

**GUEST ARTIST CONCERT:**

**NICHOLAS MAY  
SAXOPHONE**

**WITH ALEX LI, PIANO**

**YOU, ME, US:  
A CELEBRATION  
OF QUEER MUSIC  
FOR SAXOPHONE**

**SEPTEMBER 13, 7:30 P.M.  
ORGAN RECITAL HALL**



**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**



**NICK MAY, ALTO AND SOPRANO SAXOPHONES**  
**ALEX LI, PIANO**

**PROGRAM:**

<b>White Socks?!</b> <i>*World Premiere</i>	<b>Sebastian Zhang</b> (b. 2003)
<b>on queer survival</b> <i>*World Premiere</i>	<b>Stuart Beatch</b> (b. 1991)
<b>Queer Turquoise</b>	<b>Aaryn S. Ricucci-Hill</b> (b. 1992)
<b>Echo Dash</b> <i>*World Premiere</i>	<b>Jennifer Higdon</b> (b. 1962)
<b>Where Will My Flowers Go?</b>	<b>Darius Edwards</b> (b. 1999)
<b>Sonata</b>	<b>Peter Dayton</b> (b. 1990)
Pause	
<b>Close your eyes, if you can</b> <i>*World Premiere</i>	<b>Xenia St. Charles Iris Llyllyth</b> (b. 2000)
<b>You, Me, Us</b>  You Broke My Heart You Taught Me How to Fly You + Me = Us	<b>Spencer Arias</b> (b. 1990)

Saxophonist **Nick May** is sought after as a highly expressive, intuitive performer that “brings his personality to every performance - full of genuine joie de vivre!” (Javier Oviedo, Classical Saxophone Project). Since his solo debut at the age of eighteen with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, May’s career has taken him throughout the United States, Singapore, Germany, Sweden, and Denmark, appearing recurrently as a guest artist and recitalist. Additionally, May has garnered prizes at many prestigious national and international competitions with recent Carnegie Hall performances.

He has performed as a soloist and been featured with numerous ensembles, including the Arapahoe Philharmonic Orchestra, Omaha Symphony Orchestra, Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, Tallgrass Chamber Choir, Classical Saxophone Project, Mid America Freedom Band, Baker University Jazz Combo and Big Band, Kansas Wesleyan University Wind Ensemble, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Orchestra, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Wind Ensemble.

May has premiered works and collaborated with today’s most eminent and emerging composers including Kevin Day, Jennifer Higdon, Peter Dayton, Ingrid Stölzel, Spencer Arias, Nathan Froebe, Ros a Crean, Kurt Knecht, Evan Boegehold, John Kosch, Christina Ensign, David von Kampen, Suhan Tuyliyev, Peter Dayton, Xenia St. Charles Iris Llyllyth, Aaryn S. Ricucci-Hill, Kincaid Rabb, Dave Kenney among others while advocating for contemporary music.

He released his debut album in 2019 under Albany Records - Tone Studies: the Saxophone Music of David Maslanka; is also featured on The Chamber Music of David von Kampen and the University of Nebraska - Lincoln Jazz Orchestra’s album, The Good Life. Additionally, he is the founder of the I Exist Project, which aims to advocate for, bring light to, and celebrate the multifaceted aspects of queer life, culture, and artistry through the collaboration with a diverse range of queer composers and performers to promote the creation and visibility of new queer repertoire.

Nick May is an endorsing artist for L g re Reeds.

[www.nickmaysax.com](http://www.nickmaysax.com)



Born and raised in Hong Kong, **Alex Li** now enjoys a dynamic career as a pianist based in Kansas City. Finding common grounds to bridge music of different composers to different audiences is one of his most valued career foci. To this end, he is particularly interested in the works of under-represented composers and augmenting musical communication through multimedia presentation, including words, pictures, diagrams, and videos.

As a pianist, Alex is equally inclined towards solo and collaborative piano music. He recently completed two Master's degrees at the University of Missouri, Kansas City (UMKC), one in the field of solo piano under the tutelage of Prof. Thomas Rosenkranz, and the other in collaborative piano with Prof. Karen Savage. He is now working with Prof. Jeffrey Savage to pursue a Doctor in Musical Arts (DMA) degree in Piano Performance at UMKC. Previously, his undergraduate work was completed at Hong Kong Baptist University, where Dr. Mary Wu and Prof. David Chung taught him piano and harpsichord. He also became a recording technician after studying with Prof. Christopher Keyes.

In the field of collaborative piano, Alex frequently works with singers of all levels, having served as staff accompanist at Johnson County Community College from 2018–21 and continuing as a graduate assistant in collaborative piano (vocal) at UMKC. He is equally active in collaborating with instrumentalists, with most experience working with strings and woodwinds players.

Outside of the realm of music, Alex still enjoys Mathematics, sudokus, coding, crafting, designing, writing, teaching and learning languages.

## **I Exist Project**

The I Exist Project amplifies the richness and diversity of queer life, culture, and artistry by partnering with a broad spectrum of talented queer composers and performers. Our mission is to inspire the creation and promotion of innovative queer repertoire that celebrates the unique experiences and voices within our community, fostering greater understanding, connection, and visibility for all.

Current collaborators comprise of emerging and leading creators of our time, with diverse queer identities and backgrounds include: Spencer Arias, Stuart Beatch, Evan Boegehold, Nathan Brown, Ros a Crean, Kevin Day, Peter Dayton, Clarie Eckstein, Darius Edwards, Nathan Froebe, Kenneth Fuchs, Scott Hansen, Jennifer Higdon, Kevin Kay, Jason Lo, Xenia St. Charles Iris Llyllyth, Zachery Meier, Jackie Myers, Nebal, Javier Oviedo, Kincaid Rabb, Aaryn S. Ricucci-Hill, Phillip Sink, Ingrid St lzel, and more.

In the face of recent heart-wrenching acts of targeted violence, ongoing attempts by legislatures to undermine queer rights, and the continued dehumanization endured by transgender folx, the pursuit of this project becomes even more essential. It stands as a resolute testament to the strength and unity of our community, boldly asserting that our existence will not be diminished or silenced.

Through the creation and promotion of queer music and art, we unleash the powerful resonance of our voices, aiming to ignite profound and lasting change within society. By showcasing the vibrant tapestry of queer artistic expressions, we transcend barriers and defy attempts to marginalize us. We firmly believe in the extraordinary capacity of art, in all its boundless forms, to challenge societal norms, evoke empathy, and stimulate meaningful conversations that bring about transformative shifts. By advocating for the recognition and appreciation of queer culture, we strive to foster a world where acceptance, equality, and understanding prevail.

[www.iexistproject.org](http://www.iexistproject.org)

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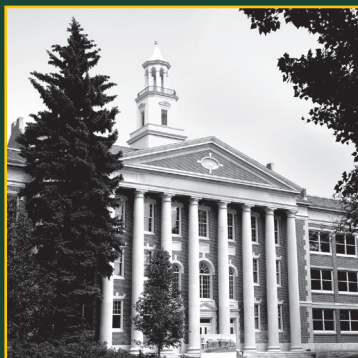
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