

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE

JANA STARLING + WESLEY FERREIRA
CLARINET DUO

MULTIMEDIA CONCERT AND SHOW

LIGHT
BREAK

JANUARY 23, 7:30 P.M. | UNIVERSITY THEATRE



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

LightBreak

Wesley Ferreira, clarinet | Jana Starling, clarinet
Monday January 23, 2023 | University Theatre

LightBreak is an electronic and multimedia clarinet duo that takes the intrepid path towards intensifying the human experience through the arts. Established by a pair of clarinetists with superlative technique and illuminating creativity, **Wesley Ferreira** and **Jana Starling** combine over a decade's worth of joint creative activity and unmistakable musical chemistry to form this innovative ensemble together with the creative and technical collaboration of **Scott Elias**. LightBreak presents a concept concert to apply their combining of audio, visual, and theatrical elements into a sensory experience of contemporary music on stage. By way of unconventional means and "new music" sensibilities, LightBreak creates indelible and thought provoking concert experiences that spark the imagination.

HUMAN CONDITION SERIES

The human condition encompasses the essential elements that mark the very essence of human existence; the commonalities, characteristics, and key events that human beings experience both individually and collectively, including birth, growth, emotion, aspiration, conflict, and mortality. The topic has been analyzed and considered by each major religion, in the fields of literature, philosophy, psychology, history, anthropology, biology, and through the arts.

Linking all of humanity are emotions, reactions and behaviors, in particular our internal and external conflicts: between good and evil, courage and fear, conviction and doubt, pride and humility. Conflict is at the center of all things. It is at the core of the human condition. Through conflict we learn more about ourselves, about others, and about what binds us. Through art we have the unique ability to express and reflect on the many facets and forces that make up the human condition. LightBreak's Human Condition Series explores this very broad subject through musical presentations that are aimed at provoking thoughtful reflection on what it means to be human.

THE HUMAN CONDITION: EXPLORATION

In 2019, the world celebrates the 50th anniversary of the moon landing as part of NASA's Apollo 11 lunar mission. Six astronauts landed safely on the surface... the only time humans have visited another world.

What is it about human beings that compels us to explore uncharted territories and ideas? From the dawn of mankind humans have sought to venture beyond themselves towards the unknown. Exploration represents innovation and achievement yet it also brings risk and reward, ethical dilemma, and unrealized consequences. Despite unpredictable outcomes, today we continue the march towards the inevitability of human cloning and artificial intelligence. Presented as a "concept opera", The Human Condition: Exploration considers our desire to explore boundaries, push limits, and the inherent conflicts therein. We invite our audiences to consider their own thoughts on the subject matter while reflecting on their experiences and aspirations towards pushing boundaries and proceeding towards the unknown.

1. Genesis

The spark arrives, the call begins
it consumes mind
Ideas flow in rapid succession
a drive to action

2. Ruminating

Perpetual thought
Achievement
Ideas grow, probing all angles and paths
Ideas flow, consumed with the idea

3. Development

The pattern of process,
trial and error
Connections made...measure twice
Reaching upwards

4. Conflict

The spark fades... questioning enters
Opposing forces
A moment of pause, yet
always moving forward

5. Achievement

Pride... Ego...Adrenaline
The rush of fulfilling the call
A time for celebration

6. Reflection

Meditation
Contemplating the merits of
Self-realization
Exploration, the inevitable

7. Truth

Reality... acceptance
Looking onwards
Strife and glory
A new cycle begins

WORKS PERFORMED

1. "Freebirds" by Scott McAllister (b. 1969), arranged by Andrew J. Blomfelt
2. "Thum Nyatiti" from 4 Impersonations by Evan Ziporyn (b. 1959)
3. "Zeotrope" by Boards of Canada, arranged by Andrew J. Blomfelt
4. "Escape from Planet Cleave" by James M. David (b. 1978)
5. "I Like You" by Alexey Gorokholinsky, arranged by LightBreak
6. "Reflection" by Andrew J. Blomfelt
7. "Steam Man of the Prairies" by Steven Snowden (b. 1981), arranged by LightBreak

BIOGRAPHIES

Canadian clarinetist **Jana Starling** is a nationally and internationally active performer and teacher. She has performed with the Arizona Opera Company, the Paraguayan National Symphony, and utility clarinet with the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra and ProMusica Chamber Orchestra. She has been programmed numerous times at the International Clarinet Association's ClarinetFest®, given recitals and masterclasses at the Belgian Clarinet Academy, Sichuan Conservatory of Music in China, and has been a guest artist and adjudicator at various festivals in the United States and Canada. She has also teaches frequently at the International Music Camp (Peace Gardens, CAN/USA), the Interprovincial Music Camp (ON), and the co-founder of the Lift Clarinet Academy, an innovative summer program in Colorado.

Starling has recorded and commissioned new music by composers such as Eric Mandat, William O. Smith, James David, and Roshanne Etezady. Her debut CD *Inflexion* earned a 2007 East Coast Music Award nomination for "Classical Recording of the Year" and her second solo CD *Mythos* (PotenzaMusic, 2011) contains numerous premiere recording by composers such as Theresa Martin, Dana Wilson and Mark Schultz. She has been involved in numerous collaborative recordings and currently tours and commissions works with the clarinet trio, Ironwood Trio, playing Eb clarinet. The *Clarinet Magazine* (Mar 2008) CD review hails Starling as "a wonderful player... musically sensitive... you will not be disappointed!".

In 2011, she joined the Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western University as Assistant Professor. She previously held positions at Arizona State University (USA) and Mount Allison University (NB, Canada). Starling received her BMus in music education from Brandon University (Manitoba, Canada, 1995) and her MMus and DMA in clarinet performance from Arizona State University (USA, 1997, 2005). Her teachers have been Ron Goddard, Connie Gitlin, and Robert Spring.

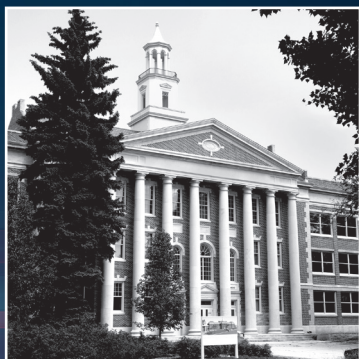
With a charismatic blend of technical flair, polish, and grace, Portuguese-Canadian clarinetist **Wesley Ferreira** draws in audiences with his unabashed joy and passion for storytelling through music. Unafraid to display his uniqueness and originality, Wesley is widely considered a gifted expressionist whose engaging personality connects with people in an authentic and meaningful way. Equally at ease performing the masterworks as well as contemporary repertoire, he has been praised by critics for his “beautiful tone” and “technical prowess” (*The Clarinet Journal*) as well as his “remarkable sensitivity” (*CAML Review*). *Fanfare Magazine* notes, Ferreira is “clearly a major talent.”

Wesley leads an active and diverse career performing worldwide as soloist, orchestral and chamber musician, and as an engaging adjudicator, and clinician. Recent performances have taken him to Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Ecuador, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, and Spain. Additionally, he has been broadcast nationally on RTP television in Portugal and on radio with the CBC in Canada and ABC in Australia. Currently based in the United States, he is part of the renowned faculty of Colorado State University’s School of Music, Theatre, and Dance where he maintains a thriving clarinet studio. Additionally, he is co-founder and artistic director along with Jana Starling of the Lift Clarinet Academy, a summer music festival and training institute which attracts students from around the world.

As a recording artist, with eleven albums to his credit including the 2013 East Coast Music Awards winner—Classical Recording of the Year, and 2015 International Portuguese Music Awards winner in the Instrumental Category, he continues what he describes as his “fruitful exploration of the recording art form.” Wesley release two albums in 2022 including a solo record called “Into the Green” and “Breakthrough” with his clarinet and guitar duo Jâca. Of note, he has accepted the role of Artistic Director of the ClarinetFest® 2023 conference, a major event celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the International Clarinet Association. Undoubtedly, Wesley’s commitment to collaboration and advancing his field is further demonstrated when he was tapped by Selmer Paris in 2017 to be a lead consultant and team-developer on a new line of clarinets. In October 2021, the Muse professional clarinet was released to critical acclaim, and Wesley could not be more proud.

Wesley received his advanced musical training at the University of Western Ontario (B.M) and Arizona State University (M.M. and D.M.A) studying with Robert Riseling and Robert Spring, respectively. His industry endorsements include positions on the performing artist rosters of Selmer Paris and Vandoren. Wesley performs exclusively on Selmer Muse clarinets, and Vandoren BD4 mouthpiece, V21 reeds, and gold M/O ligature.

To learn more, visit: www.wesleyferreira.com



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