

Cleveland Composers Guild



presents

Sestina Cleveland

Sunday, April 13, 2025 | 4pm

**Holy Rosary Church
12021 Mayfield Road
Cleveland**

Works by

ERIC CHARNOFSKY

INNA ONOFREI

GEOFFREY PETERSON

NICHOLAS PUIN

JEFFREY QUICK

LORENZO SALVAGNI

RYAN CHARLES RAMER

&

GUEST ANNA O'CONNELL

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**Cleveland Composers Guild
2024-2025 Season
Concert 4: Sestina Cleveland**

**Sunday, April 13, 2025 | 4:00pm
Holy Rosary Church
Cleveland, Ohio**

Program

Aura

Inna Onofrei

Maggie Johns, piano

Another Chance

Nicholas Puin

Nathan Hill, piano

Sestina Cleveland

Anna O'Connell, artistic director

Arise, My Beloved

Lorenzo Salvagni

Abigail Hakei-Garcia, soprano

Hymn

Ryan Charles Ramer

Fog

Inna Onofrei

The Peace Within

Nicholas Puin

Kaleb Chesnic, flute

Shout to the Lord

Eric Charnofsky

Peter Wright, tenor Kiko Weinroth, soprano

Lamentationes Jeremiae Prophetae

Jeffrey Quick

Lectio I

O Magne Pater

Three Carols

Anna O'Connell

That Night in Bethlehem

Sleep My Baby (Suo Gan)

Ding Dong Merrily on High!

Anna O'Connell and Abigail Hakei-Garcia, sopranos

Anna O'Connell, harp

O Magnum Mysterium

Geoffrey Peterson

Performers

Sestina Cleveland

Abigail Hakel-Garcia, Anna O'Connell Kiko Weinroth, sopranos

Courtney Becker-Howell, Kira McGirr, Kameryn Lueng, altos

Mist'a Craig, Joel Kincannon, Peter Wright, tenors

Ian Crane, Albert Donze, Michael Peters, basses

with Eric Charnofsky, piano

SESTINA CLEVELAND is a vocal ensemble specializing in early seventeenth-century madrigals and sacred music. Recent projects have included performances with Choral Arts Cleveland and recording sessions focusing on women composers. A flexible ensemble, Sestina Cleveland adapts to meet the needs of the repertoire. Artistic director Anna O'Connell, DMA often leads from the harp.

ERIC CHARNOFSKY enjoys a multi-faceted career as a pianist, composer, lecturer, conductor, and narrator. As a collaborative pianist, he has performed throughout North America with members of major American orchestras, and as an orchestral keyboardist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Cleveland Orchestra, among others. A graduate of The Juilliard School where he majored in piano accompanying, Mr. Charnofsky also holds degrees in solo piano performance and composition from California State University, Northridge.

He is active in musical arts administration, serving on boards for the Cleveland Chamber Music Society and Chamber Music Society of Ohio. He has also narrated with the Cleveland Orchestra and other ensembles. Mr. Charnofsky's compositions have been performed in several major U.S. cities, and he has received composition commissions from Pacific Serenades, the Chamber Music Society of Ohio, the Cleveland Chamber Collective, Ohio Music Teachers Association, and others.

Flutist **KALEB CHESNIC** delights audiences with his commanding presence, brilliant technique, and thoughtful interpretations. Chesnic is an active solo, chamber, and orchestral musician, having performed with The Cleveland Orchestra, Colorado Symphony, Albany Symphony Orchestra, and other groups around the USA. Chesnic is Lecturer in Flute at Baldwin Wallace University's Conservatory of Performing Arts.

MAGGIE JOHNS is in the first year of her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Previously studying with Dr. Larissa Dedova, Maggie graduated summa cum laude and Presser Scholar with her B.M. in Piano Performance from the University of Maryland. While pursuing degrees in solo piano, her career as a collaborative pianist has taken her through New York, Florida, the District of Columbia, and beyond. Maggie recently won 2nd prize in the 2023 American Virtuoso International Music Competition as well as 2nd Prize in the 1st International Music Competition in 2022.

NATHAN HILL is in the 11th grade at St. Edward High School in Lakewood. He has performed in the OMEA Junior Festival at Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory for the past five years, accumulating top ratings and earning him two gold cups for the Piano Solo event. He has been playing the piano for over ten years and plans to make a career of it. He has been looking at conservatories such as Juilliard, Indiana University, Oberlin and Northwestern. Mr. Hill is a student of Coren Estrin Mino.

Composers—Music—Texts—Translations

INNA ONOFREI (Saakova) is an Armenian-American composer and educator living in the Cleveland area. Her catalogue includes music for piano, choir, chamber ensembles, orchestra, voice, solo instruments, as well as electronic and electro-acoustic works. Onofrei's music has been performed in Russia, the United States of America, Belgium and Greece. One of Onofrei's compositions, written in 1997 about her hometown, Nevinnomyssk, was adopted as the town's anthem.

Onofrei holds a bachelors degree in music theory and composition from Stavropol State College of Arts and masters degrees in piano performance and composition from Cleveland State University. She currently works as a freelance composer and arranger, as well as an educator at Musicologie Cleveland Heights.

AURA (2019) was one of the first pieces I composed after enduring two years of debilitating chronic migraines. During that time, I was unable to practice piano, listen to music, or create anything new. This piece is a deeply personal reflection of that experience—an expression of the emotions, thoughts, and daily struggles I faced while living with constant pain

FOG (2016)

The fog comes
on little cat feet.

It sits looking
over harbor and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.

—Carl Sandburg

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 and arrangements have been performed by members of The Cleveland Orchestra, The Cleveland Chamber Symphony, The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, The Singing Angels, The Bop Stop Jazz Unit and most recently the Baldwin Wallace University and the Case Western University Jazz Ensembles.

ANOTHER CHANCE is largely in the key of Eb Major. During the thirteen-bar introduction, tonalities related to this key are heard in similar rhythms. At bar 14, Theme 1 is now stated for eight bars. Following this, a transition consisting of arpeggiated descending diminished chords leads the piece to a nine-bar development of the Theme. Another section of descending diminished chords is now heard followed by Theme II but now in the key of D Major. A short development of Theme II follows, including another transition to a da capo and coda ending the work.

Scored for flute and four-part mixed chorus, **THE PEACE WITHIN** employs no text beyond a statement of the title. Instead, the sounds "Aw, "Ooo" and "Ah" are sung throughout the work as it moves through different time signatures and key areas.

A native of Rome, Italy, **DR. LORENZO SALVAGNI** is a well-established composer, pianist, organist, translator and language instructor. He is Director of Music at Holy Rosary Church in Little Italy, Lecturer of Italian at John Carroll University, and Staff Pianist at Hathaway Brown School in Shaker Heights. Dr. Salvagni's compositions are frequently performed, recorded and broadcast nationally and internationally, and are currently available on all major streaming services. Dr. Salvagni is the current chairman of the Cleveland Composers Guild.

ARISE, MY BELOVED,
my fair one, and come!
See! The winter is past,
the rains are over and gone.
Flowers appear on the earth;
the season of singing has come,
the voice of the dove
is heard in our lands.
The fig tree forms its early fruit;

the blossoms spread their fragrance.
Arise, come, my darling,
my fair one, and come!
[...]
Until the day breaks,
and the shadows flee...
—*The Holy Bible*, Song of Songs 2:12-
13, 17 (adapted)

RYAN CHARLES RAMER has been an active member of the Cleveland Composers Guild since 2012. He studied composition with Monica Houghton, Mary-Ann Griebing, Dr. George Cherry, and David Gooding. He currently resides in his hometown of Medina, Ohio. He writes for orchestra, chamber ensembles, choir, keyboard, and stage productions. He was composer-in-residence at Cleveland Public Theatre from 2022-2024.

HYMN
At morn—at noon—at twilight dim—
Maria! thou hast heard my hymn!
In joy and woe—in good and ill—
Mother of God, be with me still!
When the Hours flew brightly by
And not a cloud obscured the sky,

My soul, lest it should truant be,
Thy grace did guide to thine and thee;
Now, when storms of Fate o'ercast
Darkly my Present and my Past,
Let my Future radiant shine
With sweet hopes of thee and thine!
—Edgar Allan Poe

SHOUT TO THE LORD, O earth. And serve the Lord with joy, Before Him come and sing. Know that the Lord is God. He made us, we are His.	His people and his flock. Enter His gates with thanks. Enter His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless his name!	For God the Lord is good. Eternal is His love. He's faithful for all time. — <i>The Holy Bible</i> , Psalm 100 (adapted)
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JEFFREY QUICK was born in Cass City, Michigan in 1956. He holds a bachelors degree in music history from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in composition from Cleveland State University. He retired in 2020 after twenty-two years as assistant music librarian at Case Western Reserve University, and directs the Gregorian Schola at St. Mary Parish, Akron OH. His sacred music has been performed in such varied venues as the National Shrine in Washington, DC, San Francisco's Mission Dolores, and Vienna's Stephansdom. He lives in Windham, Ohio, on six acres with his wife Rusty and assorted livestock.

INCIPIT LAMENTATIO JEREMIAE PROPHETAE

Aleph. Quomodo sedet sola civitas plena populo! Facta est quasi vidua domina gentium; princeps provinciarum facta est sub tributo.

Beth. Plorans ploravit in nocte, et lacrimae ejus in maxillis ejus: non est qui consoletur eam ex omnibus caris ejus; omnes amici ejus spreverunt eam, et facti sunt ei inimici.

Ghimel. Migravit Judas propter afflictionem, et multitudinem servitutis; habitavit inter gentes, nec invenit requiem: omnes persecutores ejus apprehenderunt eam inter angustias.

Daleth. Viae Sion lugent, eo quod non sint qui veniant ad solemnitatem: omnes portae ejus destructae, sacerdotes ejus gementes; virgines ejus squalidae, et ipsa oppressa amaritudine.

He. Facti sunt hostes ejus in capite; inimici ejus locupletati sunt: quia Dominus locutus est super eam propter multitudinem iniquitatum ejus. Parvuli ejus ducti sunt in captivitatem ante faciem tribulantis.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, convertere ad Dominum Deum tuum.

—*Bibla Sacra*, Vulgate (see translation on overleaf)

THE BEGINNING OF THE LAMENTATION OF JEREMIAH

Aleph. 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!

Beth. 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.

Ghimel. 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.

Daleth. 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.

He. 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.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord thy God.

— *The Holy Bible*, King James Version, Lamentations 1:1-5

O MAGNE PATER in magna necessitate
sumus.

Nunc igitur obsecramus, obsecramus
te per Verbum tuum,
per quod nos constituisti plenos qui-
bus indigemus.

Nunc placeat tibi, Pater, quia te de-
cet, ut aspicias in nos per adiutori-
um tuum,

ut non deficiamus, et ne nomen tuum
in nobis obscuretur,
et per ipsum nomen tuum dignare
nos adiuvere.

—St. Hildegard of Bingen

O Father great, in great necessity we
are.

Thus we now beg, we beg of you accord-
ing to your Word,
through whom you once established us
full of all that we now lack.

Now may it please you, Father, as it
behooves you—look upon us with
your kindly aid,

lest we should fail again and, lost, for-
get your name.

By that your name we pray—please
kindly help and bring us aid!

—trans. Nathaniel M. Campbell

ANNA O'CONNELL is a soprano and harpist who works to recreate the lost traditions of the harpist troubadours. Her love of Celtic music was cemented by a visit to Ireland at a young age, where the fascinating mix of concerts (in a castle and in the streets of Dublin), monuments, and museums led her lifelong fascination with harps. Anna has sung as soloist with the Hong Kong Early Music Society and the Maui Chamber Orchestra. In Cleveland, she sings with the Trinity Cathedral Chamber Singers and the Cleveland Chamber Choir. Her Ithaca-based duo, Gothic Fire, specializes in Medieval and Renaissance music performed on rebec and harp.

DON OÍCHE ÚD I MBEITHIL

beidh tagairt ar grian go brách,
don oíche úd i mBeithil

gur tháinig an Briathar slán;
tá gríosghrúa ar spéarthaibh
‘s an talamh ‘na chlúdach bán;
féach Íosagán sa chléibhín,
‘s an Mhaighdean Á dhiúl le grá

—Aidh Mac Mathmhaoil

That night in Bethlehem

Remembered for all time

That night in Bethlehem

The night when the Word was born.

The Skies are steely gray

And the ground all white with snow.

See Jesus in the cradle

His mother's heart aglow.

—trans. Anna O'Connell

SUO GAN

Sleep my baby on my bosom
Warm and cosy will it prove
Round thee mother's arms are folding
In her heart a mother's love
There shall no-one come to harm thee
Naught shall ever break thy rest
Sleep, my darling babe, in quiet
Sleep on mother's gentle breast.

Silently you sleep tonight
You, my gentle pretty child
Which the dreams that make you smile,
Slumb'ring gently with a smile.
All the angels glad above you,
Smiling at you happily;
Grin we now in unison,
Slumb'ring gently my dear son.
—Welsh traditional

DING-DONG MERRILY ON

HIGH!

In heav'n the bells are ringing
Ding-dong verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing!
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below
Let steeple bells be swungen
And "Io, io, io!"
By priest and people sungen!
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!
—George Ratcliffe Woodward

GEOFFREY PETERSON's music has been performed throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. Works and performances include: Schadenfreude for reed quintet, Micah 6:8 and Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening both premiered by the Cleveland Chamber Choir, Drones for chamber ensemble and recorded sounds premiered by the Cleveland Chamber Collective, Race Riot for jazz band, A Mighty Handful: Symphonic Portraits of the Russian Five for wind ensemble, Danse Diabolique for orchestra, Suite from Vinegar Tom for clarinet and piano, The Edmund Fitzgerald concerto for piano and string orchestra, Homage to Donald Erb performed by bassoonist Pascal Gallois and Three Hopper Paintings for piano. His music is published by Theodore Presser, Tenuto Publications and Cimarron Music Press. Peterson was raised and educated in Northeast Ohio and attended both the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the Cleveland Institute of Music where he studied with Donald Erb and received his Bachelor of Music degree in composition. He resides in University Heights with his wife, Michelle.

O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM, et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentem in præsepio.
O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Jesum Christum.
Alleluia.

—*Breviarum Romanum*

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn
Lord, lying in a manger.
O blessed is the virgin whose womb was
worthy to bear the Lord, Jesus Christ.
Alleluia.

—*Roman Breviary*

The **CLEVELAND COMPOSERS GUILD** is one of the nation's oldest new music organizations, and has had over 200 composer members over its 67-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 Sestina Cleveland, the Poiesis Quartet, the American Guild of Organists, the North Coast Winds, Factory Seconds Brass Trio, Cleveland Chamber Symphony, Burning River Baroque, the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, the Cleveland Chamber Choir, and with various local solo 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 2024-2025 Season

Join us during our 67th season for music for organ, strings, voices, and much more, in exciting venues across Northeast Ohio!

New Music for Organ | October 20, 2024 | 3pm

Morley Memorial Hall | Lake Erie College | Painesville

Guild members in collaboration with members of the American Guild of Organists

Poiesis Quartet | March 16, 2025 | 3pm

Drinko Hall | Cleveland State University

The Graduate Quartet-in-Residence at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music presents works by Guild members.

Chamber Music and Sestina Choir | April 13, 2025 | 4pm

Holy Rosary Church | Little Italy

A program of chamber and choral works presented in collaboration with Sestina Choir of Cleveland's soaring voices.

Creativity: Learning Through Experience XXXIII | May 18, 2025 | 3pm

The Music Settlement | University Circle

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

Rescheduled: Chamber Music | June 1, 2025 | 3pm

West Shore Unitarian Church | Rocky River

Duos, trios, and quartets by Guild members.

Innovations!

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Acknowledgements

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