



University of Wisconsin  
**Whitewater**

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# **SONiCT**

The Department of  
Music presents

Wisconsin Alliance for  
Composers

**Ancia Saxophone  
Quartet**

April 16, 2023  
3pm  
Light Recital Hall

**Wisconsin Alliance for Composers Members Concert**  
**Light Recital Hall; 3pm**  
**Ancia Saxophone Quartet**

Book of Lamentations

Nebojsa S. Macura

- I. With Anxiety
- II. With Sorrow
- III. With Rage
- IV. With Despair

As night descends, the waters beckon (2023)

Jeff Herriott

The Center Does Not Hold

Yehuda Yannay

- I. Tongue and Cheek Overture
- II. The Center Does Not Hold
- III. Breath Work: Unwinding

Matthew Sintchak, soprano saxophone  
Joan Hutton, alto saxophone  
Benjamin Cold, tenor saxophone  
Angela Wyatt, baritone saxophone

**Bios:**

*When four world class Saxophone performers become friends and form a quartet, you have an explosion of energy, joy and deeply wonderful music-making – you have Ancia! – Libby Larsen*

Hailed by Chamber Music America as an ensemble which “approaches the commissioning and performing of new works as a special mission,” the Ancia Quartet (AHN-chee-uh) has been dedicated to expanding the saxophone repertoire for over thirty years. The quartet has shared its passion for new music with a diverse range of audiences around the world through performances filled with “energy, precision, and huge dynamic range” (Eugene Rousseau). The group’s unique ability to “create exquisite musical interpretations” have drawn commissions from an impressive array of contemporary composers, including such luminaries as Grammy Award-winner Libby Larsen, Pulitzer Prize- and two-time Grammy-winner Jennifer Higdon, and Pulitzer Prize-finalist Lei Liang.

Ancia continues to engage in collaborations with innovative composers and performers. The quartet received a grant through the Alice M. Ditson Fund to complete their new CD, *Confluence*, released in 2023 on Albany Records. *Confluence* features the premiere recording of Libby Larsen’s work of the same name, commissioned by the quartet in 2015 and inspired by a shared concern for the environment. The quartet premiered the four-movement work, at SaxOpen (World Saxophone Congress XVII) in Strasbourg, France.

Ancia has also worked closely alongside provocative Israeli composer Yehuda Yannay to push the members’ boundaries as saxophonists and musicians in his composition, “The Center Does Not Hold.” Renowned “BEATBoX SAX” artist Derek Brown spoke fondly of his recent

performance with the quartet, calling them “a top-tier ensemble with an incredible range of playing styles and emotions.”

Ancia is an Artist-Clinician Ensemble for Selmer Paris Saxophones and Vandoren Woodwind Products. The group is based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Group members are: Matthew Sintchak (soprano saxophone), Joan Hutton (alto saxophone), Benjamin Cold (tenor saxophone), and Angela Wyatt (baritone saxophone).

Ancia is an Artist-Clinician Ensemble for Selmer Paris Saxophones and Vandoren Woodwind Products. The group is based in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

**Nebojsa (Neb) Macura** is a Serbian-American classical composer, folk performer, and occasional conductor residing in Middleton. He holds degrees in composition from UW-Madison, University of British Columbia, and University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. His works have been performed in North and South America, Europe, and Asia. Neb has a strong interest in string instruments of all shapes and sizes. Currently, he plays viola in the Middleton Community Orchestra and fretted strings in the Middleton-based folk bands Karavay and Blue Accordion & Friends. In his spare time, Neb works a day job at a state government agency.

**Jeff Herriott** is a composer who works in a wide range of styles. His classical works, which often include interaction between live performers and electronic sounds, have been supported by grants from the McKnight Foundation, the Barlow Endowment for Music Composition, and the MATA Festival. Jeff has scored and recorded original songs for several films with director S. Craig Zahler, including *Bone Tomahawk*, *Brawl in Cell Block 99*, and *Dragged Across Concrete*. Additionally, Jeff has released multiple albums with the heavy metal outfit, Realmbuilder, and the sleepy rock duo, Bell Monks. Jeff is a professor of music at UW-Whitewater. (jeffherriott.com)

**Yehuda Yannay** is an American-Israeli composer, conductor, filmmaker, actor and a winner of international and national composition awards. He produced more than a 130 works that include music for orchestra, electronic, live electronic and synthesizer pieces, film, music-theater, and a long list of vocal and chamber music pieces. Considered an international figure in contemporary music, his contributions to new ideas in 20/21st Century music are written up in articles, textbooks and encyclopedias of music. Descriptions and links to his works in audio and video are at yehudayannay.com. His recent performance in Budapest in March 2023 was the first continental performance of *Three Pieces for Saxophone and Harp* at the Budapest Music Center, premiered by Matt Sintchak, saxophone, and Erin Brooker-Miller, harp, last September. He completed a work for two baroque recorders to be premiered on May 18, 2023, at UWM in a concert dedicated to the memory of Jane Bowers, who was a known expert of the instrument and its historical practice.