Kyle Adam Blair, piano

Thursday, November 6, 2025 – 7 p.m.

Conrad Prebys Concert Hall

Wonder (2023) Stuart Saunders Smith (1948-2024)

for Kyle Adam Blair and Drew Krause

I.	- - -
	(in five parts: I / Ia / Ib / Ic / Id)
II.	- - -
	(in three parts: II / IIa / IIb)
III.	Slowly
IV.	- - -
	(in two parts, segue: IV / IVa)
V.	Fast
VI.	Slowly
VII.	- - -
	(in two parts: VII / VIIa)
VIII.	- - -
	(in two parts, segue: VIII / VIIIa)
IX.	Fast
X.	Slowly
XI.	Moving right along
	(in two parts, segue: XI / XIa)
XII.	Slowly
XIII.	Like gold
XIV.	- - -
XV.	"What do we do facing the impossible? Build a bridge through, into the power of guessing, guessing"
XVI.	- - -

Wonder runs approximately 90-95 minutes, with no intermission.

I wonder:

I. A grand statement to start, an overture? A catalogue of facets that we may or may not encounter again? That Bbm9 chord, that rolling, lilting 7/8, the lingering, the ruminating? This music teaching us how to listen to it.

II. A suite? Is it lighter? Is it thinner? Is it darker? Maybe our eyes are adjusting to the fog.

III. A song? Broad, thick, hearty, rich, but perhaps familiar, once, and maybe, again.

IV. A theme and variations? Surely not. And yet this phrase works, and works, and works, and works, and works itself out…

V. A bit of fun. And then, rambunctious, reckless fun.

VI. Breath. Breath. Breath. And the thoughts we find between.

VII. A re-gathering. An entr'acte? The start of Act II? What do we know so far? Where are we headed?

VIII. Gathering energy, now. Direction. Still a working through, but intentioned, chasing the elusive punchline…

IX. A sprint. It's there. A straightaway, bliss, assured, wide-eyed

X. Repose. Feet on the ground. Breath all the way to the earth. Never closer, never more intimate.

XI. Levity, tune, ease… not too fast, not too slow, familiar, jovial. A smile, maybe.

XII. Dusky, warm, humid… the last bits of the day's conversations?

XIII. Shimmer, sparkle, complex, reflective, bright…

XIV. Rumble, turbulence, looking for a way out of conflict…

XV. The final thought? What we've learned, where we've been…

XVI. The punctuation. The signifier. The cadence. The after.

Thank you, Stuart. I miss you.

- Kyle Adam Blair

Dr. Kyle Adam Blair is a San Diego-based pianist, vocal coach, and contemporary music specialist.

Captivated by dissonance, complexity, and lyricism, Blair is frequently drawn to works from the American art music repertory, and to collaborations with composers. A well-traveled performer, he has shared the stage with Bang-On-A-Can All-Stars, the Mark Morris Dance Group, and members of Eighth Blackbird.

Blair is currently a Lecturer and the Staff Pianist for the UC San Diego Department of Music, and also serves as a Lecturer and Vocal Coach for the UC San Diego Department of Theatre & Dance.

His solo piano debut album *Palm Sunday* is available on New World Records, and he has performed or produced for releases from Bridge Records, Edgetone Records, and more.

Blair received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Contemporary Music Performance from the University of California, San Diego in 2018 under the mentorship of Aleck Karis.

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