



DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Monday, June 8, 2026 • 7:00 PM

MEGAN RIDEOUT

REDEKER

Graduate Recital

Brennan Family Recital Hall
2330 North Halsted Street • Chicago

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Brennan Recital Hall

MEGAN RIDEOUT REDEKER, CLARINET

Graduate Recital

JEREMY VIGIL, PIANO

PROGRAM

Jean Francaix (1912–1997)

Tema Con Variazioni (1974)

Morton Gould (1913–1996)

Benny's Gig (1962)

Adam Wang, double bass

Willson Osborne (1906–1979)

Rhapsody (1952)

- Intermission -

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 120 (1894)

I. Allegro appassionato

II. Andante un poco adagio

III. Allegretto grazioso

IV. Vivace

Megan Rideout Redeker is from the studios of Tim Zavadil & Michael Rusinek.

This recital is presented in partial fulfillment of the degree Master of Music.

As a courtesy to those around you, please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices. Flash photography is not permitted.

PROGRAM NOTES

Jean Françaix (1912–1997)

Tema Con Variazioni (1974)

Duration: 10 minutes

Jean Françaix was born in 1912 to musical parents; his mother was a voice teacher and his father was a pianist and director of the Le Mans Conservatoire. Françaix began studying piano at Le Mans at a young age, and later took up composition at the Paris Conservatoire with Nadia Boulanger. Throughout his career Françaix remained a dedicated Neoclassicist, and his refusal to indulge in any Serialist sentiments resulted in a period of diminished popularity for his music around the 1970s. The Tema con Variazioni was commissioned for the 1974 concours at the Paris Conservatoire, and was written for A-clarinet at the request of Ulysse Delécluse. Françaix dedicated the piece to his grandson Olivier. The work's lighthearted charm is both reflective of this childlike character and emblematic of Françaix's compositional language.

Morton Gould (1913–1996)

Benny's Gig (1962)

Duration: 12 minutes

Few avenues in the realm of orchestral music remain untouched by the work of Morton Gould. By age six, Gould had already published his first composition. As a teenager, he worked as a pianist in Vaudeville acts and movie theaters before going to work for Radio City Music Hall as a staff musician. He later became the music director of several popular radio shows, and continued to compose standalone works, film scores, and music for Broadway during his radio tenure. As a conductor, Gould worked with most of the major orchestras in the US, and his 1966 recording of Ives' First Symphony with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra won a GRAMMY Award.

Gould composed *Benny's Gig* for Benny Goodman's 1962 tour in the Soviet Union. Goodman was the first American jazz musician to give a tour in the Soviet Union, and over the course of five weeks he gave 30 performances in six different cities. *Benny's Gig* was originally comprised of seven short duos for clarinet and double bass, with Gould adding an eighth as a gift for Goodman on his 70th birthday.

Willson Osborne (1906–1979)

Rhapsody (1952)

Duration: 5 minutes

Willson Osborne was an American composer and professor of music theory at the Philadelphia New School of Music. A student of Paul Hindemith, Osborne was a Neoclassicist whose body of work remains largely underperformed. The Rhapsody is his most popular work. It was originally written as a study for bassoon and gained popularity after it was recorded by Sol Schoenbach, bassoonist with the Philadelphia Orchestra. The Rhapsody was later transcribed for clarinet and has since become a staple of the instrument's unaccompanied repertoire.

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 120 (1894)

Duration: 25 minutes

In 1890, believing his life's work to be complete, Johannes Brahms decided to retire from composing. However, upon hearing the clarinetist Richard Mühlfeld perform with the Meiningen Court Orchestra, Brahms was moved to give up his self-imposed retirement to write for the clarinet. Brahms admired Mühlfeld's musicianship deeply, remarking in a letter to Clara Schumann that "no one blows the clarinet better than Herr Mühlfeld of this place." The First Clarinet Sonata was completed in 1894 and premiered by Brahms and Mühlfeld in January of 1895. Both clarinet sonatas, as well as the two chamber works that Brahms had previously written for Mühlfeld, were invaluable additions to the clarinet repertoire, which was still somewhat underdeveloped at the time. Today, the First Sonata remains one of the most widely performed pieces in the clarinet literature.

Notes by Megan Rideout Redeker