant and frantic ostinato dance, at last exploding into a state of raw catharsis before coming to a brilliant finale.

58. Ring-Necked Pheasant





Birdwatching Life List

1. Bewick's Wren
2. American Crow
3. Purple Finch
4. Hermit Thrush
5. Anna's Hummingbird
6. White-Crowned Sparrow
7. Mallard Duck
8. Ring-Billed Gull
9. Rock Pigeon
10. Great Egret
11. American Coot
12. Common Merganser
13. Canada Goose
14. Snowy Egret
15. Black Phoebe
16. American Wigeon
17. Western Bluebird
18. Bushtit
19. Dark-Eyed Junco
20. European Starling
21. California Towhee
22. California Scrub Jay
23. American Robin
24. Golden-crowned Sparrow
25. Northern Flicker
26. Pine Siskin
27. Golden Eagle
28. Great Blue Heron
29. Bufflehead
30. Lesser Goldfinch
31. Yellow-Rumped Warbler
32. Pied-Billed Grebe
33. Northern Shoveler
34. American Pipit
35. Red-Winged Blackbird
36. Gadwall
37. White-Throated Sparrow
38. Northern Mockingbird
39. Common Goldeneye
40. Nuttall's Woodpecker
41. Turkey Vulture
42. Canvasback
43. American Avocet
44. Green-Winged Teal
45. Greater Yellowlegs
46. Mute Swan
47. Song Sparrow
48. House Finch
49. Brewer's Blackbird
50. Lesser Scaup
51. Western Gull
52. Western Meadowlark
53. Double-Crested Cormorant
54. Wild Turkey
55. American Kestrel
56. Red-Shouldered Hawk
57. American Goldfinch
58. Ring-Necked Pheasant
59. Black-Necked Stilt
60. Dunlin
61. Ruddy Duck
62. Marbled Godwit
63. Common Yellowthroat
64. Red-Tailed Hawk
65. Broad-Winged Hawk
66. Short-Billed Dowitcher
67. Belted Kingfisher
68. Long-Billed Curlew
69. Semipalmated Plover
70. Acorn Woodpecker
71. Band-Tailed Pigeon
72. Pileated Woodpecker
73. Mew Gull
74. Willet
75. Northern Harrier
76. Hooded Merganser
77. Say's Phoebe
78. Lesser Yellowlegs
79. White-Tailed Kite
80. Mourning Dove
81. Osprey
82. Yellow-Billed Magpie
83. American White Pelican
84. Great-Tailed Grackle
85. Oak Titmouse
86. Red-Breasted Nuthatch
87. Steller's Jay
88. Common Raven
89. Greylag Goose
90. Brown Creeper
91. Forster's Tern
92. Northern Pintail
93. Chestnut-Backed Chickadee
94. California Gull
95. Savannah Sparrow
96. Bald Eagle
97. Sharp-Shinned Hawk
98. Northern Rough-Winged Swallow
99. Cliff Swallow
100. Ruby-Crowned Kinglet
101. California Quail
102. Surf Scoter
103. Swainson's Hawk
104. Killdeer
105. Western Grebe
106. Cedar Waxwing
107. Downy Woodpecker
108. Fox Sparrow
109. Chipping Sparrow
110. Spotted Towhee
111. Wrentit
112. Barn Swallow
113. Tree Swallow
114. Black Oystercatcher
115. Cinnamon Teal
116. Common Gallinule
117. Greater White-Fronted Goose
118. Marsh Wren
119. Black-Crowned Night-Heron
120. Little Blue Heron
121. Ash-Throated Flycatcher
122. Lark Sparrow
123. Pacific-Slope Flycatcher
124. Hairy Woodpecker
125. Violet-Green Swallow
126. Hooded Oriole
127. Peregrine Falcon
128. Red-Breasted Merganser
129. Cackling Goose
130. Eurasian Collared-Dove
131. Clark's Grebe
132. Brown Pelican
133. Domestic Duck
134. Muscovy Duck
135. Allen's Hummingbird
136. Brown-Headed Cowbird
137. Elegant Tern
138. Heermann's Gull
139. Wilson's Warbler
140. Pygmy Nuthatch
141. Green Heron
142. House Sparrow
143. White-Breasted Nuthatch
144. Cassin's Kingbird
145. Caspian Tern
146. Pin-Tailed Whydah
147. Scaly-Breasted Munia
148. Egyptian Goose
149. Orange-Crowned Warbler
150. Black-and-White Warbler
151. Lincoln's Sparrow
152. Cooper's Hawk
153. Eared Grebe
154. Spotted Sandpiper
155. California Least Tern
156. Ruddy Turnstone
157. Sanderling
158. Black-Bellied Plover
159. Townsend's Warbler
160. Vermilion Flycatcher
161. Gambel's Quail
162. Phainopepla
163. Verdin
164. Rock Wren
165. Rough-Legged Hawk
166. Black-Throated Sparrow
167. Chukar
168. Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher
169. White-Faced Ibis
170. House Wren
171. Greater Roadrunner
172. American Redstart
173. California Gnatcatcher
174. Great Horned Owl
175. Blue-Winged Teal
176. California Thrasher
177. Wood Duck
178. Horned Lark
179. Redhead
180. Black Skimmer
181. Swinhoe's White-Eye
182. Barn Owl
183. Common Myna
184. Cattle Egret
185. Zebra Dove
186. Spotted Dove
187. Red-Crested Cardinal
188. Java Sparrow
189. Northern Cardinal
190. Warbling White-Eye
191. Great Frigatebird
192. Gray Francolin
193. Chestnut Munia
194. White-Rumped Shama
195. Hawaiian Short-Eared Owl
196. Hawaiian Coot
197. Snow Goose
198. Merlin
199. Sandhill Crane
200. Ring-Necked Duck
201. Pelagic Cormorant
202. Blue Jay
203. Brant
204. Common Grackle
205. Eastern Bluebird
206. Red-Headed Woodpecker
207. Red-Bellied Woodpecker
208. Eastern Meadowlark

Acknowledgements

I am incredibly grateful to ***Professor Patricia Cloud*** for providing me with the space to flourish, for challenging me, for advocating for me, and for fostering my artistry. I have grown so much under your guidance, and you have nurtured my confidence to one day earn my place in the professional world. I will be forever honored to have been a part of your studio these past four years, and our time together will always have a special place in my heart. After all, every songbird has its teacher.

An enormous thank you to my collaborative artists:

To ***Junko Nojima***, for her patience and flexibility, and for her unmatched dedication to learning such complex repertoire at a speed that could rival a roadrunner.

To ***Hope Tian***, who, with the grace of a dove, brought our spring-time story to life with her wonderful voice.

To ***Andrew Nguyen***, for his musical power and eagle-eyed attention to detail that allowed our synergy to soar to new heights.

As I prepare to take off into the future, I would like to recognize:

Dr. Geoffrey Pope, whose steady presence and owl-like intellect have guided me from the UCI Concerto Competition through my acceptance to graduate school. You have gone above and beyond to support me, and I wouldn't be where I am today without you.

Professor ***Sarah Koo***, whose serenity and dependability reminds me of the egret gliding across the water. Your compassion and commitment to fostering my musical endeavors will continue to inspire me for a lifetime.

Dr. Nicole Grimes, whose delightful passion and academic insight bring to mind the vibrant oriole in summertime. You have gone out of your way to provide me with opportunity, and I'm deeply honored to know that I have your support.

Birds of a feather:

A special thanks to my high school music director ***Daniel Thomson*** and the lovely ***Professor Nina Scolnik*** for all their help. Thank you to all my family, friends, peers, and mentors for making today special!



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