Life

UCONN SAXOPHONE QUARTET PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS STUDENT WORK

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The University of Connecticut Saxophone Quartet held its first exhibition of the semester at von der Mehden Recital Hall on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026. It was an evening of minimalist jazz and classic pieces, with a touching tribute to close the performance.

The concert featured Haley Ducharme, Logan Cripps, Amelia Brott and Jackson Civitillo, all UConn undergraduates who performed with different instruments of the saxophone family.

The undergraduates played four pieces, the first of which was Michael Torke's "May, June, July," a three-movement song that emphasized Ducharme's lilting soprano saxophone, an instrument that is usually considered the lead in a quartet.

"May, June, July" is a minimalist jazz piece, and its cyclic repetition could be heard throughout the movements. The piece moved between cheerful bouncy sounds and sadder, melodious parts, all while holding elements of the same melody throughout.

"It focuses on taking a theme or one musical idea and stretching it, spreading it and really messing with the time and dynamics of it," said Brott, the tenor saxophonist in the quartet and member that chose "May, June, July" for the program.

The next piece played was Johann Sebastian Bach's "Little Fugue in G Minor," a classic piece chosen for its recognizability.

Though the quartet is self-led, its members also receive coaching from Greg Case, instructor of saxophone at UConn.

"I always allow student quartet members to choose their repertoire for their concerts," Case wrote in an email. "This gives them ownership in the music they will create together and fosters a greater sense of shared purpose."

The exhibition included other pieces, like one by Jean-Baptiste Singelée and one called "Kapua." The most striking piece was one arranged by Civitello, in tribute to former UConn student Zachary Rubin, who died in February 2026 and was a member of the Saxophone Quartet.

Civitello's arrangement of the popular song "Light the Way" emphasized the motif of knowing a person in heaven, who guides others to them. Bouncy and lively, the arrangement highlighted a jazzy solo from Ducharme.

"The last song especially was bittersweet," said Julia Kaczynski, a spectator and friend of Civitello's. "In my mind I imagined what heaven looked like, and his friend there."

Through the short exhibition, the members of the quartet hoped that the audience could sense how much work was put into each piece.

"The conscious working moments are all music," Brott said.

The quartet also wanted the audience to understand how music can take over.

"If you learn the music through and through, then the goal is to be consumed by it," Cripps said.



The Saxophone Quartet performing at the J. Louis Von Der Mehden Recital Hall at the University of Connecticut. The recital was held on Nov. 5, 2026.

PHOTO BY GAVIN FOSTER, CONTRIBUTOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

'IT GETS WORSE' BRINGS BRITISH HUMOR AND FLAWED CHARACTERS

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The British-Canadian series, "It Gets Worse," produced by A24, was released in the U.S. on Nov. 6, 2026. This six-episode sitcom provided viewers with signature wit and British humor.

"It Gets Worse" was created by Leo Reich, who also starred in the show as one of its leads. The show follows a group of three best friends (Ethan, Abi and Sam) living in London after getting evicted from their shared apartment. Each of them struggles with growing up and developing their own identities, while their experiences are chronicled by an unnamed narrator who offers commentary calling them all out.

The first episode begins with the three friends newly evicted from their flat, feeling completely directionless as they struggle to repair a hole in their wall. They decide to go out for a night to escape reality at a club. The night spirals completely out of control as tensions surface.

Episode 2 picks off from the ending of the first episode. Abi wishes to reconcile with her friends by hosting an elaborate dinner party for them. The three end up reuniting, but the rest of the episodes follow a pattern in which they all are forced to confront their flaws, and answer whether the lives they are living (or attempting to live) actually correlate to what they desire. The sixth and final episode of the season ends with a supposed reconciliation, only to show that their lives are still messy, and the conflict between the three is only temporarily resolved.

The show itself is extremely relatable, perfectly encapsulating the feeling of being lost or aimless during one's twenties. Every single one of the characters is flawed in their own way, whether that be through acting entitled and selfish or acting like a hypocrite. The three leads are all unlikable in different moments throughout the show, yet viewers can't help but feel a connection with them, because of how realistic and human they are. Although much of the plot is exaggerated, it's very easy to see oneself in the minds of the characters.

"It Gets Worse" is an enjoyable and easily bingeable show to watch in your free time, both alone or with friends, especially due to the short length of the episodes, which average close to 20 minutes each. It is relatable, fresh and is sure to make you laugh as you watch the various antics pulled by its main characters.



The three main characters from the new A24 British comedy series "It Gets Worse." The show was released in the U.S. on November 6, 2026.

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SUBOG Weekly Events:

November 9th - November 15th

November 9th – Heated Rivalry Trivia @ 7pm in the Student Union Theatre

November 12th – Potato Fest Food Truck Edition @ 2 pm on the SU Mall

Any questions? Email subog@uconn.edu events!