

Saturday
FEB 4
7:30 pm

KU Wind Ensemble
with special guest
Mariam Adam

clarinet

KU
SCHOOL
OF MUSIC
The University of Kansas

Conducted by **Paul W. Popiel**



Cherry Hill Properties is pleased to partner with the Lied Center to bring Mariam Adam and the KU Wind Ensemble to the stage. Enjoy tonight's performance.

Mariam Adam

Mariam Adam, born in Monterey, California to an Egyptian father and a Mexican mother, has lived between New York, Paris and now Nashville, a composite of influences that has shaped her musicianship and collaborations worldwide. She has performed with Wayne Shorter, Chick Corea, Paquito D'Rivera, Yo-Yo Ma, Eric Le Sage, Claudio Bohorquez, Simon Shaheen, Kuss Quartet, Gil Kalish, Ann Marie-McDermott, the Zaide Quartet and in such venues and series as Carnegie Hall, Hollywood Bowl, Walt Disney Hall, Jordan Hall, Kennedy Center, San Francisco Performances, Wigmore Hall, Paris' Cité de la Musique, Beijing Performing Arts Center, Bremen Musikfest, Jazz à Marciac, Colmar Festival and France's pre-eminent Folle Journée.

A founding and former member of the twice Grammy-nominated woodwind quintet Imani Winds, she maintained an active international touring schedule for over 15 years. The quintet is a pillar in the classical music community, unparalleled in developing the wind quintet to a new level through virtuosity, style, repertoire and engaging programs. Their albums and legacy have won numerous awards and continue to influence wind-chamber music through their commissions and original compositions. In November 2021, she reunited with members of the Imani Winds to premiere Valerie Coleman's *Phenomenal Women* in London.

Besides her career with Imani Winds, Adam has been invited for solo recitals and chamber music concerts in such prestigious venues and festivals as Chamber Music Lincoln Center, Burlington's Lane Series, Chamber Music Northwest, Skaneateles Festival, Chenango Festival, Fontana Arts, La Folle Journée Festival in Nantes, Théâtre de l'Archipel in Perpignan, Musica da Curitiba-Brazil as well as various festivals and series in the United States, Europe and South America. She has performed and toured with Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and France's satire icon, Gaspard Proust. She has soloed with the Orchestre de Pau, Sacramento Symphony, the Monterey Symphony, the Singapore National Youth Orchestra, Prince George Philharmonic and the Appassionato Ensemble in France.

Since 2016, she has been principal clarinetist for the London-based Chineke! Ensemble and Orchestra with return visits to BBC's *Tune In with Sean Rafferty*. They have become a pivotal ensemble in the United Kingdom and Europe championing works of new composers, while establishing a firm identity of the new face of classical music.

Since 2004, her clarinet/piano duo with Evelyn Ulex, TransAtlantic Ensemble, an official Steinway ensemble, specializes in commissions of crossover styles, standard repertoire and presents their concerts in unique formats throughout Europe, South and Central America and the United States. They have been featured on NPR and Berlin Radiofunk, and their latest album, *Havana Moon*, was on Sirius XM's Best of Symphony in 2016.

In 2010, she started the AdZel Duo with clarinetist Stephanie Zelnick, performing works celebrating their combined heritage from the Middle East. Their music covers the conflicting yet homogenous cultures through special commissions and master classes on an international scale. They have been invited to give their presentations

at Juilliard, Yale School of Music, Indiana University and have been featured at the International Clarinet Conference, Costa Rican Clarinet Festival as well as the 2019 world premiere of *Dreams* double concerto in Los Angeles.

As an educator, she has been invited to give master classes throughout the United States, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland, London, Costa Rica, Brazil, Colombia, France, China, Singapore and Germany at the top conservatories. During her time with Imani Winds, the group was the ensemble-in-residence at the Mannes School of Music in New York and several schools of music throughout the U.S.

Adam recorded eight albums with Imani Winds (Koch Classics, E1) before the ensemble was signed by EMI for their exciting wind quintet version of the *Rite of Spring*, which was selected in 2013's Best of iTunes. She can also be heard on Chick Corea's *The Continents*, Wayne Shorter's *Without a Net*, Steve Coleman's *Ascension to Light*, *Letters From Armenia* with Varduhi Yeritsyan and Mohammed Fairouz's *Native Informant*. Her latest album, *AdZel Duo*, was released in 2018 and was featured on American Public Media's *Performance Today*. She has recorded four albums with the Chineke! Orchestra on NMC, Signum and Orchid labels, including *Rhapsody in Blue* with Stewart Goodyear.

Mariam Adam is an exclusive Selmer Paris Artist on the Privilege Series, Vandoren Artist and has served on the executive board for Chamber Music America as vice president. She is an assistant clarinet professor at the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University and a faculty member of the YOLA National Institute with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, among other educator positions.

KU Wind Ensemble

Described by *The New York Times* as "one of America's most esteemed concert bands," the KU Wind Ensemble (KUWE) is the premier wind band at the University of Kansas and is conducted by Paul W. Popiel, director of bands. Their Carnegie Hall debut in 2013 was described by *Feast of Music* as "showing amazing chops in their transitions and an impressive range of dynamics" and by *The New York Times* as "performing with polish, assurance and copious spirit, eliciting a rousing ovation." The Wind Ensemble performed for President Obama for his address to KU in January 2015, at the national biennial convention of the College Band Directors National Association in 2017, and premiered Kevin Walczyk's *Symphony No. 5: Freedom from Fear* at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2018.

KUWE enjoys a long history of excellence and musical leadership in Kansas, the nation and around the world. Former leading conductors include Russell Wiley, Kenneth Bloomquist, Robert E. Foster, John Lynch and Scott Weiss. The ensemble is at the forefront of commercial wind-band recordings and can be heard on the Klavier, Naxos Wind Band Classics, Ecstatic and Mark Custom labels. Their 2013 release, *In the Shadow of No Towers*, was described in *Gramophone Magazine* as "...eloquent, disciplined performances that come across with stunning dynamic range and almost dimensional transparency." Their most recent album, *Of Shadow and Light*, was released on the Klavier label in 2017.

KUWE has hosted numerous composers in recent years, including John Corigliano, Frank Ticheli, Steven Bryant, Kevin Walczyk, Joni Greene, Aaron Perrine, Michael Torke, Joel Puckett, John Mackey, Mohammed Fairouz and Eric Ewazen, as well as guest conductors Dai Zhonghui, Michelle Rakers, John Whitwell, H. Robert Reynolds and Mallory Thompson. Guest soloists recently performing with the ensemble include Jim Walker, Gail Williams, Jeff Nelsen, Jon Lewis, Joey Tartell, the Boston Brass and Chris Vadala.

The Wind Ensemble performs diverse repertoire of the highest caliber, from chamber works to large ensemble pieces, and has a strong commitment to new music as well as the finest standard band repertoire. Its membership is selected by audition from among the finest wind and percussion players at the University of Kansas.

Paul W. Popiel

Paul W. Popiel, professor of music, is the director of bands at KU, only the seventh person to hold this position in the band's storied 125-year history. Dr. Popiel conducts the KU Wind Ensemble, directs the graduate program in wind conducting and guides all aspects of the university band program. His previous appointments include Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and Oklahoma State University. He also enjoyed several wonderful years teaching in the public schools of Texas and Michigan.

His Carnegie Hall debut in 2013 was heralded by *The New York Times*: "The ensemble, conducted by Paul W. Popiel, performed with polish, assurance and copious spirit, eliciting a rousing ovation," while *New York's Feast of Music* said, "Give credit to Popiel, a strong advocate for new music, who went for broke, succeeding in showing us that there is, in fact, real, adventurous music being made over on the other side of the rainbow."

Under Popiel's leadership, the KU Wind Ensemble has performed at Carnegie Hall in 2013, for President Obama in 2015, at the Kansas Music Educators Association (2012, 2015 and 2021), the national convention of the College Band Directors National Association in 2017 and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2018.

A proponent of distinctive new music, Popiel has commissioned and premiered numerous new works for winds, including pieces by composers Joel Puckett, Mohammed Fairouz, Michael Torke, Kevin Walczyk, James Barnes, David Dzubay, Joni Greene, Aaron Perrine and others. In 2013, Popiel was elected to the membership of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association and the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, known for the Grammy Awards.

Popiel holds degrees from Truman State University, the University of Notre Dame and Michigan State University. A recipient of a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship, he also earned a postgraduate diploma in 20th-century music at the University of Bristol, England. Popiel was also the Frank L. Battisti Conducting Fellow, serving as the resident conductor of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute.