



UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

NEOSonicFEST: CHAMBER MUSIC IN CLEVELAND HEIGHTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2020 | 3PM

Fairmount Presbyterian Church (free admission)

2757 Fairmount Boulevard | Cleveland Heights

Chamber works by Guild members, and the winner of the

Seventh Annual Collegiate Composition Contest

Part of the 2020 NEOSonicFest: Learn more at NEOSonicFEST.ORG

CREATIVITY: LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE XXVIII

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2020 | 3PM

The Music Settlement (free admission)

11125 Magnolia Drive | University Circle

Young music students premiere pieces written

especially for them by Guild members.

SERENITY WITH CONTEMPERA CLEVELAND

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2020 | 7PM

Holy Rosary Church (free admission)

12021 Mayfield Road | Little Italy

An evening of meditative melodies to soothe the modern soul.

2020-2021 SEASON

Watch CLEVELANDCOMPOSERS.COM for news about additional upcoming performances and collaborations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to the **BASCOM LITTLE FUND** for its continuing support of these concerts.

Please listen to **INNOVATIONS! ON WCLV 104.9FM** with host Mark Satola, featuring music by Northeast Ohio composers, Sunday evenings at 9:00. Supported by the Bascom Little Fund.

These concerts are also made possible in part by support from **THE CLEVELAND FOUNDATION**.

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CLEVELAND COMPOSERS GUILD

2019-2020 SEASON

NEW CHAMBER MUSIC

ROBERT BECKSTROM

GEOFFREY PETERSON

NICHOLAS PUIN

MATTHEW SAUNDERS

KEVIN WILSON

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2020 | 7PM

FINE ARTS 114

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK



CLEVELAND COMPOSERS GUILD
2019-2020 SEASON: CONCERT 2

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6 7:00PM
FINE ARTS BUILDING ROOM 114
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT STARK
NORTH CANTON, OHIO

PROGRAM

An Introspective Demeanor

Allegro
Adagio con moto
Allegro con brio

Tess Cayton, Brian Pattison, and Michael Peebles, trombone
Brendan Loeb, bass trombone

Nicholas Puin

Homage to Donald Erb

Thomas Lempner, baritone saxophone

Geoffrey Peterson

Jeremiah's Lament

Janine Porter, soprano Joanna Alpizar, violin Brian Wilson, piano

Robert Beckstrom

Rainforest Sonata

Inhabitants of the Floor
Predatory
Awareness
Soaring

Aaron Fried, violoncello

Kevin Wilson

Place of the Sea Mountains

The Flotilla—Into the Mountains—MacGregor and His Choir—
Unsinkable *Tinkerbelle*—Sailing the Maze—Gunga Din—
Staircase of Waves—
Thrown Overboard—Ada's Landing to Starboard—
“My very soul on the rack.”—Leaving the Sea Mountains—
The Boat Jostled: Repelling Boarders

Eric Dina, trumpet Joanna Alpizar, violin Randall Fusco, piano

Matthew C. Saunders

PROGRAM NOTES

Dr. Matthew C. Saunders has taught music from kindergarten to college in styles from madrigal to mariachi, and strives to make beautiful music for and with captivating people. He has loved, lost, and loved again; helped friends find salvation, and found it for himself as well; taught genius students, and learned from genius teachers. His dreams are to walk on Mars, hear a grand piano fall into an orchestra pit, make more people laugh than cry, and love his wife passionately and forever. He will never write unlistenable music, stop stargazing, or lose money in Vegas. Dr. Saunders is Professor of Music and music department chair at Lakeland Community College, where he directs the Lakeland Civic Orchestra. He received degrees in music from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and The Ohio State University. Dr. Saunders lives in Willowick with his wife Becky and their children Noah and Melia.

Trumpeter **Eric Dina** holds bachelor's degrees in music education and trumpet performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He is the Divisional Music Director for the Salvation Army Northeast Ohio Division and lives in Shaker Heights. Eric has been the conductor of the NEOSA Brass & Chorus since 1999. Prior to his role with the Salvation Army, Eric taught for a year in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and for eleven years at University School, a private school for boys. Eric has been active as a freelance musician, clinician, composer and conductor throughout the United States. He served as co-Principal Trumpet of the Suburban Symphony Orchestra for eighteen years and has played with the Dayton Philharmonic, Richmond Symphony, and Mansfield Symphony Orchestra, the Blossom Festival Band, the Brass Band of the Western Reserve, and the Cincinnati Brass Band. Currently, Eric is a member of the Olympic Brass Quintet. He has been featured as trumpet or piano soloist in the United States, Argentina, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, South Africa, and Sweden.

Randall Fusco is an active piano soloist and collaborative artist who has performed solo and chamber music concerts in numerous states and Ireland. He has appeared as soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra, Alliance Symphony Orchestra, Hiram College Concert Band, and the W. D. Packard Band of Warren, Ohio. Mr. Fusco has performed and recorded vocal and chamber music with members of the Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, and numerous artists from Northeast Ohio. He has also collaborated with artists in performances at the National Flute Association, International Double Reed Society, International Women's Brass Festival, John Mack Oboe Camp, and Interlochen Arts Academy. Mr. Fusco earned baccalaureate and master's degrees in piano performance from the Eastman School of Music where he studied with Frank Glazer, Cecile Genhart, and Barbara Lister-Sink. He also studied vocal coaching and accompanying with John Wustman at the University of Illinois, and was a music faculty member at Hiram College from 1988 to 2018.

The **CLEVELAND COMPOSERS GUILD** is one of the nation's oldest new music organizations, and has had over 200 composer members over its sixty-year history. There are currently about 40 professional composers in the Guild and each concert features a wide range of musical styles. In recent years the Guild has collaborated with ContempOpera Cleveland, the Chamber Music Society of Ohio, Cleveland Opera Theater, the Cleveland Chamber Choir, The Syndicate For The New Arts, Cleveland Ballet, and with various local artists to create multi-disciplinary concerts that engage with the arts in a new way. The CCG produces numerous live concerts every season featuring the finest performers available in Northeast Ohio. In addition to regular series programs, the Guild produces an annual *Creativity: Learning Through Experience* concert in tandem with the Music Settlement in University Circle. ***Listen new, listen local!***

PROGRAMNOTES

Pianist **Brian Wilson** holds a bachelor's degree in Music History from Case Western Reserve University. He studied organ with Karel Paukert, and with the late Mary Williams Rautenberg. He recently presented both books of the *Well-Tempered Clavier* in a series of six concerts at the harpsichord during Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 at Lorain County Community College. In 2016, he was invited to return to CWRU to attempt to complete his previously- abandoned doctoral studies. As of March 2018, he is ABD and is working feverishly upon his dissertation, which he hopes will turn the field of Gregorian Chant scholarship upside-down. Mr. Wilson has been active as a church musician in the Cleveland Catholic Diocese since 1976. He has been Director of Music at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Elyria since 1988. Mr. Wilson also restores pianos (and the occasional harpsichord) at his home in Elyria, where he and his wife raised five children.

Rainforest Sonata is my first cello sonata, written for Melissa Bialecki, and premiered by Aaron Fried. This sonata reflects on the various layers and animals found in the rainforest. In the third movement, uniquely in the cycle, I focus on how humanity has impacted the rainforest and nearly led it to extinction. Our "awareness" is expressed through both beautiful and contemplative sonorities. Near the end there is a shift from showing what was once beautiful and full of life, to a disturbed realization of what has been wrought.

Kevin Alexander Wilson is a composer curious about various perspectives on life and music held by cultures throughout the world. He is particularly interested in the confluence of composition, collaboration, and inclusion of performer input through improvisation. Mr. Wilson's work has been performed by the Grammy award-winning Cleveland Chamber Symphony, University of Akron Symphony Orchestra, Duo Esplanade, the Greater Cleveland Flute Society, and Kavazabava, and has also been included on conferences of the North American Saxophone Alliance and the Society of Composers. Mr. Wilson is a doctoral candidate in music theory and composition and is also pursuing a master's degree in ethnomusicology at Kent State University. He has also studied at Central Michigan University and the University of Akron. He has held teaching positions at Kent State, Lakeland Community College, and University of Missouri-Kansas City's Summer Composition Workshop.

Aaron Fried is a cellist, composer, and educator. Based in Northeast Ohio, Mr. Fried has performed in many local ensembles such as Five One Experimental Orchestra, Earth and Air String Orchestra, the Cleveland Opera, the Porthouse Theatre Orchestra, as well as ensembles elsewhere including the Boston Philharmonic, Traverse Symphony Orchestra, the International Contemporary Ensemble, and in a featured quintet at the Juilliard String Quartet Seminar. An advocate of a wide variety of contemporary music, Aaron has worked closely with composers based in Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, New York, North Carolina, New Hampshire, and London, England. Mr. Fried serves as an adjunct faculty member at Kent State University at Stark. Aaron holds degrees in music performance from Kent State University, where he was teaching assistant to Keith Robinson of the Miami String Quartet, and the Boston Conservatory, where he studied with Rhonda Rider.

Place of the Sea Mountains is inspired by former Willowick, Ohio resident Robert Manry's 1965 solo voyage across the Atlantic Ocean in a thirteen-and-a-half foot sailboat, *Tinkerbelle*. In his memoir, Manry describes the adventure of a lifetime, and he devotes a chapter of his book to describing in depth a hallucination he experienced during a high gale and large seas after roughly seventeen days at sea. His visions included: being a part of a flotilla of boats searching for his daughter; a demonic tormentor named MacGregor leading a chorus singing him to his doom; navigational assistance from Gunga Din (of the Rudyard Kipling poem); being thrown overboard multiple times; and repelling boarders from his steadfast craft. In *Place of the Sea Mountains*, the trumpet generally represents Manry, the violin depicts the other characters in his visions, and the piano plays the role of the relentless, massive, North Atlantic Ocean.

PROGRAMNOTES

Each movement of *An Introspective Demeanor* is built around a distinct theme. The first movement's theme is in F Phrygian, stated by the bass trombone, followed by a development section and an imitative recapitulation. The third trombone presents the main theme of the second movement in G-sharp Phrygian, followed by two development sections. In the third movement, there is a brief introduction to establish a new tonal area, followed by a statement of the movement's main theme by the first trombone. After a development section using imitation and call-and-response, the main themes of all three movements return to reinforce a sense of continuity. The work concludes with a final rendition of the third movement theme.

A native Clevelander, **Nicholas Puin** holds a bachelor's degree in composition from Berklee College of Music, and a master's degree in composition from Cleveland State University. His compositions and arrangements have been performed by members of the Cleveland Orchestra, Cleveland Chamber Symphony, Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, and the Baldwin Wallace University and Case Western Reserve University jazz ensembles. He was director of percussion for Strongsville High School Marching Band for the 2012- 2014 seasons, and is active as a private drum instructor. He leads his own ensemble, the Nick Puin Band, which has performed in the Cleveland and Akron areas since 2001. Since 1987, Mr. Puin has been the music director of the Italian Band of Cleveland.

Tess Cayton is a junior trombone performance major at the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music. She currently studies with Cleveland Orchestra trombonist Richard Stout. When at home in California, she studies with Tom Hornig from the Modesto Symphony Orchestra. Ms. Cayton has participated in the Atlantic Brass Quintet Seminar in Appleton, Wisconsin, and Marrowstone Music Festival in Bellingham, Washington.

Brendan Loeb is a bass trombonist and student at the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music. His primary professors have been Tom Pylinski and Richard Stout. He has also studied with Whitney Clair, Joseph Rodriguez, Hakeem Bilal, and Mark Lusk. At Baldwin Wallace, Brendan has participated in the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, and Brass Ensemble, as well as several chamber groups.

Brian Pattison is a junior at the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music where he studies trombone with Richard Stout of the Cleveland Orchestra. Brian is a member of local jazz-praise big band Gabriel's Horns and Da Land Brass Band. This past summer he performed several productions with the Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts in Warsaw, Indiana and the College Light Opera Company in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

Trombonist **Michael Peebles** is currently completing his undergraduate studies at Baldwin Wallace University, where he studies with Richard Stout of the Cleveland Orchestra. Previously, he studied with Jim Albrecht at the University of Akron. He has participated in the Southeast Trombone Symposium for three summers, where he was able to learn from professional trombonists from around the country.

I wrote *Homage to Donald Erb* for solo bassoon while studying composition with him at the Cleveland Institute of Music in the 1990s. Composer and longtime Cleveland Composers Guild member Donald Erb (1927-2008) was an American firebrand and innovator. He notably said: "A craftsman can create entertainment, but you need more than that to create art. You need an emotional, inspirational quality, because in and of itself craft means nothing. There has to be something inside you pushing out or all a person will ever write is a craftsman-like piece. And that's not quite good enough." In the early 2000s, I adapted this piece for solo bass clarinet, and more recently, my friend Tom Lempner asked me to rework it for solo baritone saxophone. This brief tribute, incorporates some "Erbisms," which make his music unique and instantly recognizable to those familiar with his distinctive musical language.

PROGRAMNOTES

Geoffrey Peterson's music has been performed throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe, at venues including the Curtis Institute of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music, Cleveland State University, Ohio Wesleyan University, University of Miami, Northwestern University, DePaul University, Penn State University, Temple University, Philadelphia Music School Settlement, Swarthmore College, Fleischer Art Memorial, Cleveland Museum of Art, Beck Center for the Arts, San Salvatore Church in Prague and Duino Castle in Italy. Peterson was raised and educated in Northeast Ohio and attended both the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he received his Bachelor of Music degree in composition. He is Minister of Music and the Fine Arts at John Knox Presbyterian Church in North Olmsted.

Saxophonist **Tom Lempner** is a member of the music faculty at Cleveland State University, Notre Dame College, The College of Wooster, and a woodwind coach for Cleveland Youth Wind Symphonies. Mr. Lempner performs locally as a member of Cleveland Winds, Akron Symphonic Winds, Ekklesia Reed Quintet, Canton Comic Opera Company, the Neo-Tessares Saxophone Quartet, Night Owls, Powerhouse 5, the Trepanning Trio, NEO Dixie, MT Frazee, Hexapod, and is host of the experimental project Inquiries Into Sound. Since 2015, he has worked with Ohio Regional Music Arts and Cultural Outreach to facilitate annual grant-funded therapeutic music workshops with at-risk youth. Mr. Lempner earned a Master of Music at Kent State University, and a bachelor's degree in music therapy and music performance at the Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music. Mr. Lempner is a U.S. Army veteran and is a Conn-Selmer Performing Artist.

Jeremiah's Lament:

How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! how is she become as a widow! she that was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces, how is she become tributary!

She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears are on her cheeks: among all her lovers she hath none to comfort her: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies.

Judah is gone into captivity because of affliction, and because of great servitude: she dwelleth among the heathen, she findeth no rest: all her persecutors overtook her between the straits.

The ways of Zion do mourn, because none come to the solemn feasts: all her gates are desolate: her priests sigh, her virgins are afflicted, and she is in bitterness.

Her adversaries are the chief, her enemies prosper; for the LORD hath afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions: her children are gone into captivity before the enemy.

And from the daughter of Zion all her beauty is departed: her princes are become like harts that find no pasture, and they are gone without strength before the pursuer.

Jerusalem remembered in the days of her affliction and of her miseries all her pleasant things that she had in the days of old, when her people fell into the hand of the enemy, and none did help her: the adversaries saw her, and did mock at her sabbaths.

Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore she is removed: all that honoured her despise her, because they have seen her nakedness: yea, she sigeeth, and turneth backward.

Her filthiness is in her skirts; she remembereth not her last end; therefore she came down wonderfully: she had no comforter. O LORD, behold my affliction: for the enemy hath magnified himself.

The adversary hath spread out his hand upon all her pleasant things: for she hath seen that the heathen entered into her sanctuary, whom thou didst command that they should not enter into thy congregation.

All her people sigh, they seek bread; they have given their pleasant things for meat to relieve the soul: see, O LORD, and consider; for I am become vile.

PROGRAMNOTES

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.

From above hath he sent fire into my bones, and it prevaleth against them: he hath spread a net for my feet, he hath turned me back: he hath made me desolate and faint all the day.

The yoke of my transgressions is bound by his hand: they are wreathed, and come up upon my neck: he hath made my strength to fall, the Lord hath delivered me into their hands, from whom I am not able to rise up.

—*The Holy Bible*, King James Version, Lamentations 1:1-14

In response to Janine Porter's brilliant performance of Arnold Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*, Jeffery Mumford decided to schedule her along with Brian Wilson and violinist Andreá Belding in his Signature Series at Lorain County Community College. Inspired by the prospect of working with such fine musicians, I asked them if they would be willing to perform something I composed. They accepted, and I chose to set the opening of Lamentations, as its bleak intensity corresponds to the textures and colors I envisioned. The 12-minute work was first performed on March 7, 2018.

Born August 6, 1953, **Robert Beckstrom** lived his boyhood in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. In 1965 the family moved to California. He completed the BA, MA, and PhD in music composition at the University of California--Los Angeles, where he studied under Henri Lazarof. In 1986, he returned to the Cleveland area as music faculty at Lorain County Community College. He taught music theory courses for three years and conducts the Civic Orchestra to the present day. After three years he became an academic administrator, retiring in 2017 as Dean of Arts & Humanities. He has composed concertos for flute and clarinet, orchestral works including a symphony and an overture, and numerous chamber pieces. In 2011 he composed an opera from the Book of Job that was performed in 2012. He and his wife, Lidia, live in Elyria, and have four grown children and three grandchildren.

Janine Porter, lyric coloratura soprano, has performed extensively with the former Cleveland Opera on tour. Her roles include Madame Butterfly, Olympia, Rosina, Mabel, and Josephine. She has appeared as the Mother in Tri-C Western Campus' production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, the Countess in Stocker Center's production of *The Marriage of Figaro*, and Rosina at Duke University's production of *The Barber of Seville*. Her concert and oratorio work include the soprano solos in Handel's *Messiah* with the Cleveland Messiah Chorus, Haydn's *Creation*, and Schubert's Mass in G with True North Cultural Arts, and Brahms Requiem, Rutter's Magnificat, Bach's Cantata No. 140, and Poulenc's Gloria at Lorain County Community College. She also teaches voice at Lorain County Community College and Tri-C's Western Campus. Janine received a Bachelor of Music degree from Ohio Northern University, and a Master of Music degree in voice from the University of Akron, where she studied with Dr. Mary Schiller.

Joanna Velazquez Alpizar began her musical studies at age seven on a violin from AAA Pawn Shop in Long Beach, California. She went on to receive a bachelor's degree in violin performance and music education from California State University, Long Beach. Currently, Joanna plays with the Heights Chamber Orchestra and Once Upon A Quartet. She is a violinista in Mariachi Tesoro de Rebecca Gonzales and the two-time Grammy award-winning Mariachi Divas de Cindy Shea. She has performed as concertmaster of Southern California Philharmonic, violinista in the all-female Mariachi Rubor of Phoenix, principal second violin of Dana Point Symphony, and performed concertos with the Bellflower Symphony and the Cole Conservatory Collegium Musicum. Ms. Alpizar has seventeen years of teaching experience and wrote *KinderViolin*, a method book for preschool-aged violinists. On the adjunct faculty at Lake Erie College, she teaches World Music and directs Mariachi del Lago. She is the proud mami of Sonia Amable and Carlos Julián.