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Neal Ramsay, saxophone, and Karen Ann Krieger, piano

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES

Neal Ramsay, *saxophone*
Karen Ann Krieger, *piano*

February 2, 1996, 8:15 PM
Byrd and William Perkinson Recital Hall

Neal Ramsay has taken his saxophone from the dance hall to the concert hall. His ability to cross musical boundaries and to push his instrument into new arenas has resulted in national tours, recordings, and performances in some of America's most prestigious concert halls. "In Ramsay's hands the saxophone may have finally received its vital spark." (*Chicago Sun-Times*)

In a continuing effort to expand the saxophone's repertoire, Neal has composed, commissioned, unearthed, adapted and arranged a multitude of works. His concerts feature an eclectic repertoire that embraces many genres, including classical, jazz, popular and folk. Neal coined the term "Classy music," to describe his choice of material. "Mr. Ramsay's selections were fresh and listenable. They combined the best elements of old and new. This is music with class, something that you want to hear again and again." (*The Tennessean*)

Neal Ramsay has toured the United States six times. He has given sold-out concerts at the John F. Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall including his own three-concert Carnegie Hall Series that celebrated the 150th anniversary of the saxophone's invention. He has performed with such show business greats as Bob Hope, Dionne Warwick, Paul McCartney, "Dizzy" Gillespie and Ella Fitzgerald. Neal has appeared on *CBS Sunday Morning*, and Walt Disney Productions. His radio credits include Voice of America, NPR's *All Things Considered*, *Morning Edition* and *Weekend Edition* and Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion* and *American Radio Theater of the Air*.

One of the few individuals to be awarded two soloist grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Neal is also the winner of the Kansas City Young Artist competition. He received the Outstanding Achievement Award from the former Secretary of Education, Lamar Alexander, in recognition of his concerts in the schools. His discography contains six solo albums including *Saxophone Alone*, *Four Moods*, *Point of Departure*, *Pictures and Other Exhibitions*, *Sax 5th Ave*. *And NewStream Christmas*. Neal contributes works for the saxophone through Shawnee Press, Medici Music and Dorn Publications. His articles have appeared in *International Musician*, *The Instrumentalist*, and *The Saxophone Journal*.

One of Neal Ramsay's trademarks is his tone quality. The *Boston Globe* described it as "covering a range from flute-like to that of a gutsy cello but always with crystal clarity." He attributes his sound, in part, to his own reed design and mouthpieces made for him by master craftsman David Hite. He is also an advisor and clinician for the Yamaha and Vandoren Corporations.

In his junior year of high school he took up the saxophone after hearing a television broadcast of saxophonist Vincent J. Abato. Abato was featured as soloist with the New York Philharmonic playing Alexander Glazounov's *Concerto in E-flat*. "I was so moved by Abato's playing that I called him in New York the next day and asked how I should get started. He helped me realize the saxophone's potential." Neal is a graduate of George Peabody College and The University of North Texas. He also has studied with conductor/oboist Mitch Miller and ultimately Vincent Abato, his original inspiration.

PROGRAM

Three Preludes

George Gershwin
arr. Neal Ramsay

Clair de Lune

Claude Debussy
arr. Neal Ramsay

Amoureuse and Espiegle

Claude Bolling

Selections from the Saxophone's "Golden Age"
to be selected from the following

Oodles of Noodles
Harlem Nocturne
Saxophobia

Jimmy Dorsey
Earle Hagen
Rudy Wiedoeft

INTERMISSION

Sound Bites for Alto Saxophone and Piano

David Bridges

Allegro
Staccato
Alla Breve
Largo
Piano
Saxophono
Finale

Tableaux de Provence

Paule Maurice

Farandole Des Jeunes Filles
Chanson Pour Ma Mie
La Bohemienne
Des Alyscamps L'Ame Soupire
Le Cabridan

Selections from *West Side Story*

Leonard Bernstein
arr. Neal Ramsay

Prologue
Somewhere
Cool
America

Karen Ann Krieger was described by *Musical America* magazine as a musician who “quickly demonstrates her technical security, enlivened by tasteful musical temperament that always holds the attention.” Ms. Krieger performs as a soloist and joint recitalist. She is a presenting artist for the Alfred Publishing Company and a faculty member of the Blair School of Music of Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

Next:
Faculty Recital:
Kristi Reynolds, piano
February 5, 1996, 8:15 PM
Byrd and William Perkinson Recital Hall



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