Guest Artist Recital
Sunday 24 September 2017
Dalton Center Lecture Hall
7:30 p.m.

JESSE JONES, Mandolin
CRAIG BUTTERFIELD, Bass

Program to be announced from stage.

CRAIG BUTTERFIELD is Professor of Double Bass and Jazz Studies at the University of South Carolina, where he directs one of the largest double bass programs in the Southeast. American Record Guide has said “Craig Butterfield is nothing short of magnificent. I haven't heard such expressive playing and virtuosic command since Gary Karr. His tone is gorgeous, his intonation rock-solid, and his phrasing expressive and flexible.” Soundboard magazine stated “Butterfield can make his instrument dance and sing with an effortless which is hard to credit. (He must have a bionic left forearm). Not only can he inhabit the range of a cello, but he can make it light and lyrical when needed.”

Comfortable in many styles of music, Butterfield has performed extensively as a jazz artist as well as a classical soloist and clinician. Most recently he performed with saxophone artist Greg Osby at the Taichung Jazz Festival, before an audience of 30,000. During 2004 and 2005, Craig toured with the legendary jazz trumpet player Maynard Ferguson. As a member of Ferguson's Big Bop Nouveau band, he performed in some of the most famous venues in the world, including the Blue Note in New York, Ronnie Scott’s in London, and the Bangkok Cultural Arts center as a special guest of the King of Thailand. A week at Ronnie Scott’s in London was recorded and released as Maynard Ferguson’s final live CD release entitled MF Horn 6. He has been a guest artist at the San Miguel International jazz festival in Mexico as well as the Ollin Kan world music festival in Mexico City, and has toured as a performer and clinician throughout South Korea and Japan. Craig has been active in the studio as well, appearing on many jazz CDs as both a performer and as a producer.

In the classical field, Butterfield has performed concertos and given masterclasses and recitals as a soloist in many concert halls and universities throughout the United States. Dez Cordas, a duo with guitarist Matthew Slotkin, has released three CDs. dances songs inventions is available on Centaur Records and Gone Away and Pilgrimage are available on Summit Records. Stickerfoot and Pisces, written and recorded with mandolinist Jesse Jones, were released in 2015 and 2016. A recording featuring the Franck Violin Sonata with pianist Charles Fugo was also published by Centaur Records in 2011. Butterfield has been invited to perform recitals as a guest artist at the semiannual International Society of Bassists convention, the American String Teachers Association, and the Violin Society of America.
Composer, conductor, and mandolinist JESSE JONES (b. 1978) is an American artist of wide-ranging tastes and influences. His music has been performed extensively across North America, Europe, and Asia. Jones has received numerous accolades as both a composer and performer, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Elliott Carter Rome Prize in Composition from the American Academy in Rome, a Juilliard String Quartet Commission, a Tanglewood Commission, a Barlow Commission, the Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, an EarShot New Music Reading with the New York Philharmonic under Alan Gilbert, and a fellowship in Aldeburgh Music’s “Jerwood Opera Writing Programme.” Jones is an alumnus of both the Tanglewood Music Center and the Aspen Music Festival and School, and has received the Heckscher Foundation Prize in Composition from Ithaca College, and the Sage Fellowship from Cornell University. Jones has participated in the Underwood New Music Readings of the American Composers Orchestra, received fellowships and honors from the University of Oregon, and awards from ASCAP. His choral music is published internationally by Earthsongs. In summer 2016, an all-Jones CD is slated to be released by the Freiburg-based Ensemble Recherche, and New York’s Argento Ensemble, with soprano Sharon Harms & tenor Zach Finkelstein.

The American Composers Orchestra, the Spokane Symphony, the Cornell Symphony and Chamber Orchestra and Wind Ensemble, the Oregon Composers Orchestra, the New Frontiers Chamber Orchestra, the Grande Ronde Symphony Orchestra and others have presented Jones’ orchestral works. Others of his compositions have been programmed by the Juilliard String Quartet, the Scharoun Ensemble Berlin, the Italian ensemble Alter Ego, Camerata Notturna, the Argento Chamber Ensemble, the Momenta and IO String Quartets, the New Fromm Players, the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble, the Israeli Chamber Project, Ossia, So Percussion, FIREWORKS, and ECCE.

As a performer, Jones was featured, playing his own works, on the nationally broadcast A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor to an estimated live and listening audience of 6 to 10 million. From 2001 to 2005, Jones toured extensively as a vocalist and mandolinist with the genre-busting ensemble String Helix, composing much of the ensemble’s core repertoire. Jones has also been featured on the stages of the Oregon Bach Festival, Wintergrass, the Sister’s Folk Festival, and on public television and radio. Jones performs frequently with bassist Craig Butterfield, a duo whose debut album was released in spring 2015.

Jones holds a DMA degree in music composition from Cornell University. While there, he studied composition with Steven Stucky, Roberto Sierra, and Kevin Ernste, as well as piano with Xak Bjerken. In 2007, Jones earned his Master’s degree in composition from the University of Oregon, under teachers David Crumb and Robert Kyr, and in 2005 his Bachelor’s degree from Eastern Oregon University, under John McKinnon and Leandro Espinosa. Most recently, Jones has been appointed Assistant Professor of Composition at the Oberlin Conservatory.