

# MUSIK UNSERER ZEIT

## KOMPONISTEN-COLLOQUIUM

Freitag, 23. Mai 2014, 18.00 Uhr

*Alan Theisen, Composer*  
*Christopher Condon, Saxophone*

# *Arcanum*

*for solo alto saxophone*

This evening, Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg presents a colloquium on the music of American composer, Dr. Alan Theisen with a special preview of his latest work "Arcanum" for solo alto saxophone written for and performed by saxophonist Christopher Condon. Dr. Theisen will discuss the construction of his composition, collaboration with Mr. Condon, idiomatic writing for the saxophone with extended techniques, and the significance works of this scope have regarding the repertoire of the classical saxophone.

As part of the Forum Neue Musik, Christopher Condon will present a special concert Saturday 24 May at 20:00 in the Christianskirche at Klopstockplatz, Ottensen, Hamburg. Students are invited to attend the performance tomorrow evening, which will showcase a comparison of J.S. Bach's masterful Cello Suites to unaccompanied saxophone works of the 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> century. The program will conclude with the World Premier of Alan Theisen's *Arcanum*.

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**Alan Theisen** is professor of music at Mars Hill University where he is the coordinator of music theory and composition. He previously taught at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University (Bloomington) after receiving his Ph.D. in music theory and composition from Florida State University and degrees (B.M. - Music History & M.M. Music Theory) from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Theisen's compositions have been performed throughout the United States and Europe. His music, frequently commissioned by chamber and large ensembles, has been described by composer Dimitri Terzakis as being "the product of a unique talent." Commissioning organizations include the Argot Trio, Force Majeure Quintet, Tromboteam!, Samford University, Trio Bel Canto, the Mana Quartet, Duo Fujin, members of the US Army Field Band, and the Asheville Community Band. Theisen's works combine an expressive melodic sensibility, a diverse harmonic language, and elaborate formal designs.

Theisen also specializes in the analysis & pedagogy of post-1900/contemporary classical music and has presented research on these topics at multiple national and regional music conferences. Theisen is Past President of the South Central Society for Music Theory, serves on the executive board of Music Theory Southeast as a Member-At-Large, and was recently appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Music Theory Pedagogy (online division). He remains active as a saxophonist (classical recitals, wind ensembles, jazz bands, musical theater productions) and performed in two World Saxophone Congresses (2000 & 2003). Theisen composes for and performs in the Asheville-based progressive jazz-rock group, Rational Discourse.



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**Christopher Condon** is an American saxophonist who has performed frequently as a soloist, chamber musician and soloist with orchestra. Condon's career has brought him throughout the US, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands. Equally adept across the classical and jazz idioms, Condon is an enthusiastic proponent of contemporary and avant-garde music.

While studying at the University of Southern Mississippi, he made his orchestral debut in 2002 as soloist with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, who's conductor Crafton Beck praised him as having "*...the most beautiful tone I have ever heard on the instrument!*"

In 2005, Condon accepted the Graduate Teaching Assistantship at Florida State University. A highlight of his study at Florida State was membership in the Equinox Saxophone Quartet who, in 2006, won 1st prize in the MTNA National Chamber Music Competition. Thanks to a generous grant from the HSP Huygens Foundation, Condon continued his studies with Arno Bornkamp at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam.

Condon is currently an enlisted member of the U.S. Army Europe Band in Kaiserslautern, Germany.