

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**

USA Piano Camp 2026 Faculty Recital

Late Romantic Period Piano Music

James Helton, piano

from *Femmes de légende*

Phoebé

Viviane

Salomé

Desdémona

Mélisande

Mel Bonis
(1858-1937)

Variations on a Theme of Robert Schumann, op. 9

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Troubled Water

Margaret Bonds
(1913-1972)

Six Piano Pieces, op. 118

Intermezzo. Allegro non assai, ma molto appassionato

Intermezzo. Andante teneramente

Ballade. Allegro energico

Intermezzo. Allegretto un poco agitato

Romance. Andante

Intermezzo. Andante, largo e mesto

Johannes Brahms

The Ninety-first Concert of Academic Year 2025-2026

RECITAL HALL

LIDLAW PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

3:00 p.m.

James Helton maintains an active schedule as a soloist and collaborator, having performed throughout most of the United States and in Latin America, the Czech Republic, Spain, and Thailand. He has had the pleasure of working with Pulitzer Prize winning composers George Crumb, William Bolcom, Lucas Foss and Joseph Schwantner in concerts broadcast over public radio and television. For New World Records, Helton appeared with the Blair Woodwind Quintet on works by composer Michael Kurek (CD 80497-2), a disc that achieved a place on the short list of Grammy nominations for its category in 1996. The China Record Company, Ltd, AUR, Layerle Publications, North Pacific Records, and Navona Records also feature the pianist on their discs.

Helton holds degrees in piano performance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Texas at San Antonio. While his principal teachers were Ian Hobson and Janice Hodges, he received additional instruction from John Browning, John Perry, Ursula Oppens, Richard and John Contiguglia, Maurice Hinson, William Doppmann, and Bela Siki, among others.

James Helton is Professor of Music Performance and Coordinator of the Keyboard Area at Ball State University, where he has taught since 2000. Prior academic appointments include the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. He is quite active in the Music Teachers National Association, having served as the Chairperson of Performance Competitions for the East Central Division. On a lighter note, Helton may be heard on American Public Media's *Performance Today* "Piano Puzzler" with Fred Child and Bruce Adolphe.

Laidlaw Recital Hall concert piano tunings are provided by



STEINWAY PIANO GALLERY

SPANISH FORT