

**Washington State University School of Music  
Presents**

The Graduate Recital of:

*Miles Putton, piano*

From the studio of Dr. Mark Stevens



WASHINGTON STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 | 7:30pm

Bryan Hall Theatre | 605 Veterans Way | Pullman, WA 99163

# *The Program*

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*Sonata in c minor, K.457*

W A Mozart (1756-1791)

- I. Molto Allegro
- II. Adagio
- III. Allegro assai

*Sonatine*

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

- I. Modéré
- II. Mouvement de menuet
- III. Animé

~ Intermission ~

*Étude in G-flat Major, op. 10 no. 5*

Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849)

*Années de pèlerinage - Première année: Suisse* Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

- VI. Vallée d'Obermann

*Nocturne in F-sharp Major, op. 15 no. 2*

Frédéric Chopin

*Out of respect to all, please silence cell phones  
and other electronic devices. And please no flash photography.*

## About the Performer

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Born in Orlando, Florida, Miles Sutton began his musical training at age 15 with teacher Janna Bartoli. Shortly after, a long list of teachers followed to help him continue his musical education. These teachers included: Jon Sarta, Patricia Sayers, and Steinway Artist Dr. Gary Wolf and most recently Miko Kominami. Miles earned a

Bachelor of Music Degree in Piano with an outside field in French at Stetson University, in DeLand, FL in the studio of Steinway Artist Dr. Michael Rickman. Currently, Miles is a Master of Arts candidate in Piano and Collaborative Piano in the studio of Dr. Mark Stevens at Washington State University in Pullman, WA.

As a soloist and as a collaborative artist Miles has performed in major cities and venues across the US including the Stern Auditorium of Carnegie Hall, Betsy Art Gallery of Miami, and the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. During the summer of 2019, Sutton participated in the Miami Classical Music Festival where he was a featured soloist and had the opportunity to work with master teachers Alexandre Moutouskine, Anton Nel, and Daniel Shapiro in lessons and master classes. Collaborative work has always been a passion for Miles especially vocal collaborations, which led to the founding of the duo Mezzo-Piano, a vocal/piano duo founded in 2014 at Stetson University with *mezzo-soprano* Nicole Rivera-Montañez. The mission of Mezzo-Piano is to discover and perform important works scored for piano and voice, especially those of Hispanic composers. Before his educational pursuits at WSU, Miles worked at the University of Iowa as a vocal coach/collaborative pianist where he played student recitals, master classes, guest artist recitals, and was a rehearsal pianist for productions in both the School of Music and Theatre Department.

Miles Sutton is a Lifetime member of the Tri-M honors music society, a member of the WSU student MTNA chapter, and is a mentor for the University of Iowa's Honors College.

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*A special "Thank You!" to Dr. Mark Stevens, Dr. Yoon-Wha Roh.,  
Miko Kominami, Sandra Albers, and Shaun Sorensen and the WSU  
School of Music.*

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## About the Program

### **Sonata in c minor K. 457,**

is one of only two sonatas composed in a minor key by WA Mozart. There are few pieces composed in minor in the overall body of works which Mozart composed. The other sonata in minor was composed after the death of his mother which has left many to speculate over the significance of the tonal center of this work. It opens with a powerful burst contrasted by singing melodic lines that are always present in the music of Mozart. Throughout the composer makes use of arm crossings which were a sign of his virtuosity as a pianist. This sonata is thought to have inspired Beethoven to compose his "Pathétique" sonata in c minor which quotes themes from the second movement and is similar in overall structure.

### **Sonatine**

Ravel composed this piece for a competition in France, which shows the human nature of Ravel as he was after a cash prize. This piece was disqualified as it was too long for the requirement. This piece was never performed in full by the composer, who himself, was a great pianist, but he deemed the third movement too hard, and never gave a public performance which included this movement. Today this *sonatine* in its entirety is a standard piece of repertoire for the piano and is one of the pieces that many people easily recognize of Ravel's repertoire.

## Étude in G-flat Major, op 10 no.5

This étude has been given the nickname “The Black Key” étude as the key signature requires you to primarily play on the black keys of the piano. This comes from Chopin’s first set of études, or studies, which contain 24 études in all keys. These studies have been widely recognized as not only some of the most important works to prepare to play the works of Chopin, but also are viewed as giving the tools required to be able to master the piano. These studies, unlike those of composers before Chopin, are not only technical but are composed with rich harmonies and melodies that make his style easily recognizable

## Vallée d’Obermann

*Les années de pèlerinage*, are three suites, which are a collection of works by Liszt. These compositions are named after places and travels that Liszt took and had during his lifetime. The first set, is named the Swiss years, after time he spent in Switzerland. Before many of these works are included art or readings which inspired Liszt to compose these pieces. *Vallée d’Obermann*, was inspired by novel of the same name. The struggle between the main character of the novel and his role in nature and his role in humanity is at the center of the novel and this piece. The journey through this piece is full of pain, suffering, heartache, and beauty.

## Nocturne in F-sharp Major, op. 15 no. 2

This is perhaps one of the most sublime works of Chopin composed as a nocturne, a musical form that Chopin seemed to place in many of compositions. Nocturne, translated to Night Music, and thus has a dream like quality. Because Chopin was a virtuoso pianist, this sublime works doesn’t completely fall away from his technically demanding writings. Here you can see the influence he had on the Jazz genre and can easily hear where many of the jazz pianist of the more recent past found inspiration in their own writings.