



2025 Weiwuying Music Camp

Faculty Concert: Saxophone Rhapsody

2025.7.21 Mon. 19:30

Weiwuying Concert Hall

Duration is 100 minutes with a 20-minute intermission.

Presenter

Collaborators


 National Kaohsiung
 CENTER for ARTS
 WEIWUYING
 衛武營 國家藝術文化中心
 國家表演藝術中心 National Performing Arts Center


 米特 薩克斯風
 音樂教育
 Mit Music Education


 社團法人台灣兒童管風琴教育推廣協會

Program

Philippe GEISS: *Visage* (Taiwanese premiere)

Saxophone | Philippe GEISS, Vincent DAVID, Valentin KOVALEV, Makoto HONDO

Piano | Marija AUPY

B. BARTOK: *Romanian Folk Dances* (arr. Valentin KOVALEV)

Saxophone | Valentin KOVALEV

Piano | Marija AUPY

T. VITALI: *Chaconne In g minor*

Saxophone | Valentin KOVALEV

Pipe Organ | Grace Eun-hye OH

D. SHOSTAKOVICH: *Five Pieces for Two Violins & Piano, Op. 97* (arr. L. ATOVMYAN)

Saxophone | Vincent DAVID, CHANG Yen-wei

Piano | Marija AUPY

Vincent DAVID: *Linéal*

Saxophone | Vincent DAVID, MIT Saxophone Ensemble

Harp | KUANG Yi-wen

Jerry BERGONZI: *New in the city* (arr. Philippe GEISS)

Saxophone | Philippe GEISS, Vincent DAVID, MIT Saxophone Ensemble

Piano | Marija AUPY

Program

Chris Evan HASS: *Volcanic Ash*

Saxophone | Charles NG, Calvin WONG, CHEN Pin-hua, HUANG Pei-han,
WU Jen-hong, CHANG Po-fang

Perry GOLDSTEIN: *Total Absorption*

Saxophone | Makoto HONDO

Guillermo LAGO: " III. Addis Ababa" from *Ciudades*

Saxophone | Makoto HONDO, CHEN Li-fong
Piano | Marija AUPY

A. KHACHATURIAN: Trio for Clarinet, Violin and Piano III. Moderato (arr. Philippe GEISS)

Saxophone | Philippe GEISS, CHANG Chih-yu
Piano | Marija AUPY

Philippe GEISS: *Oloid*

Saxophone | Philippe GEISS
Piano | Marija AUPY

Andy FIRTH: *Bach's Pianola*

Saxophone | 2025 【Weiwuying Music Camp】 Faculty, MIT Saxophone Ensemble

Program Note

Written by Eric LIEN

Philippe GEISS: *Visage* (Taiwanese premiere)

The opening piece of the Faculty Concert is the Taiwanese premiere of *Visage*, a recent composition by French saxophonist Philippe GEISS, one of the faculty members leading the saxophone division at the 2025 Weiwuying Music Camp. The title *Visage* means "face" in French. In this piece, GEISS uses a saxophone quartet and piano to portray the saxophone's diverse musical expressions. The piece incorporates tango-like rhythms and melodies into a five-minute journey that transitions from solo to ensemble textures, from fast-paced to lyrical sections, revealing the saxophone's vibrant timbral palette and expressive potential to the audience.

B. BARTÓK: *Romanian Folk Dances* (arr. Valentin KOVALEV)

Originally composed for piano in 1915, *Romanian Folk Dances* is one of Béla BARTÓK's most beloved folk-inspired works. Drawing on traditional melodies he collected during field research in the Transylvanian region, BARTÓK crafted a six-movement suite that captures the earthy charm, rhythmic vitality, and cultural richness of Romanian village dances. This arrangement by Russian saxophonist Valentin KOVALEV reimagines the suite for saxophone ensemble. While preserving the character and form of the original, KOVALEV's version highlights the warm tone and flexible phrasing of the saxophone, giving a new voice to these vibrant folk melodies.

T. VITALI: *Chaconne* In g minor

Long attributed to Baroque composer T. VITALI, the *Chaconne* in g minor gained popularity through an 1867 arrangement for violin and piano by F. DAVID. However, its Romantic stylistic features have led some to question its authenticity as a Baroque composition. Regardless of origin, the work remains a favorite for violinists, including the legendary Jascha HEIFETZ. In the somber minor, soloists may express both emotional depth and technical brilliance in the sweeping melodic lines. The *Chaconne* will be interpreted by saxophone and pipe organ tonight, offering a fresh perspective of this enduring class.

D. SHOSTAKOVICH: Five Pieces for Two Violins & Piano, Op. 97 (arr. L. ATOVMYAN)

As one of the most important composers in 20th-century Russia, SHOSTAKOVICH spent his creative life under the Soviet regime, often navigating the complex balance between political conformity and personal artistic voice. Five Pieces for Two Violins and Piano are the lighter side of his output. Each piece was originally composed as incidental music for films, plays, or ballets. These five miniatures—Prelude, Gavotte, Elegy, Waltz, and Polka—were compiled and arranged by his friend L. ATOVMYAN. The suite has been arranged for two saxophones and piano for this performance.

Vincent DAVID: *Linéal*

Composed in 2021, *Linéal* is a solo work for soprano saxophone by French virtuoso Vincent DAVID, who also serves on the faculty of the saxophone section at the 2025 Weiwuying Music Camp. The title means "linear," and in this piece, DAVID challenges the technical possibilities of the soprano saxophone. It employs advanced techniques such as glissandi, slap tongue, altissimo, and microtones, making it a highly demanding work for the performer. DAVID will give the Taiwanese premiere for this concert, offering audiences a firsthand experience of his original interpretation. Originally written for soprano saxophone and chamber orchestra, this performance features an adaptation for soprano saxophone and saxophone ensemble.

Jerry BERGONZI: *New in the city* (arr. Philippe GEISS)

Jerry BERGONZI is an influential contemporary American saxophonist renowned for his distinctive jazz performance style and for authoring over thirty instructional books on jazz saxophone. A longtime friend of Philippe GEISS, BERGONZI's captivating "musical" language inspired GEISS to create this arrangement of *New in the City*. This arrangement features two saxophone soloists, a piano, and a saxophone ensemble. The result is a vividly cinematic composition that captures the neon-lit glamour of a bustling metropolis, contrasting it with the introspective, wandering voice of the saxophone.

Chris Evan HASS: *Volcanic Ash*

Composed in 2017, *Volcanic Ash* is the second saxophone quartet by American composer Chris Evan HASS. The piece fuses elements of Middle Eastern music with the aggression and intensity of heavy metal, driving forward in characterized constant meter changes. It is boisterous and lively, and HASS describes the work as "harder, faster, louder" than his first saxophone quartet, *Polar Vortex*.

Perry GOLDSTEIN: *Total Absorption*

Initially composed for bass clarinet, *Total Absorption* is a virtuoso challenge full of rapid note passages and quasi-improvised melodic lines punctuated by explosive high notes. This piece is technically demanding; its musical texture often gives an illusion of two voices conversing within a single instrument. The work will be presented in this concert on solo baritone saxophone.

Guillermo LAGO: "III. Addis Ababa" from *Ciudades*

"Guillermo LAGO" is the pseudonym—or, as he describes it, the "alternate personality"—of the Dutch saxophonist Willem van MERWIJK. *Ciudades* (Cities) is a series of musical sketches of cities that have a special meaning for the composer. "Addis Ababa," written in 2007, reflects the energetic capital of Ethiopia and was inspired by LAGO's collaboration with the Ethiopian singer Minyeshu. *Ciudades* has gained widespread popularity and has been arranged for multiple instrumentations upon request. "Addis Ababa" will be performed tonight in a version for soprano sax, baritone sax, and piano.

A. KHACHATURIAN: Trio for Clarinet, Violin and Piano III. Moderato (arr. Philippe GEISS)

A. KHACHATURIAN, one of the most renowned Armenian composers of the 20th Century, was known for weaving folk music and melodies of his homeland into his composition. He merged these elements with Romantic idioms, creating a style that is both personal and accessible. This Trio, initially written for clarinet, violin, and piano, was composed at the age of 29 while he was studying in Moscow. Despite his youth, he demonstrated a mature integration of folk-inspired melodies. The third movement draws directly from an Uzbek folk tune, which gives it a distinctive exotic flavor. It begins gently and lyrically, then gradually builds in energy as the instruments join in, and ultimately circles back to the opening solo in a dramatic arc.

In this concert, Philippe GEISS presents his arrangement for two saxophones and piano; his adaptation features the soprillo saxophone, an extremely high-pitched saxophone family member, which creates a mysterious and atmospheric sound. This unique combination invites listeners on an imaginative journey.

Philippe GEISS: *Oloid*

This original work by Philippe GEISS was inspired by the Héliodome, a remarkable architectural structure in France based on the mathematical form known as the "oloid" (An oloid is a 3D geometric surface formed by two perpendicular intersecting circles. This form is used in the architectural design of the Héliodome by French architect Éric WASSER. The Héliodome features a sundial-like exterior and a south-facing semi-circular glass window. It is designed to optimize natural light in the winter while minimizing sunlight in the summer.)

GEISS was inspired by the building's interplay of light and shadow when composing this work. Oloid follows a solar trajectory in sound: The piece begins with a cold and restrained character, gradually building warmth and radiance in the middle section. As the music evolves, it becomes dense and weighty like gathering clouds, before reaching a resplendent and luminous finale.

Andy FIRTH: *Bach's Pianola*

According to the composer Andy FIRTH, he imagines a whimsical scenario: While J. S. BACH is working on his composing, a pianola from the 20th Century drops into his room. Out of curiosity, he pedals and hears music he'd never imagined—waltz, ragtime, swing. BACH becomes captivated and plays for hours until the pianola eventually breaks down. But when BACH returns to his fugue, the music he heard continues to echo in his creativity. Bach's Pianola is a delightful mashup where Baroque counterpoint collides with contemporary musical forms, blending eras into a playful fantasia.

Performers

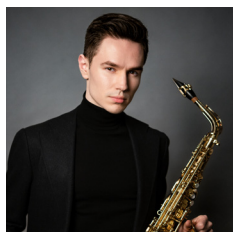
Saxophone |



Vincent DAVID

- Professor of Saxophone at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels, Belgium
- Professor of Saxophone at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels, Belgium

A highly influential contemporary French saxophonist and composer. His original album Pulse, featuring works performed by the composer himself, was awarded top honors at the French Composition Competition.



Valentin KOVALEV

- First Prize Winner of VI Andorra International Saxophone Competition
- Master's Degrees from the Paris Conservatory (CNSMDP) and the University of Michigan, USA

A Russian saxophonist, educator, and content creator who has performed at Carnegie Hall and collaborated with renowned symphony orchestras worldwide. He also organized a humanitarian aid concert for Ukraine in the United States, raising over \$17,000 to support refugees.



Philippe GEISS

- Professor of Saxophone at the Strasbourg Conservatory of Music, France
- Artistic Director of the 17th World Saxophone Congress

A highly influential contemporary saxophonist and composer whose musical style bridges modern classical, jazz, and world music. He was among the first graduates of the French Saxophone School, successfully blending classical and improvisational styles seamlessly.



Makoto HONDO

- Professor of Saxophone at Sensoku Gakuen College of Music, Japan
- First Prize Winner of the Japan Wind and Percussion Competition & II Andorra International Saxophone Competition

A Japanese saxophonist and composer specializing in the baritone saxophone. A graduate of the Tokyo University of the Arts and the Paris Conservatory (CNSMDP), he has won multiple awards at the Japan Wind and Percussion Competition, including the First Prize, Prime Minister's Award, Special Award, and Audience Award.



Calvin WONG

- Saxophone Lecturer at The University of Texas at Austin
- Doctor of Musical Arts from Arizona State University

A Chinese saxophonist with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan's School of Music, Theatre & Dance, as well as degrees from the Paris Conservatory (CNSMDP) and the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, USA. She has performed solo and chamber music recitals at numerous venues worldwide.



Charles NG

- Lecturer of Saxophone at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts
- Member of the renowned saxophone quintet Five Sax

A Hong Kong saxophonist who graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and Zurich University of the Arts in Switzerland. He has performed concertos with the Kraków Academy Orchestra, the Karlovy Vary Symphony Orchestra, and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts Symphony Orchestra.



CHEN Li-fong

- Concertmaster of MIT Saxophone Ensemble
- Master of Music, Conservatorium van Amsterdam

A Yamaha artist and the director of the MIT Arising Musicians Project. He has been invited to perform concertos with Kaohsiung Symphony Orchestra, Ju Percussion Group, Weiwuying Contemporary Music Ensemble, TSO Wind Orchestra, Taipei Wind Orchestra & Symphonic Band, and R.O.C. Ministry of National Defense Symphony Orchestra.



CHEN Pin-hua

- Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Graduate Institute of Orchestral Instruments, Taipei National University of the Arts
- Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

CHEN is a member of the MIT Saxophone Ensemble, the Composition VII Saxophone Quartet, and the Taipei Wind Orchestra & Symphonic Band. She is also a Yamaha artist. Currently teaches at National Sun Yat-sen University, Fu Jen Catholic University, University of Taipei, National Taipei University of Education, and the Graduate Institute at TNUA.



CHANG Po-fang

- Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Department of Music, National Kaohsiung Normal University
- Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) from the University of South Carolina, USA

He holds a Master's and Certificate from Bowling Green State University, and a DMA from South Carolina. Currently teaches at Soochow University, National Tsing Hua University, Hsinchu High School, Taipei European School, and Chingshin Academy.



CHANG Chih-yu

- Highest Professional Diploma from the National Conservatory of Strasbourg, France
- Saxophone Lecturer in the Department of Music, Juang Jing Vocational High School

A member of the MIT Saxophone Ensemble, specializes in saxophone solo and chamber performance. Has performed concertos with MusicFirst Cello Ensemble, Ju Percussion Group, and Taiwan Flute Festival.



CHANG Yen-wei

- Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Department of Music, National Taiwan University of Arts
- Konzertexamen from Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln, Germany

First Chinese finalist in the Andorra International Competition and finalist in Classic Winds International Competition. Third Prize winner at Chieti Classica in Italy.



HUANG Pei-han

- Advanced Music Education Diploma from the Conservatoire National de Région de Paris, France
- Yamaha Artist from Taiwan

A member of the MIT Saxophone Ensemble, producer for Scenic Sound and Saxophonic Stories. Graduate of Paris Conservatory and National Taiwan University. Currently teaches at the National Defense University.

Saxophone |



WU Jen-hong

- Master's Degree from the Conservatorium van Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Member of the Dokwerk Saxophone Quartet

Top 10 semifinalist in the Josip Nocht Competition in Croatia, Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe Scholar, Third Prize winner at Exigentia in Italy, First and Stage Prize winner at Kamermuziek Concours Gelre in the Netherlands.

Pipe Organ |



Grace Eun-hye OH

- Organist at the First Presbyterian Church of Annapolis, Maryland
- Professor of Organ at Chun University, North Carolina, USA

A Korean-American organist who has won five first prizes at international organ competitions, including the Korea International Organ Competition, the Bach International Organ Competition (USA), the Joseph Gabler International Organ Competition (Germany), the Luigi Folcioni International Competition (Italy), and the International Baroque Competition in Munich, Germany. She graduated from Keimyung University in Korea, earned her Master's degree in Organ from Westminster Choir College (now Rider University), and obtained the Graduate Performance Diploma from the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. In 2021, she completed the "Konzertexamen" (highest performance diploma) in Organ Performance at the Robert Schumann Hochschule in Düsseldorf, Germany.

Piano |



Marija AUPY

- Founder of the Strasbourg Piano Academy
- Member of the French Duo Ostinato

A Serbian pianist who graduated from the Liszt Academy of Music and has received multiple international awards. She has performed extensively throughout Europe. In addition to her wide-ranging classical repertoire, she is actively engaged in the development of contemporary music and frequently collaborates with interdisciplinary artists

Artistic and Production Team

Saxophone | Vincent DAVID, Valentin KOVALEV, Philippe GEISS, Makoto HONDO,
Calvin WONG, Charles NG, CHEN Li-fong, CHEN Pin-hua, CHANG Po-fang,
CHANG Chih-yu, CHANG Yen-wei, HUANG Pei-han, WU Jen-hong

Guest Member | MIT Saxophone Ensemble

Pipe Organ | Grace Eun-hye OH

Piano | Marija AUPY

Harp | KUANG Yi-wen

National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying)

General and Artistic Director | CHIEN Wen-pin

Production Director | KUO Yuan-hsien

Deputy General Director | Raymond WONG

Director of Learning & Participation | Elise LIN

Head of Arts Participation | Joy CHEN

Arts Participation | HUANG Yi-ching, WENG Yu-fen, Peggy TSAI, Haruna HUS

Concert Project Coordinator | May WONG

Director of Technical Management | CHEN Mei-lin

Head of Technical Coordination | Juan YEN

Technical Coordination | CHEN Peng-chen

Head of Stage & Rigging | LEE Hui-ling

Head of Lighting | KUO Chien-hao

Lighting Staff | CHENG Te-pin, ZHANG Ya-han

Head of Audio & Video | Slash HSU

Audio & Video Staff | CHUNG Te-yen, CHEN Wei-tsung, CHEN Yen-ju

Graphic Design | Amin WU

MIT Saxophone Ensemble

Programmer | CHEN Kuan-wen, LEE Pei-ying, CHIU Yu-ching, LAI Jing-min

Stage Manager | HUANG Hsin-yi

Orgelkids Taiwan

Programmer | TSAI Chwen-huei, Abby CHU

Transportation Support



Weiwuying
Online Questionnaire

