Program Note

Five-Minute Warm-Up is the sixth piece I have written for Walter Verdehr. Of the previous works, three were duos for violin and piano, and two were trios for violin, clarinet, and piano. The first of the duos was Wonder Music. Walter and Ralph Votapek rendered the premiere in 1971. Then, 1987 saw the birth of Duo Concertante, a work I dedicated to the beloved East Lansing artist Margot Evans. Walter teamed with Gary Kirkpatrick for the first performance. In 1998 I presented Walter with Glosses, Annotations, and an Exegesis on a Theme of Pietro Locatelli. Dai Uk Lee joined Walter for that premiere.

My Rondo Brillante, a jolly and very challenging work, was the very first commissioned composition written for the now famous Verdehr Trio. In 1976 the Verdehrs added my Nocturnes of the Inferno to their growing list of commissions. It has been a privilege to collaborate with these marvelous musicians.

Earlier this year, Walter once again asked me for a new composition. This one, he said, should be for violin alone, and he added, “Perhaps you could write something along the lines of Paganini’s caprices for solo violin.” I don’t know if I succeeded in fulfilling this last request, but I have presented Walter a work with a variety of moods. I envisage an early morning practice session with an inclination toward various flights of fancy.

It has been fun, Walter, writing for your fiddle once again. Down through the decades your insightful performances of my quirky pieces have given me many moments of happiness. I thank you!

– Jere Hutcheson

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | COLLEGE OF MUSIC

presents

Faculty Artist Recital

Walter Verdehr, Violin

with guest artists:

Yuri Gandelsman, Viola
Edisher Savitzky, Piano

and the

Armonia String Quartet
Fangye Sun, violin
Yoonah Na, violin
Mikhail Bugaev, viola
Daniel Tressel, cello

Wednesday, October 24, 2012, 7:30 pm
Cook Recital Hall
**Program**

**Duo for Violin and Viola in G major**
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

- Allegro
- Adagio
- Allegro

(1759 – 1791)

**Partita in D minor for Solo Violin**
Johann Sebastian Bach

- Allemande
- Courante
- Sarabande
- Gigue
- Chaconne

(1685 – 1750)

**Intermission**

**Aria and Rondo for Violin and Piano**
James Niblock

(1917)

with Edisher Savitzky, piano

This work is presented to celebrate the 95th birthday of
Dr. James Niblock, former director of the MSU school of Music.

**Five Minute Warm – Up**
Jere Hutcheson

(1938)

Premiere Performance

**Rondo in A major for Violin and String Quartet**
Franz Schubert

- Adagio
- Allegro

(1797 – 1828)

with the Armonia String Quartet

James Niblock was born in Scappoose, Oregon, in November 1, 1917. His musical background includes violin study with Franck Eichenlaub of Portland, Oregon and Jascha Brodsky of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After serving in the US Air Force (1942-46), he began his graduate work at the Colorado College in Colorado Springs where he studied violin with Josef Gingold and music composition with Roy Harris and Paul Hindemith. From 1948 until 1985 he was a faculty member of the College of Music at Michigan State University where he taught theory and composition, performed in the Beaumont String Quartet, and served as Chairman of the College of Music for 15 years, during which time he also was Concertmaster of the Lansing Symphony Orchestra.

Niblock has more than 150 major compositions of which 75 have been published and are frequently performed. Since his retirement from the University, he continues to compose, conduct, and perform – especially during the summer sessions of the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Muskegon County, Michigan. His most recent compositions (since 2000) include: three operas; two double concertos for Violin, Clarinet, and orchestra; several short pieces for solo instruments (clarinet, double bass); as well as numerous choral settings of verse by Medieval and Modern poets.

While James Niblock holds a B.A. and B.Ed. from Washington State University, an M.A. from Colorado College, and a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa, his most cherished experiences include:

1. The summers (1975-85) spent in Europe conducting the Blue Lake International Youth Orchestra and directing the International Blue Lake Youth Camp in Bavaria.
2. The sabbatical on a Composition Fellowship at the MacDowell Colony in NH.
3. The several Sabbatical terms spent with the eminent Ethnomusicologist, Samuel Marti, who was engaged in the study of Pre-Cortesian instruments from Central Mexico. Together they collected and recorded performances of these instruments which subsequently enhanced many of Niblock’s lectures and enabled his doctoral students to continue similar studies.
4. The three visits to Argentina and Brazil to lecture about and to conduct orchestral concerts of contemporary American Music.

In April, 2006, Michigan State University honored Dr. Niblock with the first ever Distinguished Emeritus Faculty Award for his continuing work in Fine Arts Education – mainly accomplished through his more than 40 years association with Blue Lake fine Arts Camp, an organization founded for and dedicated to promoting Arts Education for young people.