

Cleveland Composers Guild

presents

Chamber Music

Sunday, April 21, 2024 | 3pm

West Shore Unitarian Church
20401 Hilliard Blvd | Rocky River

Works by:

SEBASTIAN BIRCH | MARGARET BROUWER
MARGI GRIEBLING-HAIGH | ANDY JUNTTONEN
NICHOLAS PUIN | RYAN CHARLES RAMER
MATTHEW SAUNDERS | JAMES WILDING

Featuring
Factory Seconds Brass Trio

JACK SUTTE, TRUMPET | RICHARD KING, HORN | RICHARD
STOUT, TROMBONE WITH CHRISTINA DAHL, PIANO

Additional Performances by

MIO ARAI | LYDIA BYNDAS | BEN CHEN | RANDALL FUSCO
CHARLES RENEKER | LOUIS RISPOLI | HEIDI SKOK
SIERRA STEWART | RENEE STRONG | HUNTER WIRT

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Program

Four Reasons Why

Nicholas Puin

Lydia Byndas, Louis Rispoli, Sierra Stewart, and Renee Strong, *bassoons*

Short Psalms

Matthew C. Saunders

O praise the LORD, all ye nations (Psalm 117)

The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty (Psalm 93)

Make haste, O God (Psalm 70)

Praise ye the LORD (Psalm 150)

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD (Psalm 100)

Heidi Skok, *contralto* Randall Fusco, *piano*

Sonata in B-flat for Clarinet and Piano

Margaret Brouwer

Slow Dance

Lively

Ben Chen, *clarinet* Mio Arai, *piano*

one day these chains will break away

Andy Junttonen

Charles Reneker and Hunter Wirt, *percussion*

Intermission

Minute for Seconds

Matthew C. Saunders

The Pyramid

James Wilding

Trio Suite

Ryan Charles Ramer

Prelude

Fugue in F-sharp minor

Interlude

Fugue in C major

Postlude

Tripartita

Sebastian Birch

Prelude 1: Geometric Harmonies

I. Vector Triplex

Prelude 2: Tricursion

II. Treble Singularities

Prelude 3: Cubic Identity

III. Tripromenade en quatre

Prelude 4: Triadic Compatibility

IV. Algorhythmic Delta Matrix

Factory Seconds Brass Trio

Jack Sutte, *trumpet* Richard King, *horn* Richard Stout, *trombone*

Quatour Royal

Margi Griebbling-Haigh

Le suave valet des carreaux vante ses exploits

L'arrogant roi des trèfles fait une crise de colère

La gracieuse reine des couers s'endort

L'as de pique triomphe de tous les autres

Factory Seconds Brass Trio Christina Dahl, *piano*

Composers, Performers & Their Music

A native Clevelander, **NICHOLAS PUIN** holds a Bachelor's of Music Composition Degree from The Berklee College of Music, a Master's of Music Composition Degree and an Ohio Teaching Certificate from Cleveland State University. His compositions have been performed by members of the Cleveland Orchestra, the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, the Singing Angels and the Pop Stop Jazz Unit.

SIX REASONS WHY employs and develops six different themes in six different keys. In the first movement, these themes are stated by various players while the remaining players accompany. During the second movement, these themes are restated by the players who served as accompanists in the first movement. Prevalent time signatures throughout the work are 6/8, 5/8 and 3/4.

LYDIA BYNDAS holds a bachelor's degree in music performance and music education from the Oberlin Conservatory and a master's degree in performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music. She is a freelance musician in the Cleveland area and a bassoon and piano teacher.

LOUIS RISPOLI is from Cleveland.. He pursued music education at Baldwin Wallace University and holds a master's degree in music education from Bowling Green State University. Louis began his teaching career at Olmsted Falls Middle School in 2015.

SIERRA STEWART has performed with the Dayton Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and Springfield Youth Orchestra. In college Sierra was principal bassoonist of the Ohio State University Collegiate Winds under David Hedgecoth.

RENEE STRONG grew up in Portage County, Ohio. She became a bassoon specialist in middle school, and now holds a master's degree in bassoon from Youngstown State University. She has taught general and instrumental music in Strongsville for twenty-six years.

DR. MATTHEW C. SAUNDERS is a Northeast Ohio composer, conductor, trombonist, husband, and father. All his work is connected to teaching students from kindergarten to college in styles from madrigal to mariachi. He lives in Willowick with his wife Becky and their two children.

PSALM 117: O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD.

PSALM 93: The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, where-with he hath girded himself: the world also is established, that it cannot be moved. Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting. The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves. The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea. Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever.

PSALM 70: Make haste, o God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O LORD. Let them be ashamed and confounded that seek after my soul: let them be turned backward, and put to confusion, that desire my hurt. Let them be turned back for a reward of their shame that say, Aha, aha. Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified. But I am poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God: thou art my help and my deliverer; O LORD, make no tarrying.

PSALM 150: Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his pow'r. Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the LORD.

PSALM 100: Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. —**THE HOLY BIBLE (KJV)**

HEIDI SKOK, contralto is renowned for her portrayal of Madame Flora in Menotti's *The Medium*, helping to save the Tulsa Opera's production of Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Medium* in October 2023 by jumping in at the last minute without rehearsal. In her previous soprano career, Skok sang at the Metropolitan Opera. Upcoming engagements include recitals with Cleveland Music and Drama Club, a recital at Disciples Christian Church in Mayfield Heights, and a debut as Madame de Croissy in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* with Opera for Earth. Heidi Skok teaches other singers at Skokstudio Vocal Instruction in Mentor.

RANDALL FUSCO is an active collaborative pianist who has appeared as soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, and Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra. Mr. Fusco has performed and recorded music with members of the Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony and numerous artists from Northeast Ohio. From 1988-2018 he was a full-time music faculty member at Hiram College in Ohio and in 2018 he was granted the title of Professor Emeritus.

MARGARET BROUWER'S music has been called "a marvelous example of musical imagery." (*American Record Guide*). Brouwer's honors include an Award in Music from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, 2024 Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award, Meet The Composer Commissioning/USA Award, Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Cleveland Prize.. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts has established a Margaret Brouwer Collection. Dr. Brouwer served as head of the composition department and holder of the Vincent K. and Edith H. Smith Chair in Composition at the Cleveland Institute of Music from 1996 to 2008.

SONATA FOR CLARINET AND PIANO was commissioned by the International Clarinet Association with generous support of a co-commissioners' consortium. The clarinet's lyricism, broad range, and ability to produce many different colors are driving forces throughout the sonata. The first movement, "Slow Dance," is nostalgic and lingering. Even though the melody often is in 5/4 time, the feeling is that of a slow, romantic waltz. The second movement, "Lively," showcases the different registers of the clarinet with leaps between high and low notes, as well as the liquid quality of fast runs. Sometimes, it is almost as if the performers are saying: "But can you do THIS??"

Clarinetist **BEN CHEN** was previously principal clarinetist of the Youngstown Symphony and currently holds positions with the Sarasota Opera Orchestra, Cleveland Pops Orchestra, and the Erie Philharmonic, and has been a member of the award-winning North Coast Winds quintet since 2015. He earned degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with Franklin Cohen, and an Artist Diploma from the Oberlin Conservatory with Richard Hawkins. He resides in Bratenahl with his husband pianist Dean Zhang, and together they present recitals nationwide as the Edgewater Duo.

Pianist **MIO ARAI** has performed as the pianist with The Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, the National Repertory Orchestra, the Akron Symphony Orchestra, the Firelands Symphony Orchestra, the Canton Symphony Orchestra and the Cleveland Pops Orchestra Chorus. Ms. Arai holds a bachelor's degree from the Senzoku Gakuen College of Music in Japan, a professional studies diploma in collaborative piano from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a master's degree in piano from Cleveland State University. She works as a collaborative pianist for Cleveland State University.

ANDREW (ANDY) JUNTTONEN writes music in a variety of shapes and forms including but not limited to dance, electronic/electroacoustic, film, organic, political, and process music. He combines his love of rhythmic textures with lush harmonies and unconventional but simple melodic ideas. Born and raised in the suburbs of Philadelphia, he graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2020. He holds a master's degree in composition from Bowling Green State University and lives in Cleveland while working at the Cleveland Institute of Music.

INVISIBLE CHAINS

invisible chains hold me captive
the chains of my world and peers
the chains i tied myself up with
the chains i can't seem to bear
emancipation is what i seek
it is what i desire
i know i have the key to be free
but yet i still aspire

let me be you vile mind
let me be
one day these chains will break away
i will no longer desire
for i will be as free as an eagle
free to be the true me
but till then i will continue to aspire
aspire to be free
aspire to be me

—Chantel Belfon, July 2010

HUNTER WIRT is a masters percussion performance major studying under Marc Damoulakis, Paul Yancich, and Tom Sherwood at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He is an orchestral-focused percussionist who has performed with orchestras such as the Sewanee Symphony, Ashland Symphony and the American Festival Pops Orchestra. Hunter also has a strong passion for teaching and showcasing his love for music to the next generation of musicians.

CHARLES RENNEKER is a timpanist and percussionist originally from Birmingham, Alabama and currently studying at the Cleveland Institute of Music. He has performed with orchestras across the country including, the Cleveland Orchestra, Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra as well as serving as timpanist of the National Repertory Orchestra and a fellow at Music Academy of the West.

MINUTE FOR SECONDS is a one-minute fanfare composed in 2024 for Factory Seconds Brass Trio. It has no program beyond its prefatory intent. It aims for balance between the three performers and within the structure of the piece itself.

JAMES WILDING is of British heritage, and was born and raised in South Africa. He studied at the University of Cape Town, and continued his studies at Youngstown State University and Kent State University. His musical mentors were Neil Solomon, Stewart Young, Peter Klatzow, and Thomas Jan-son. His work has been championed in Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Senegal, Germany, Holland, France, Switzerland, Britain, Canada, South Africa, and the USA. Dr. Wilding teaches composition and theory at the University of Akron.

THE PYRAMID resembles its architectural namesake in that the form of this piece is a series of repetitions that become shorter as time progresses. The musical material is presented in about 230 seconds. Two curtailed repeats take about 120 and 70 seconds, making the overall structure resemble a three-step pyramid. Each of these cycles is divided into four subsections, representing the four sides of a pyramid. I was inspired by Andrew Norman's *Sustain*, premiered by The Cleveland Orchestra in February 2023. My piece presents a similar form on a smaller scale.

RYAN CHARLES RAMER is a Cleveland Arts Prize Verge Fellow, and the composer-in-residence of Cleveland Public Theatre. This year in Cleveland, his works have been performed by the Cleveland Chamber Choir, the Greater Cleveland Flute Society, and the Cleveland Composers Guild. Ramer is currently composing music for a feature-length stage production at Cleveland Public Theatre for three instrumentalists and twelve voices.

TRIO SUITE captures the phenomenon of petit-mal seizures, where the brain blips out for five to ten seconds at a time without the victim realizing it. To illustrate this point, various moments throughout the suite are suspended in time by quiet, sudden dissonance. The prelude and postlude are the same material, but each performer plays in a different key for the prelude. The interlude interweaves the fugues' subjects with melodic material from the bookended movements.

SEBASTIAN ANTHONY BIRCH, a native of Ohio, was brought up in Florence, Italy where he began his musical training in piano, theory and solfeggio. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in music from Cleveland State University and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the Cleveland Institute of Music. His portfolio spans opera, music theater, dance, orchestral, electronic, and numerous chamber forms and his work has been performed at festivals and conferences and in venues throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Dr. Birch is associate professor of music at Kent State University Stark.

TRIPARTITA unfolds through four movements prefaced by brief preludes. The initial three movements represent interpretations of the brass fanfare while the last movement is a driving, upbeat finale with c popular influences exploring the subdivisions of a measure of three-four. Each prelude anticipates elements found in the subsequent movement. Just as the suite is the unfolding of motivic ideas, the titles are the result of the composer's melodic manipulations of *three*.

The music of **MARGI GRIEBLING-HAIGH** has been characterized as haunting, charismatic, yearning, lyrical, and insouciant. She has been Composer-in-Residence at the Kent/Blossom Music Festival since 2011. Recent performances of Margi's music have been given by the University of Michigan Chamber Players, VentiCordi Winds, Quintessential Winds, the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, and Elicio Winds. To be released later in 2024 will be a CD of music for soprano and eight cellos which will include Margi's works, *Cantilena* and *Voices from the Other Side*, directed by Steven Smith.

My initial idea for **QUATUOR ROYAL** was to write a lullaby for the newborn daughter of horn player Jesse McCormick. This little berceuse became the third movement of the suite, each movement of which is simply a musical personification of a face card in a deck of cards. I am grateful to be able to work with such a fine group of musicians for this world premiere performance.

FACTORY SECONDS BRASS TRIO:

Trumpeter **JACK SUTTE** joined the Cleveland Orchestra as second trumpet in 1999. Prior to his Cleveland appointment, he was the principal trumpet in the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra in Norway. He made his international solo debut in Argentina in 1995 and has performed as a soloist with the Cleveland Orchestra, Symphony in C, New World Symphony, Contemporary Youth Orchestra and CityMusic Cleveland, among others. A native of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, he attended the Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School. Mr. Sutte's teachers include Dr. Patricia Backhaus, Frank Kaderabek, Raymond Mase and Chris Gekker. A proponent of contemporary music, Jack has released two CD's, *Beyond the Moon*, featuring previously unrecorded music for trumpet and piano, and *Fanfare Alone*, a unique collection of fanfares and solo pieces for unaccompanied trumpet. Mr. Sutte is a Schilke Performing Artist.

RICHARD KING joined the Cleveland Orchestra in 1988 at age twenty as associate principal horn. He served as principal horn, 1997-2015, and now sits as a section member. Mr. King has been featured many times as soloist with the Orchestra, including works by Britten, Haydn, and Mozart. A native of Long Island, New York, Richard King began playing the horn at the age of nine and spent six years as a student of Arthur Green. He then attended the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where his primary horn teacher was former Cleveland Orchestra principal Myron Bloom. His albums of Chamber Music for Horn and Schubert Lieder transcribed for horn and piano have been released by Albany Records. Mr. King is a member of the faculty at the Cleveland Institute of Music and of the Kent/Blossom Music Festival professional training program. He plays a Conn 8D horn and is a clinician for the Conn-Selmer musical instrument company.

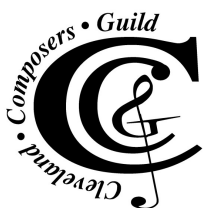
Trombonist **RICHARD STOUT** has a distinguished performing career both through his position as second trombone with the Cleveland Orchestra as well as through his many solo and chamber music projects. A member of the Cleveland Orchestra since 2000, Stout also performs on the bass trumpet and the euphonium when works call for those instruments. In addition to his orchestral career, Stout performs a wide range of chamber works and has performed solo recitals and concertos across the United States. In 2011 Rick released a CD of fantasy pieces for trombone and piano on the Albany label titled *Decreasing Radius*, on which he performs with pianist Christina Dahl. Mr. Stout studied at Rice University and at The Curtis Institute of Music with Glenn Dodson, and now serves on the faculty at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music.

CHRISTINA DAHL is a chamber musician, soloist and teacher who has spent twenty-eight years on the piano faculty at Stony Brook University. She has twice been a cultural ambassador for the US State Department, and has toured and taught master classes in Africa, South America and the United States. She has played at Aspen, the Banff Centre, the Steans Institute at Ravinia, been a fellow twice at Tanglewood, has collaborated with her distinguished colleagues at Stony Brook in promoting new music. She is a core member of Ensemble HD, which was founded by Joshua Smith and includes members of the Cleveland Orchestra.

The **CLEVELAND COMPOSERS GUILD** is one of the nation's oldest new music organizations, and has had over 200 composer members over its sixty-two-year history. There are currently about 40 professional composers in the Guild whose work represents a wide range of musical styles. In recent years the Guild has collaborated with the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, Burning River Baroque, the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, 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 and recognizes young undergraduate composers in Northeast Ohio through its Collegiate Composition Contest.

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Our 2023-2024 Season

Join us during our 63rd season for music for winds, brass, and much more, in exciting venues across Northeast Ohio!

Music for Winds | October 15, 2023 | 3pm

Kent State Stark Fine Arts Building | North Canton

The North Coast Winds perform music for wind quintet, trio, quartet and piano.

Winter Chamber Concert | January 21, 2024 | 3pm

Fairmount Presbyterian Church | Cleveland Heights

A varied concert of works for voices, winds, strings, and piano in a return to one of our favorite venues!

“Rhapsody in Blue” at 100 | March 15, 2024 | 3pm

Maltz Performing Arts Center | University Circle

More experiments in modern music from Guild composers performed by the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra. Tickets required.

Chamber Music and Factory Seconds | April 21, 2024 | 3pm

West Shore Unitarian Church | Rocky River

A mixed program of chamber music and music for the Factory Seconds Brass Trio, composed of members of the brass section of the Cleveland Orchestra.

Creativity: Learning Through Experience XXXII | May 19, 2024 | 3pm

The Music Settlement | University Circle

Latest edition of our annual Junior Concert! Works written specially for young musicians by Cleveland Composers Guild members.

Innovations!

Sundays | 9pm | WLCV 90.3FM

Don't miss Mark Satola's weekly radio program of music by local composers.

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Acknowledgements

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