



Advance Program Notes

Sierra Hull

Friday, June 15, 2018, 7:30 PM

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.

Sierra Hull

Sierra Hull, mandolin and vocals

Ethan Jodziewicz, bass

About Sierra Hull

Sierra Hull, the singer, mandolinist and former child prodigy who signed with Rounder at age 13 and distinguished herself by becoming the first bluegrass musician to receive a Presidential Scholarship to the prestigious Berklee College of Music, released *Weighted Mind*, her first new album in five years, on January 29, 2016.

Fifteen-time Grammy Award winner Béla Fleck produced the recording, which features 11 compelling new compositions written or co-written by Hull and one traditional tune for which she and Fleck provided a new arrangement. While Hull's ethereal voice and fluid playing take center stage here, she receives ample support from bass marvel Ethan Jodziewicz. Fleck's banjo adorns the elegant *Queen of Hearts/Royal Tea*, and Alison Krauss, Abigail Washburn, and Rhiannon Giddens add enchanting harmonies.

Though she is best known for her work as a mandolin player, Hull reveals in these songs her abundant gifts as a composer and lyricist. Themes of loss and restoration run through the album, starting with the muscular opening number, *Stranded*, and continue on the stirring *Compass*, on which she declares, "I've thrown away my compass, done with the chart... I'll just step out, throw my doubt into the sea, for what's meant to be will be." The gentle, dissonant title track ponders existential questions, while the haunting *Birthday* and *Fallen Man* offer somber reflections on strained relationships and impossible choices. The album closes on an optimistic note, with the sweetly assertive *I'll Be Fine* and the uplifting, philosophical closer *Black River*. Fleck, Giddens, Krauss, and Washburn all guest on this track, on which Hull reflects, "A thousand years is but a day, and maybe in a thousand years, I'll find my way."

About Ethan Jodziewicz

A musician first and foremost, Ethan Jodziewicz fully embodies the notion that nearly anything is possible on the bass. Jodziewicz' zeal, musical omnivorousness, and technical ability allow him to not only thrive in bluegrass, jazz, old-time, funk, symphonic, and chamber music, but also to push the boundaries of bass-playing beyond its traditional roles.

An in-demand ensemble player, Jodziewicz spends much of his time traveling the world, playing on the stages of Carnegie Hall, the Grand Ole Opry, A Prairie Home Companion, Telluride Bluegrass Festival, and hundreds of others. He is featured on many albums, including Sierra Hull's Grammy-nominated *Weighted Mind*, several albums with Darol Anger, and a duo recording of fiddle music with Tatiana Hargreaves.

As a touring musician, Jodziewicz currently performs full time with Sierra Hull and has also shared the stage with Béla Fleck, David Grisman, Tony Trischka, Ralph Stanley, Turtle Island Quartet, Howard Levy, the Seattle and Indianapolis Symphony Orchestras, and many more.

Jodziewicz holds a bachelor of music from the Curtis Institute of Music, where he studied with Edgar Meyer and Hal Robinson. He currently lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

In the Galleries

COMING SOON

Sitting Pretty: The Chair Re-Envisioned

June 21-August 12, 2018

All galleries

Artists from Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee expand upon traditional forms and cultural associations, re-imagining the possibilities of what a chair is and can be. *Sitting Pretty* features over 30 works, some created specifically for the exhibition, which is curated by Moss Arts Center graduate assistants Emily Bianchi and Sarah Tucker in conjunction with the curatorial department.

JOIN US!

Opening Reception and Meet the Artists

Thursday, June 21, 2018, 5-7 PM

Grand Lobby

Free; refreshments provided

Enjoy a summer evening with artists featured in *Sitting Pretty*.

William Wegman: *Sit!*

June 21-August 12, 2018

Francis T. Eck Exhibition Corridor

Presented for the first time in Virginia, this recent body of photographs by conceptual artist and pioneering video artist William Wegman features a succinct selection of his work with his beloved subject—Weimaraners—on tables and chairs by renowned designers and architects Charles and Ray Eames and George Nakashima.

GALLERY HOURS

Monday-Friday, 10 AM-5:30 PM

Saturday, 10 AM-4 PM

To arrange a group tour or class visit, please contact Meggin Hicklin, exhibitions program manager, at megh79@vt.edu or 540-231-0840.