

SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE

at the University Center for the Arts

Guest Artist Concert:

**COLE BARTELS, TROMBONE
ZHAO WANG, PIANO**

MARCH 11, 2026 | 7:30 P.M.

ORGAN RECITAL HALL



**COLORADO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

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GUEST ARTIST CONCERT
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Introdução e/ao Desafio

Edmundo Villani-Côrtes (b. 1930)

Sonata para Trombone e Piano, Op. 88

Anne Victorino d'Almeida (b. 1978)

I.

II.

III.

IV.

INTERMISSION

Concerto for Trombone

Raymond Premru (1934-1998)

Mosaic

Natalie Dietterich (b. 1992)

A native of Moorhead, MN, **DR. COLE BARTELS** was appointed Assistant Professor of Trombone at Central Michigan University in 2023 where he teaches applied trombone, conducts the CMU Trombone Choir, coaches brass chamber music, and teaches courses in music technology and jazz studies. He previously taught at the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater and Concordia University Wisconsin. In addition to his academic work, Bartels maintains an active performing career as a versatile freelance trombonist, appearing in classical, jazz, popular, and contemporary music settings.

An award-winning performer and advocate for new music, Bartels has been recognized with honors including the 2026 Volunteer '40 Under 40' award, the 2021 American Prize Earnst Bacon Award, and the 2020 MOZAIK Philanthropy Future Art Award. His debut solo album, *On the Brink* (cmntx records, 2022), presents an eclectic collection of contemporary works for trombone, many of them written specifically for him. To date, he has commissioned and premiered more than 40 new pieces, and his work as a collaborator has included projects with Zoe Cutler, Brian Mark, Jorge Variego, Alex Ring Gray, and Vicki Leona Nguyen, among others. He is also an alumnus of the Bang on a Can and nief-norf summer festivals.

Bartels is a founding member of the trombone quartet Beltline Bones, an ensemble dedicated to experimental and electro-acoustic repertoire. Their studio album, *Audiogenica* (cmntx records, 2024), features works by Jay C. Batzner, Isaac Mayhew, Alex Ring Gray, Eve Beglarian, and two of Bartels's own compositions. With the Beltline Bones, he continues to push the boundaries of the instrument's possibilities through innovative collaborations and multimedia performance projects. The group's sophomore album will be released by New Focus Recordings later in 2026.

As a performer, Bartels has appeared with a wide range of ensembles and artists across genres. Highlights include featured performances at the International Trombone Festival and American Trombone Workshop, touring with the NYChillharmonic and Aberdeen, performing with famed jazz guitarist Bill Frisell, and sharing the stage with legendary salsa artists such as Los Adolescentes, Tony Vega, and Willie Gonzales. Recent orchestral engagements have included performances with the Grand Rapids Symphony, Lansing Symphony Orchestra, Madison Symphony Orchestra, among others throughout the Midwest.

Bartels holds degrees in trombone performance from the University of Wisconsin–Madison (DMA, 2022), the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (MM, 2019), and Concordia College (BM, 2017), along with additional certifications in jazz studies and music theory pedagogy.

His principal teachers include Mark Hetzler, Dr. Alex van Duuren, Dr. Nat Dickey, and Dr. Ed Huttlin. He is a performing artist for Long Island Brass Company mouthpieces, playing on the Aria 600, Chimera 550, and Broadway Bass 600. Cole resides in Mount Pleasant, MI with his wife Leah and daughter Sophie.

Chinese-born pianist **ZHAO WANG** is currently the Assistant Professor of Piano and Collaborative Piano and Director of Accompanying at Central Michigan University School of Music.

An avid soloist and collaborative musician, Zhao has performed in cities throughout Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, Canada, the United States, Japan, Thailand, and China, in venues such as the Banff Centre, the Kennedy Center, and the Shanghai Grand Theatre. In recent seasons, she collaborated in concerts with renowned university faculties and members of major orchestras including Philippe Berrod, Rachel Childers, Richard Dean, Amir Eldan, Maura Marimucci, Denise Tryon, Stephen Williamson, among many others. As a founding member of the Circulo Trio (clarinet-violin-piano), she performed in multiple seasons at the Thailand International Composition Festival and in over twenty concert tours spanning North America, Thailand, and China. Placing a unique focus on interdisciplinary works, Circulo Trio has brought attention to compositions that incorporate ballet and theatrical elements into the chamber music recital space.

A dedicated educator, Zhao is committed to working with young musicians and to cultivating more concert goers of all ages. She has been serving as an adjudicator at the Michigan Piano SAT since 2018 and serves as faculty at the European Summer Piano Academy in Belgium. She teaches regularly at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp as a piano instructor and at Interlochen Summer Intensive as a collaborative piano faculty. She has also given master classes and recitals in universities and conservatories in China, Thailand, and the U.S.

Zhao received her degrees in Piano Performance, Collaborative Piano, and Piano Pedagogy from Eastman School of Music and Michigan State University. She is forever grateful for the guidance she received from professors Deborah Moriarty, Nelita True, Boris Slutsky, Hung-Kuan Chen, and Chen Jiang.

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE PRESENTS

JOHN SIPHER

PRINCIPAL TROMBONIST OF THE COLORADO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

WITH DR. JUHYUN LEE, PIANO AND DR. DREW LESLIE, TROMBONE

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MASTERCLASS

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