

HEATHER LANNERS (USA)

Oklahoma State University (Stillwater, Oklahoma)

Canadian pianist Heather Shea Lanners has performed extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and China as both a soloist and chamber musician. Recent engagements include a seven-city concert tour of China with *Pangaea Chamber Players*, concerto performances with the Bulgarian State Orchestra of Vidin and solo performances at the Dublin International Piano Festival. Throughout her career she has given guest classes and performances at universities across the United States and Canada including the Eastman School of Music, the University of Washington, Bowling Green State University and the Idyllwild School for the Performing Arts. After receiving her Bachelors degree in Piano Performance from the University of Western Ontario in London, Canada, Lanners continued her studies in Paris with French pianist, Cécile Ousset. While in Paris, she also earned the Diplôme Supérieur en Musique de Chambre at the École Normale de Musique. Since the completion of a Masters degree in Performance and Literature with Barry Snyder at the Eastman School of Music, Ms. Lanners has worked as the Opera Coach at the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Cleveland Opera on Tour and she currently serves as Associate Professor of Piano at the Greenwood School of Music at Oklahoma State University.

GREGORY MERTL (USA)

"A talent the ear wants to follow wherever it goes" (Boston Globe), Gregory Mertl has garnered commissions from the Tanglewood Music Center, the Rhode Island Philharmonic, the Tarab Cello Ensemble, the Phoenix Symphony, the Big Ten Wind Ensembles, the Ostrava Oboe Festival, Czech Republic, the Hanson Institute, and the Barlow Endowment for a piano concerto for Solungga Liu and the University of Minnesota Wind Ensemble, which was released by Bridge Records in 2017. Of the Bridge release, the American Record Guide has written, "there's a wealth of compositional ingenuity and detail, but better yet there's what I might call attention to the human aspect of music—a concern with drama, passion, and psychological complexity alongside any purely technical achievement. That's what makes me keep listening to it." Mertl has degrees from Yale University (BA 1991) and the Eastman School of Music (Ph.D. 2005) and was a 1998 Tanglewood Composition Fellow, where he worked with Henri Dutilleux and Mauricio Kagel. His most recent works are a four-movement concerto for the French cellist Xavier Phillips, which will be premiered in Paris during l'ONDIF's 2021-22 season and a work for pianist Heather Lanners premiered in early 2020.



Contact Presenter

Email: heather.lanners@okstate.edu

Web





Contact Composer

Email: gregorymertl@gmail.com

www.gregorymertl.com

Pictures Without an Exhibition

for solo piano

by Gregory Mertl

Lecture Recital: Pictures Without an Exhibition: Mussorgsky returns? A new work for piano by Gregory Mertl, performed by its dedicatee, Heather Lanners, with an introductory conversation.

It's with its title - Pictures Without an Exhibition - that this work began. Right away I intuited the piece would be both an homage and a reaction to Mussorgsky's great work *Pictures at an Exhibition*. But the title also felt fitting since I often think of my music as "pictures in sound." While there are many interconnections with the Mussorgsky, there are also many divergences. - Gregory Mertl. Composed in 2019, *Pictures Without an Exhibition* is a substantial and vigorous new work for solo piano. Our session begins with pianist Heather Lanners and composer Gregory Mertl sharing their collaborative process and then discussing several aspects of the work with musical examples. The session concludes with a full performance of the piece.

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Gregory Mertl: Pictures Without an Exhibition

I. Lento Misterioso

Air

II. La Poule

Air 2

III. Scherzo

Air 3

IV. Langourous Clouds

Air 4

V. Ballade