



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Nika Hancock
Phone: 979-696-6100
E-mail: office@bvso.org
Website: www.bvso.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POWERHOUSE CHICAGO TALENT WITH THE BVSO IN FEBRUARY

February 3, 2017 College Station, TX—The next outstanding live performance of the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra's 35th season will take place Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 5pm in Rudder Theatre. **CHI St. Joseph Health** is the official sponsor of this "Positively *WICKED*" 2016-17 BVSO Season, and our friends of **The Ham Family Trust** are sponsoring this particular concert.

Music Director Marcelo Bussiki has chosen a thrilling evening of varied compositions beginning with American impressionistic composer Charles Griffes' *The White Peacock*. The BVSO will perform works from the Oscar[®]-winning film score *Schindler's List*, as well as iconic selections from Bernstein. A new work commissioned by the BVSO will debut this evening featuring a highly talented and ultra-cool ensemble from Chicago, Matt Ulery's **Loom**, including bassist and composer [Matt Ulery](#) and pianist [Rob Clearfield](#). This concert is dedicated to the life of Ruth Clearfield, an avid symphony supporter for many years. Each music program typically begins with one spark and is built from there. For this concert, that "spark" was Ruth Clearfield who suggested working with **Loom** prior to her passing.

What: "Crossing Musical Borders"

When: Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 5:00 PM

Where: Rudder Theatre on Texas A&M University Campus in College Station

Program:

Griffes	The White Peacock
Ulery	Somebody Somewhere
Ulery	There's a Reason and a Thousand Ways
Ulery	The Remnant of Everything – <i>World Premiere</i>
Ulery	Pictures in Grey
Bernstein	Overture to <i>West Side Story</i>
Bernstein	<i>On the Town</i> : Three Dance Episodes
Williams	Three Pieces from <i>Schindler's List</i>

Guest Artists	Matt Ulery's Loom
	Matt Ulery, composer and bass
	Rob Clearfield, piano
	Grazyna Auguscik, vocalist
	Michael Caskey, drums

Concert Sponsor	The Ham Family Trust
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Loom includes Matt Ulery as a composer and bassist, and also Rob Clearfield, who happens to be Ruth Clearfield's grandson as well as a talented pianist. "Rob himself is working with some of the best jazz musicians in the Chicago area, and he also just released a CD that was very well received," said Bussiki. **Loom's** lineup also includes a sultry vocalist, Grazyna Auguscik and

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percussionist Michael Caskey. Loom's ethereal makeup mimics its somewhat indefinable sound, which the Maestro describes as, "a creative combination of crossover styles".

Upon deeper investigation into the individual musicians that make up **Loom**, a full kaleidoscope of talent can be found. Matt Ulery is a prolific songwriter, composer, and bandleader, working collaboratively with several jazz groups in the Chicago area. Ulery has produced and released 7 critically acclaimed albums of all original music under his name including his most recent double album, "Festival," on his own label, Woolgathering Records. As a composer known for his sweeping lyricism, unconventional phrase structures, expressionistic emotionalism, Ulery's music, from small, diverse chamber ensembles to full orchestras, is informed by the entire spectrum of jazz, classical, rock, pop, and folk—specifically American, South American, Balkan, and other European folk styles. As a career musician, he has been performing for 20 years on upright, electric, and brass basses.

<https://www.mattulery.com>

Rob Clearfield <http://robclearfield.com> has appeared on 26 albums either as part of an ensemble that he created, an ensemble that he frequently appears with, or as a solo artist. From 2004-2011, his band Information Superhighway played Clearfield's original compositions and released two albums; he also played with the Fareed Haque group, talked his way into [Grazyna Auguscik](#)'s band and began to tour internationally with her. He has also performed with an impressive roster of Chicago's finest musicians and with prog-rock band [District 97](#) from 2006 to 2015, which involved collaborations with [John Wetton](#) (King Crimson, [Asia](#)). He was a founding member of the R&B/soul group [Hood Smoke](#) as well as the folk/rock group [Outertown](#). During his decade-plus on the scene, Clearfield has developed a reputation for lyrical, emotive compositions that contain the kernel of an oxymoron: a sound that is somehow both sad and redemptively positive.

The other two Loom members also have their own individual careers and established notoriety. The singer, Grazyna Auguscik, an innovative Polish jazz vocalist and songwriter, has volumes of performances and albums under her belt. "Auguscik may be on the brink of innovation," says a *Chicago Tribune* critics review. The *LA Times* says "Grazyna Auguscik is doing important work in advancing the potential for imaginative jazz singing. She is a singer to be watched." <http://www.grazynaauguscik.com>. Percussionist Michael Caskey, a DownBeat jazz magazine award winner and five-time Detroit Music Award recipient (with Detroit funk band The Brothers Groove), has performed with artists as diverse as Chuck Mangione, Koko Taylor, Toni Tenille, Danilo Perez, Marvin Hamlisch, and John Sinclair. <http://www.bunnypatootie.com>

"I really feel like this concert will be incredible. The musicianship of these accomplished artists joined together with our fabulous BVSO will be a stunning experience," said Executive Director Mary Koeninger. "Get your tickets early so you don't miss out on this outstanding live performance!"

Individual tickets to all concerts are on sale now at the MSC Box Office, \$39/adult and \$13/student advance; \$44/adult and \$16/student at the door. Call (979) 845-1234 or go on-line to <http://boxoffice.tamu.edu>. Please visit <http://bvso.org> for more information or call the Symphony Office (979) 696-6100 with any further questions.

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About the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra: The BVSO is a non-profit performing arts organization with the mission to maintain a symphony of high artistic standards, and to promote the musical arts for cultural and education purposes in the Brazos Valley. For more information about the Symphony's 2016-2017 Season, please visit the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra Web site at www.bvso.org.

The Brazos Valley Symphony Society wishes to recognize and thank our programming sponsors, grant funding providers, and charitable trust contributors:

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