

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS



UT Tyler
MUSIC

presents

IRIS QUARTET

JASPER SCHARP, SOPRANO SAXOPHONE

JOVANNY MORALES, ALTO SAXOPHONE

HARVEY NGUYEN, TENOR SAXOPHONE

JOEL CARNERO FIGUEROA, BARITONE SAXOPHONE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026

9:00 AM

**CC WEST LOBBY, HENRY B. GONZALEZ
CONVENTION CENTER**

PROGRAM

Bread and Circuses (2019)

Josh Trentadue
(b. 1994)

you've been talking in your sleep (2010)

David Biedenbender
(b. 1984)

Red Lion Sea (2024)

Jasper Scharp
(b. 2003)

- I. Song for the Sunken
- II. Open Waters
- III. Helmaroc

The Iris Quartet are members of the UT Tyler Saxophone Studio under the direction of Dr. Sarah Roberts, Associate Professor of Saxophone & Jazz Studies.

PROGRAM NOTES

Bread and Circuses

The title refers to a term that was coined by a satirical poet in Rome sometime in the 1st-2nd century AD. In their writings, the poet uses the term as a figure of speech to describe politicians who satisfy public approval by the most basic, distracting means possible. Often, this could be with food to quell their hunger or entertainment to raise their enjoyment. It's a term that decries both the politicians for not addressing the bigger issues preventing society from continuing to thrive, as well as the public audience for ignoring those same issues in the first place.

you've been talking in your sleep

I am fascinated by sleep and dreams and, consequently, the incredibly weird and bizarre thoughts, ideas, experiences, and sounds that come out of this seemingly inactive and tranquil aspect of human existence. For instance, while working late at night, I frequently hear my wife talking aloud, presumably either to me or to something or someone with whom she is interacting in her dreams. The language is neither English nor gibberish and contains familiar words and sounds but is completely incomprehensible to me. I often imagine what it would be like to talk with her while she sleeps and experience what she experiences, but alas, I am awake and she is asleep—there is a veil of consciousness between us. For this piece, I imagined a musica language that is a sort of synthesis of both the clarity and compete nonsense of this surreal language—a kind of dialogue between the conscious self and the sleeping self.

Red Lion Sea

Red Lion Sea, composed in September of 2024, serves as a musical tribute to the popular video game The Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker. The piece represents memorable aspects of the storyline through its three movements, although it does not reference the soundtrack.

The first movement, “Song for the Sunken,” draws inspiration from themes of remembrance and honoring those who came before us, despite their place beneath our feet—or, in the case, beneath the water.

The second movement, “Open Waters,” evokes the feeling of drifting across the ocean. It depicts a long, peaceful voyage, with gentle winds guiding a lone adventurer to lively ports and nameless beaches, with no means of navigation in between other than the stars that litter the night sky.

The third and final movement, “Helmaroc,” takes inspiration from the fictional creatures of the same name. A massive bird of prey, a Helmaroc is an aggressive foe to sailors at sea but remains a majestic sight from afar, its massive wings slicing through the clouds above.

IRIS QUARTET BIO



The IRIS Quartet is an undergraduate saxophone quartet from the University of Texas at Tyler, comprised of saxophone performance majors Jasper Scharp, Jovanny Morales, Harvey Nguyen, and Joel Carnero Figueroa. Formed in 2025, this quartet focuses on community outreach, giving performances throughout the East Texas area. IRIS performs a variety of genres, including classical, jazz, pop, and contemporary music, with an emphasis on the inclusion of electronica in their repertoire.

The IRIS Quartet is inspired by both the part of the eye and Greek Goddess with identical namesake; we see music as a message to be delivered through a diverse sonic vision.

Spring 2026 School of Performing Arts Events

DAY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
Tue	Feb 17	6 pm	Meyerson Symphony Center	Wind Ensemble with Dallas Winds
Mon	Feb 23	7:30 pm	BRH	Jazz Combos Concert
Tue	Feb 24	7:30 pm	UC Mabry Theatre	Jazz Ensembles Concert
Mon	Mar 2	6 pm	BRH	Voice Studio Recital
Fri	Mar 6	6 pm	BRH	Consonari Guest Recital
Fri	Mar 6	7:30 pm	St. Mary Magdalene Church	Choral Masterworks Concert
Fri	Mar 13	7 pm	BRH	Jazz Combos Concert
Thur	Mar 19	7:30 pm	BRH	Faculty Trio Recital
Tue	Mar 24	7:30	Cowan	Collage Concert
Tue	Mar 31	7:30 pm	BRH	McBain & Daugherty Faculty Recital
Mon	Apr 6	7:30 pm	FAC 1003	Evening of Brass
Tue	Apr 7	7:30 pm	BRH	Piano Studio Duo Piano Recital
Thur	Apr 9	7:30 pm	BRH	Saxophone Studio Recital
Tue	Apr 21	7:30 pm	Cowan	Jazz Ensembles Concert
Thur	Apr 23	7 pm	Cowan	UT Tyler Bands Concert
Fri	Apr 24	6:30 pm	BRH	Percussion Studio Recital
Sat	Apr 25	7:30 pm	St. Mary Magdalene Church	Choral Spring Concert

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