



## IN CONCERT

*Classical Music in the Valley*

Sunday, April 19, 2015

Jones Theater, Westcliffe, Colorado

# BOULDER BASSOON QUARTET

Kent Hurd, Ethan Turner, Michael Christoph and Brian Jack

## FROM THE OPPOSITE SHORE

*(To be played in no particular order.)*

That So Suite Thomas Kent Hurd

1. So Cliché
2. So So
3. So Much for That

The Sound of New York Rica Narimoto

1. Rushing through the Sudden Rain
2. Ambulance Sirens and Car Horns
3. Subway Announcements
4. On the Streets
5. From the Opposite Shore - Chorale

Bassoon Quartet Number One Paul Hanson

1. Hinode
2. Nagatoro
3. Rakuya
4. 友人
5. Reprise

Blueish Thomas Kent Hurd

Enjoy an Art Show in Studio 2

Photographs by Gary Benson & Paintings by Hulda Benson

*You are invited to meet the performers after the concert  
at a reception in the lobby of Studio 2.*

## PROGRAM NOTES

Thomas Kent Hurd: That So Suite

Herd, one of the members of the Boulder Bassoon Quartet, created "That So Suite" for bassoon quartet in order to fully explore the capabilities of the bassoon.

So Cliché – A frantic and bouncy motif sets the background for a "long and plaintive" melody. After that, each player has the option to play what's written or to improvise a bit.

So So – Has a late night jazz waltz sound with a relaxed swagger to it throughout. There will be some tasteful pitch bending, atypical of double-reed instruments, but almost a requirement for that aforementioned "jazz waltz" sound.

So Much for That - Is organized in two main sections. The first section gradually reveals the main theme through the ongoing chatter of the other parts. The entire theme is then finally revealed for the first time in a quiet chorale at the beginning of the second section. The mood changes from there, and the movement builds to a rollicking and jubilant coda.

Rica Narimoto: The Sound of New York

Dr. Narimoto completed her master's and doctoral degrees at Aichi University of the Arts in Japan. After receiving a grant from the Asian Cultural Council in the United States, she stayed in New York for six months in 2011. During her stay she had the idea of using the materials from the ambient noises that she heard in New York, which she described as "a town with many sounds." She often went out to record the sounds she found interesting. The five movements are snapshots of her life in New York City. The influences on her style – western and traditional Japanese music and the multicultural melting pot of New York – can be felt throughout the work.

"The Sound of New York" was recently selected for a special festival at Juilliard called "FOCUS! 2015 Presents "Nippon Gendai Ongaku: Japanese Music Since 1945." This work was commissioned by the Boulder Bassoon Quartet.

Paul Hanson: Bassoon Quartet Number One

Paul is both a virtuoso saxophonist and bassoonist and performs in both classical and jazz idioms. Hanson recently spent four years in Japan as a soloist with Cirque Du Soleil ZED, a resident show at the Tokyo Disney Resort. His experiences in Japan and a commission by the Boulder Bassoon Quartet resulted in his "Bassoon Quartet Number One." Hanson's five movement piece captures the mood and feel of places in the Tokyo area that hold special meaning. Four movements give musical depictions of special places (Hinode, Nagatoro, and Rakuya); the fourth movement is titled 友人.

Thomas Kent Hurd: Bluish

This is a very simple, moody piece for bassoon quartet written in a chorale style with a quiet, contemplative sound.



Kent Hurd, Ethan Turner, Michael Christoph, and Brian Jack

The BOULDER BASSOON QUARTET has impressed a wide audience through substantive, engaging performances since 2006. Having performed in venues as diverse as concert halls and coffee shops, the Quartet is dedicated to expanding the repertoire for the bassoon quartet in a variety of genres through new arrangements and original compositions.

In 2011, they premiered Kent Hurd's new piece "So Cliche" at the International Double Reed Society convention in Tempe, Arizona.

Each member attended the University of Colorado College of Music where they studied with Yoshiyuki Ishikawa. Members of the Quartet perform regularly with major professional ensembles throughout Colorado such as the Colorado Music Festival, Colorado Ballet, Boulder Chamber Orchestra, and Colorado Mahler-Fest Orchestra. They are active members of the arts community and committed to music education.

KENT HURD has enjoyed a variety of experiences as a bassoonist, performing in the metro area of Phoenix, Arizona, and more recently in the Front Range of Colorado. He is currently co-Principal Bassoon of the Boulder Chamber Orchestra. Other appearances in the Front Range of Colorado have included performances with the MahlerFest Orchestra, the Denver Philharmonic, and the Longmont Symphony. He held the position of Co-Principal Bassoon with the West Valley Symphony in Phoenix until 2003. He also participated in a variety of freelance opportunities in Phoenix, including appearances with such orchestras as the Phoenix Symphony and the orchestra of the Arizona Opera, as well as with a variety of chamber ensembles for concerts, holidays, and weddings.

In addition to exploring the solo repertoire for the bassoon, he has composed his own works for it, including "Excursions," a bassoon trio which premiered at Arizona State University; "Three Psalms," a solo work for bassoon with piano accompaniment; and most recently "So Cliche," a work specifically for the Boulder Bassoon Quartet. The BBQ premiered the work at the International Double Reed Society convention in 2011.

Also a proficient pianist, Hurd has been seen occasionally performing at the piano, including two solo recitals in the mountains of Ouray County in southwestern Colorado. He was also appreciated for his piano skills within the Arizona State bassoon studio where he was often pressed into accompaniment duties at discount rates.

Hurd is looking forward to a full-time position with a symphony orchestra. He is currently a candidate for a Master of Music in Performance degree at the University of Colorado. He received a Bachelor of Music degree in performance from Arizona State University.

Hurd resides in Boulder, Colorado. He is an avid skier and loves to hit the slopes whenever time and finances allow. He lives with his wife, Mindy, who is a trained elementary school teacher, but spends her time coaching baton twirling these days. They have two dogs: Abbey, a beagle mix, and Ashley, a toy rat terrier. Their small apartment is a kaleidoscope of reed tools, bassoon music, and dog toys.

IN CONCERT hosts classical music programs  
on KWMV, 95.9 FM  
Classical Potpourri with Gary and Gwynethe Miller  
Sunday Classics with David Niemeyer  
Program schedule is available at [www.kwmv.org](http://www.kwmv.org)

EATHAN TURNER began playing saxophone at age 11 and bassoon at age 14. He has performed professionally in the Denver Metro area since age 17. In 2003, he began studying with Yoshi Ishikawa at the University of Colorado, where he later received a Bachelor of Music in Bassoon Performance degree.

In 2004, he had the opportunity to tour Austria and Hungary with the Denver Young Artist Orchestra under the direction of Adam Flatt. As a bassoonist, he played principal in the DYAO and later in the orchestra for University of Colorado opera. As a saxophonist, he played in CU jazz combos for three years.

In 2009, Ethan was awarded an undergraduate research grant to study technological integration in live music performance. Through the grant, he composed and performed a piece for saxophone, bassoon, and electronics with CU's new music concert series, Pendulum.

Currently Ethan performs with various orchestras and chamber groups around Colorado in addition to the Boulder Bassoon Quartet.

MICHAEL CHRISTOPH has built a solid reputation combining solo and collaborative performance, orchestral and operatic playing, and music education. He has received a degrees in Bassoon Performance from Tennessee Technological University and the University of Arizona, and is currently completing a Doctor of Bassoon Performance and Pedagogy degree at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Michael served as Principal Bassoon at Opera in the Ozarks from 2004-2005, performing repertoire as diverse as Mozart's *Die Zauberflote*, Bizet's *Carmen*, Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, and the American premiere of *The House of the Sun* by celebrated Finnish composer Einojuhani Rautavaara. Other professional orchestral engagements have included appearances with the Niwot-Timberline Orchestra and the Colorado MahlerFest Orchestra along Colorado's Front Range, as well as appearances with the Cumberland County Playhouse and the Vanderbilt University Orchestra in the Nashville area. Michael has also served as co-principal bassoonist at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival and the Colorado College Summer Chamber Music Festival.

A dedicated chamber musician, Michael enjoys collaboration with other groups in addition to his work with the Boulder Bassoon Quartet. Performances have included works for bassoon, flute and harp; for bassoon and string quartet; for mixed ensembles such as Beethoven's Septet op. 20; and duos with flute, clarinet, cello, and piano. He has performed with many wind quintets, including as a founding member of the Elision Wind Quintet in Tucson, AZ. In 2009, Michael coordinated a fully realized performance of Paul Hindemith's Concerto for Trumpet, Bassoon, and String Orchestra.

BRIAN JACK is a bassoonist, educator, and music administrator living in Boulder, Colorado. He regularly performs with ensembles such as the Colorado Ballet, Colorado Music Festival, MahlerFest Symphony Orchestra, Wyoming Symphony, and Cayuga Chamber Orchestra.

Brian earned his Bachelor in Music Performance and Education at Ithaca College, and both his Master and Doctor in Bassoon Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Colorado.

Teaching privately since 2005, Brian maintains a bassoon studio and has worked with dozens of young bassoonists. He earned his New York State certification in music education while at Ithaca and has taught elementary and middle school music. In addition to teaching lessons and conducting ensembles, he has coached chamber music groups, overseen reed-making class, led woodwind and double reed sectionals, and given a presentation on practicing techniques for young musicians.

Brian is an active member of both the International Double Reed Society and the American Federation of Musicians Union. As one of only thirty invited participants, he completed the League of American Orchestras' Essentials of Orchestral Management in New York City in January 2010.

He was instrumental in the creation of the Greater Boulder Youth Orchestras, the premier youth orchestras of the greater Boulder area. He serves as the Executive Director of this non-profit organization, which is under the musical leadership of Gary Lewis, the Director of Orchestral Studies at the University of Colorado College of Music.

Brian lives in Boulder with his wife Kaori Uno Jack, bassoonist in the award-winning Antero Wind Quintet.



**2015-16 SEASON**  
**IN CONCERT: *Classical Music in the Valley***

October 25, 2015  
**SPINPHONY**  
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guitar duo

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**COLORADO VOCAL ARTS ENSEMBLE**  
regionally acclaimed chamber choir



**IN CONCERT: Classical Music in the Valley** was founded in 2003 to support and promote classical music in the Wet Mountain Valley. The mission of the group is to provide cultural and educational opportunities for residents of the area by presenting an annual series of live classical music performances and youth workshops.

*In Concert is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.  
Contributions are tax deductible.*

**JOIN US FOR THE FINAL CONCERT OF THE 2014-2015 SEASON**  
 Southern Colorado Community Band      June 7, 2015, 2:00  
 A free concert at the Hermit Park Pavilion

**ARTISTS' STATEMENTS**

**Gary Benson**



I started taking photos around the age of 7, and even then I knew what it was like to take a "keeper". Sixty years later I'm still at it with several more keepers to my credit. I'll take a picture of anything; however, I find mountain photography to be the most challenging. The view changes with the time of day, the season and the weather. I'm always hoping the next shot will be the "one"; it never is...

**Hulda Benson**



My art education has consisted of art classes through high school and elective courses in college. Throughout my child-rearing years, I took courses in pottery, ceramics, stained glass and did drawings for our outfitting business brochure in Alaska. After retiring to Westcliffe in 2004, I started painting in pastel and oil. I get inspiration from nature, by visiting galleries, and from my husband's photography. Striving to become "Good" at my inherited talent gives me contentment, a goal and a challenge.

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*Thanks* to all the people who have made the 2014-2015 season possible.

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