



MEDIA CONTACT:

Elisabeth Hugh, General Manager
330-840-8429 or lis@mftwr.org

For Immediate Release
September 2018

Saxophonist, educator, inclusion advocate Steven Nichols Banks to perform for Music from The Western Reserve



Hudson, OH, September 16, 2018 – Saxophonist **Steven Nichols Banks** will perform for Music from The Western Reserve's 36th season. This intimate and personal music moment features Christine Padaca Fuoco on piano. Music from The Western Reserve's second concert of the 36th season is on **Sunday, October 14** at **Christ Church Episcopal** in Hudson.

Steven Nichols Banks "believes that a performance must move or inspire the listener." A classical saxophonist, chamber musician, jazz and commercial saxophonist, music educator, advocate for diversity and inclusion in classical music, and composer, we welcome Steven Banks to our concert series. Critics have said that he plays with "pristine clarity and enviable precision but [knows] how to add emotional heat to his interpretation" (Herald Times, Bloomington, IN), and that his performances are "breathtaking" (Classical Voice of North Carolina).

Mr. Banks has performed as a concerto soloist with the North Carolina Symphony, Indiana University Symphony Orchestra, Durham Symphony, and the Northwestern University Symphonic Wind Ensemble. He has recently started performing in the wind section of The Cleveland Orchestra as an orchestral saxophonist. As an advocate for contemporary classical music, Steven has performed and premiered new works at the Ear Taxi New Music Festival, NUNC!2 New Music Conference, the Northern Illinois University New Music Concerts, to name a few. Mr. Banks is the baritone saxophonist of the award-winning Kenari Quartet. They enjoy a regular schedule of touring and recording at universities and chamber music series' around the country.



Mr. Banks has a Master of Music degree from the Northwestern University Bienen School of Music in Saxophone Performance, Bachelor of Arts degree in Saxophone Performance with a minor in Jazz Studies from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Mr. Banks is the Assistant Professor of Saxophone and Jazz Studies at the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music in Berea, OH.



Christine Padaca Fuoco has served as a faculty member in the keyboard department at Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music since 2001. She maintains a dynamic and diverse career as a teacher, soloist and collaborative pianist performing in the Western Reserve Concert Series, Dover Center Music Series, Trinity Cathedral Music Series, Aspen International Music Festival Chamber Music Series and at the Chautauqua Institution. She has performed at the University of Miami and Florida Gulf Coast University with members of The Cleveland Orchestra, has concertized throughout Japan as the Nakayama-Padaca Duo and has toured Switzerland as a member of the Incarnation Trio.

Ms. Fuoco earned her Master of Music and Professional Studies degree in both piano performance and chamber studies from the Cleveland Institute of Music where she studied primarily with Paul Schenly. Fuoco is a native of the Pacific Northwest and received a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Puget Sound as a student in the pre-med program. Though a science major, Fuoco's love for music continued to grow with the inspiration and encouragement of her teachers Duane Hulbert, James Barbagallo and Tanya Stambuk. She was the grand prize winner of the Concerto Aria Competition and the Olympia Young Artist's Competition which afforded her performances of both Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3 and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4 with orchestra. Fuoco was also an original member of Trio Enérgico. The trio won grand prizes at the state and regional levels, prizing at the national level in the Music Teachers National Association National Chamber Music Competition in Washington D.C.

The concert will be held on **Sunday, October 14, 2018**, at **5 p.m.** at **Christ Church Episcopal** located at 21 Aurora Street, Hudson Ohio. A **meet-the-artist reception** will immediately follow after the concert.

Single Tickets \$20 and **Student Admission FREE**. Tickets can be purchased at www.mftwr.org, the **Learned Owl Book Shop** at 204 N. Main Street in Hudson, or at the door the evening of the concert.

For more information about **Music from The Western Reserve's 36th season**, visit www.mftwr.org and www.facebook.com/mftwr.

###