

# Cleveland Composers Guild

presents

## Vocal Chamber Music

Works by

ERIC CHARNOFSKY

KAREN GRIEBLING

MARGI GREIBLING-HAIGH

CHRIS NEINER

JEFFREY QUICK

RYAN CHARLES RAMER

AND

TRISTAN WILSON (WINNER, 10TH ANNUAL COLLEGIATE COMPOSITION CONTEST)



Sunday, January 29, 2023 | 3pm

West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church | Rocky River

Celebrating 62 years of presenting new music in Northeast Ohio.

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Cleveland Composers Guild  
2022-2023 Season: Year of the Voice  
Concert 2: Vocal Chamber Music

Sunday, January 29 | 3:00pm  
West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church  
Rocky River, Ohio

### Program

8 songs (on poems of e.e. cummings)

Eric Charnofsky (music)  
e.e. cummings (text)

- I. O the sun
- II. something odd
- III. loneliness
- IV. why don't be silly
- V. crazy jay blue
- VI. everybody wants more
- VII. when any mortal
- VIII. who are you

Denise Milner Howell, mezzo-soprano    Linda White, flute    Robert Gruca, guitar  
Luke Rinderknecht, marimba    Eric Charnofsky, conductor

<p><i>I.</i> O the sun comes up-up-up in the opening</p> <p>sky(the all the any merry every pretty each</p> <p>bird sings birds sing gay-be-gay because today's today)the romp cries i and the me purrs</p> <p>you and the gentle who-horns says-does moo-woo (the prance with the three white its stimpstamps)</p> <p>the grintgrunt wugglewiggles chamychumpchomps yes the speckled strut begins to scretch and scratch-scrutch</p> <p>and scritch(while the no-she-yes-he fluffies tittle tattle did-he-does-she)&amp; the</p> <p>ree ray rye roh rowster shouts</p> <p>rawrOO</p>	<p>–why guesswho nearly leaped out of muchtheworseforwear shoes</p> <p>'fair friend' we enlightened this stranger 'some people have all the luck; since our hero is quite without change,you're going to get one whole buck'</p> <p>not a word this stranger replied– but as one whole buck became his (believe it or don't)by god down this stranger went on both knees"</p> <p>green turns red(the roar of traffic collapses:through westninth slowly cars pour into sixth avenue)</p> <p>"then" my voice marvels "what happened" as everywhere red goes green –groping blank sky with a blind stare,he whispers "i ran"</p> <p><i>III.</i> l(a le af fa</p> <p>ll</p> <p>s) one l</p> <p>iness</p>	<p><i>IV.</i> Why</p> <p>don't be sil ly</p> <p>,o no in-</p> <p>deed; money can't do(never did &amp;</p> <p>never will)any</p> <p>damn thing :far from it; you</p> <p>'re wrong,my friend. But</p> <p>what does do, has always done ;&amp;</p> <p>will do alw -ays something is(guess)yes you're right:my enemy</p> <p>. Love</p>
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V. crazy jay blue) demon laughshriek ing at me your scorn of easily	VI. you no  tice nobod y wants	ybody  wants more (& more & still More)what the	VIII. who are you,little i  (five or six years old) peering from some high
hatred of timid & loathing for(dull all regular righteous comfortable)unworlds	Less(not to men  tion least)& i ob serve no	hell are well morticians?  VII. when any mortal(even the most odd) can justify the ways of man to God	window; at the gold  of november sunset  (and feeling:that if day has to become night
thief crook cynic (swimfloatdrifting fragment of heaven) Trickstervillain	body wants Most  (not putting it mildly much)	I'll think it strange that normal mortals can  not justify the ways of God to man	this is a beautiful way)
raucous rogue & vivid voltaire you beautiful anarchist (i salute thee	may be be cause ever		

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### *Three Songs for Tenor and Bassoon Trio*

Join the Caravan  
Excerpts from “A Letter to Soldiers”  
Alone

Ryan Charles Ramer (music)  
Abdullah Yusuk Azzam, Abu ‘Abdallah, and  
Edgar Allan Poe (text)

Brian Skoog, tenor

All Thumbs: Emily Campbell, Jennifer Kowalski, and Alex Morris, bassoons

#### *Join the Caravan*

So that unbelief will not win out  
Because real men are few and far between  
Fear of hellfire  
To fulfill the obligation  
Follow in the footsteps of our pious ancestors  
— عبد الله يوسف عزام (Abdullah Yusuf Azzam) (1941-1989)

#### *Excerpts From “A Letter to Soldiers”*

I lead my horse and throw myself into battle like an oar in the  
wave.  
God let my death be not on a bier embroidered with green,  
But let my grave be in the belly of a vulture dozing on its perch.  
May I die a martyr in a troop attack in a trembling ravine.  
— شليخ المجاهد (Abu 'Abdallah) (1957-2011)

#### *Alone*

From childhood’s hour I have not been  
As others were—I have not seen  
As others saw—I could not bring

My passions from a common spring—  
From the same source I have not taken  
My sorrow—I could not awaken  
My heart to joy at the same tone—  
And all I lov’d—I lov’d alone—  
Then—in my childhood—in the dawn  
Of a most stormy life—was drawn  
From ev’ry depth of good and ill  
The mystery which binds me still—  
From the torrent, or the fountain—  
From the red cliff of the mountain—  
From the sun that ’round me roll’d  
In its autumn tint of gold—  
From the lightning in the sky  
As it pass’d me flying by—  
From the thunder, and the storm—  
And the cloud that took the form  
(When the rest of Heaven was blue)  
Of a demon in my view—  
— Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849)

### *Five Songs*

Just Lately Drummer Boy  
Discant (His mother said)  
Lines to a Lady  
Discant (He said to the Don)  
Lullaby

#### *Winner, 10th Annual Cleveland Composers Guild Collegiate Composition Contest*

Lexy Jensen, soprano

Pablo Ronderos, viola

Jack Fischer, percussion

#### *Just Lately Drummer Boy*

His face is set with parapet  
Of tears that come too soon.  
He has no drum, and so he plays  
Upon a pallid moon.  
There is no music in his heart  
Yet he makes a little tune.

#### *Lines to a Lady*

Lay her under the rusty grass,  
With her two eyes heavy and blind and  
done;  
Her two hands crossed beneath her  
breast  
One on one.

#### *Discant (He said to the Don)*

He said to the Don, ‘My Lord  
Your dangling man’s not crucified  
He’s gored.’  
The picador replied:  
‘Truth is a handled fruit:  
Isn’t that your finger in His side?’

The soldiers walk, the soldiers stalk

Like terrible grey wheat.  
And as they walk they make no  
sound,  
They move on phantom feet.  
Incomplete their vestments are  
Their mission incomplete.

Lay her out in the paling eve,  
With its sudden tears and white birch-  
trees;  
And let her passing seem to be  
One with these.

#### *Lullaby*

When I was young child I slept with a dog,  
I lived without trouble and I thought no  
harm;  
I ran with the boys and I played leap-frog;  
Now it is a girl’s head that lies on my arm.

And so they pass, dim in the grass  
Outcome of shot and shell.  
He has no music in his heart  
And yet he plays quite well.

Close her out of this hour of grief,  
And casting the earth on her, like a  
breath,  
Sow her tenderly, that she may-  
Reap her death!

Then I grew a little, picked plantain in the  
yard;  
Now I dwell in Greenwich, and the people  
do not call;  
Then I planted pepper-seed and stamped  
on them hard.

#### *Discant (His mother said)*

His mother said  
(Who long since in her mother is been  
hid)  
‘I am the birthplace of the dead.’  
‘Indeed’ he said  
‘Let it be done;  
Let us give our tigers, each one to the  
other one.’

And close her eyes, close, close her lips,  
For still, too still is her smitten tongue;  
Her hour's over, her breath has passed,  
And her song is sung.

Now I am very quiet and I hardly plan at  
all.

Then I pricked my finger on a thorn, or a  
thistle,  
Put the finger in my mouth, and ran to my  
mother.  
Now I lie here, with my eyes on a pistol.  
There will be a morrow, and another, and  
another.

## Intermission

### **Excerpt from *The Roly Poly Pudding***

Karen Griebing (music and libretto)

based on a story by Beatrix Potter

(by permission of Frederick Warne & Co.)

**Tom Kitten:** Alex Cosma, treble    **Samuel Whiskers Rat:** Brian Keith Johnson, baritone

**Anna Maria Rat:** Gabrielle Haigh, soprano    **Spider:** Robin Brown, narrator    Eric Charnofsky, piano

**Tom Kitten:** [falling into a pile of bedding] **Tom:** Please, Sir, the chimney wants  
Meowouch! sweeping!  
**Samuel Whiskers:** What do you mean **Samuel:** Anna Maria, come quickly and  
falling into my bed? fetch me some rope!  
You’ve got soot in your whiskers and smuts **Anna Maria,** I wish that we owned  
on your head! some good soap!  
Anna Maria, my dear, he’d make a good  
dumpling!  
Anna Maria, my dear, or a pie or a pud-  
ding!  
Anna Maria, go quickly and fetch me  
my snuff!

Anna Maria, I hope that he won't be too tough!  
Now, what should we do with hm, Missus Rat?

[the rats swiftly bind Tom Kitten with the rope]

**Anna Maria:** [considering Tom and consulting a cookbook]

In *'The Joy of Cooking'* I'll read *'All About Cat.'*

Here's *'Roly Poly Pudding with a Rolling Pin.'*

We've butter and dough to roll him in.  
**Samuel:** Nonsense! With bread crumbs and bacon and cheese, or it won't taste right!

**Anna Maria:** I'll do as I please! Butter and dough in an oven slow.

**Samuel:** Bread crumbs and cheese will hide the fleas!

**Tom:** Meow!

**Spider:** [emerging from a corner to inspect Tom Kitten and the rope]

How safe is that poor wretched cat? I'm a

good judge of strings and knots and things... Now if it were I, and he were a fly, I'd use a square knot, but THIS, I think not! I wonder which recipe they will use? I will continue to peruse....

[Spider retires to the corner and continues to observe...]

The Rats begin to cover Tom with pastry and butter]

**Tom:** Meow!

**Anna Maria:** I'll make a Roly Poly Pudding tonight!

A Roly Poly Pudding so flaky and light, with butter and dough...

**Samuel:** With bacon and cheese...  
**Anna Maria** and **Samuel:** [dancing]

We'll have a Roly Poly Pudding tonight...  
**Tom:** Meow!

**Samuel:** [inspecting the pudding encased kitten which looks a bit untidy...]

This string: it won't be tasty! This dough looks rather pasty!

I think it will be indigestible!

**Anna Maria:** [starting to roll the dough smooth with a rolling pin]  
It will be alright. He's putting up a fight!

What a wiggly little pill! How I wish he'd just hold still!

**Tom:** Meow!  
**Anna Maria:** How he hisses and spits! I just got bit!

**Samuel:** His tail is sticking out; he's thrashing all about!

There's not enough dough; you know I told you so!

**Anna Maria:** I brought all that I could carry; besides YOU'RE way too heavy!

Hold this ear and I'll put some over here!

**Samuel:** [listening to noises coming from outside...]

SHHH!!

I fear that we shall be obliged to abandon this pudding....

*To See a World*

Hannah Jencius Flower, mezzo-soprano    Eleanor Lee, violoncello    Chris Neiner, piano

To see a World in a Grain of Sand  
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower  
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand  
And Eternity in an hour  
—William Blake, *Auguries of Innocence* (1803)

*Kipling Songs*

Commissariat Camels  
The Seal's Lullaby  
Road-song of the Bandar-log

Gabrielle Haigh, soprano    Loren Reash-Henz, baritone  
Andrea Belding-Elson, violin    Kent Collier, violoncello    Eric Charnofsky, piano

*Commissariat Camels*  
We haven't a camely tune of our own  
To help us trollop along,  
But every neck is a hair trombone,  
Rt-t-ta-ta-ta, and this is our marching song:  
Can't! Don't! Shan't! Won't!  
Pass it along the line.  
Somebody's pack has slid from his back,  
Wish it were only mine.  
Somebody's load has tipped off in the road,  
Cheer for a halt and a row!  
Yarggh! Grr! Argh! Urgh!  
Somebody's catching it now.

*The Seal's Lullaby*  
Oh, hush thee, my baby, the night is behind us,  
And black are the waters that sparkled so green.  
The moon, o'er the combers looks downward to find us  
At rest in the hollows that rustle between.

Where billow meets billow, there soft be thy pillow;  
Ah, weary wee flipperling, curl at thy ease!  
The storm shall not wake thee, no shark overtake thee,  
Asleep in the arms of the slow-swinging seas

*Road-song of the Bandar-log*  
Here we go in a flung festoon,  
Halfway up to the jealous moon!  
Don't you envy our pranceful bands?  
Don't you wish you had extra hands?  
Wouldn't you like if your tails were – So –  
Curved in the shape of a Cupid's bow?  
Now you're angry, but – never mind,  
*Brother, thy tail hangs down behind!*

Here we sit in a branchy row,  
Thinking of beautiful things we know;  
Dreaming of deeds that we mean to do,  
All complete, in a minute or two —

Chris Neiner (music)  
William Blake (text)

Margi Griebbling-Haigh (music)  
Rudyard Kipling (text)

Something noble and grand and good,  
Won by merely wishing we could.  
Now we're going to – never mind!  
*Brother, thy tail hangs down behind!*

All the talk we ever have heard  
Uttered by bat or beast or bird –  
Hide or fin or scale or feather –  
Jabber it quickly and all together!  
Excellent! Wonderful! Once again!  
Now we are talking just like men.  
Let's pretend we are... never mind,  
*Brother, thy tail hangs down behind!*

This is the way of the Monkey kind.  
*Then join our leaping lines that scumfish through the pines,  
That rocket by where, light and high, the wild grape swings.  
By the rubbish in our wake, and the noble noise we make,  
Be sure, be sure we're going to do some splendid things!*  
—*The Jungle Book* (1894)

*On This Mountain*

Jeffrey Quick (music)  
*The Holy Bible*, NKJV

Lara Troyer, soprano    Linda White, flute  
Margi Griebbling-Haigh, oboe    Eric Charnofsky, piano

O Lord, you are my God. I will exalt You. I will praise your name. For you have done wonderful things: your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.  
For you have been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat; for the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall. You will reduce the noise of aliens, as heat in a dry place; as heat in the shadow of a cloud, the song of the terrible ones will be diminished. And on this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees. And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken. And it will be said in that day: "behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." For on this mountain the hand of the Lord will rest.

—Isaiah 25:1, 4-10

# About the Composers

**ERIK CHARNOFSKY** enjoys a multi-faceted career as pianist, composer, classroom music teacher, and lecturer. He has performed as a collaborative pianist throughout North America and as an orchestral keyboardist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Cleveland Orchestra. A graduate of The Juilliard School where he majored in piano accompanying, he also holds degrees in solo piano performance and composition. Mr. Charnofsky works as a Senior Instructor at Case Western Reserve University and also taught courses at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Mr. Charnofsky's radio program, "Not Your Grandmother's Classical Music," airs Monday afternoons on WRUW-FM.

**RYAN CHARLES RAMER** has been a member of the Composers Guild since 2012. He is currently the composer-in-resident for Cleveland Public Theatre. Since 2020, Survival Kit Art Gallery has held three gallery exhibitions of 20 visual artists who have created work directly inspired by Ramer's piano music. This year he produced two half-hour long suites of electronic music inspired by the geometric visual art of Mark Keffer and Christopher Richards.

**TRISTAN WILSON** is a composer and violist from Detroit, Michigan and winner of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Cleveland Composers Guild Collegiate Competition Contest. Following the premiere of his Sinfonietta for string orchestra in 2014, his works have been performed regularly around the Midwestern and Mid-Atlantic United States. As a composer, Wilson works in many genres, not limited only to contemporary classical, but also including film scores, musical theatre, and electronic music. His works are also featured on Petrichor Records' series *New Music by Living Composers*, published in 2021. His primary composition instructors have included Jon Anderson, James Hartway, and Sara Corry. Mr. Wilson is currently pursuing studies in viola performance and composition at the Cleveland Institute of Music in the studios of Mark Jackobs and Keith Fitch, respectively.

**DR. KAREN GRIEBLING** earned degrees from the Eastman School of Music, the University of Houston, and the University of Texas at Austin. She was Professor of Music at Hendrix College, held tenure as a violist with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, and was violist in the internationally acclaimed Cross Town Trio with whom she toured internationally. Dr. Griebing has composed operas, symphonies, ballets, and works full and chamber orchestra, wind ensemble, choir, film, theatre, mixed media, theremin, world instruments, chamber ensembles, solo instruments, and voices, and released several CDs. She returned to her native Ohio in 2019 and continues to teach at universities and to freelance as violist. throughout the region.

**JEFFREY QUICK** was born in Cass City, Michigan in 1956. He earned degrees in music history and composition from the University of Michigan and Cleveland State University, where he studied composition with William Bolcom, Leslie Bassett, Bain Murray, Rudolph Bubalo, and Edwin London. Until his recent retirement, he was assistant music librarian at Case Western Reserve University, and has been a professional church chorister for three decades, currently at St. Sebastian Parish in Akron. He lives in Windham, Ohio on six acres with his wife Rusty and assorted livestock.

**CHRIS NEINER** is a Cleveland-based composer of contemporary classical music with colorful harmony, diverse influences, and engaging energy. Neiner's style derives from his passion to foster

collaborative works with instrumentalists. His recent commissions include *Aurora Fanfare & Dance* for the Aurora School of Music; *Serenade for the Ghosts* for Musical Upcoming Stars in the Classics; *Playtime* for a consortium of collegiate horn professors across the United States; and an upcoming new work for NO EXIT New Music Ensemble. The music of Chris Neiner has appeared on programs by the Grammy award-winning Cleveland Chamber Symphony, Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Sinfonia, American Modern Ensemble, Boston New Music Initiative, Cochran Chamber Commissioning Project, and loadbang.

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. Trained as an oboist, Ms. Griebing-Haigh earned her BM from the Eastman School of Music and her MM from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Since 2020, *Rhapsody for Violin and Piano* and *Danses Ravissants* have been featured repeatedly on NPR's *Performance Today*. Recent local concerts have included *A little moment at the end of all* (Cleveland Jazz Orchestra) and *Cortège d'ascension* (in memory of Thom Moore). Two of her most recent works, *Weimarer Winterszenen* for English horn and piano; and *Lufthaltenlieder* for soprano, clarinet, horn, and piano, will be premiered at a special Valentine's Day concert at Fairmount Presbyterian Church next month. Ms. Griebing-Haigh is currently the Chairman of the Cleveland Composers Guild.

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## About the Performers

**DENISE MILNER HOWELL**, mezzo-soprano, is a versatile performer of opera, concerts, and recitals. Recent performances include the title role in Jonathan Dove's *Pinocchio*, *Little Women* (Meg), and *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Mother). Ms. Howell is committed to the performance of new works and has been heard at Cleveland Ingenuity Festival and New to New York Concert Series. Ms. Howell is an active voice teacher and currently teaches at Cleveland Institute of Music/Case Western Reserve University.

A dynamic and versatile musician, flutist **LINDA WHITE** excels in an array of musical settings and plays the entire spectrum of flutes from the piccolo down to the contrabass flute. Her flute and guitar duo, Gruca White Ensemble recently released their CD *A Different Take* on PARMA Recordings Big Round label. She is a founding member of the Blue Water Chamber Orchestra and teaches at The Music Settlement.

Guitarist **ROBERT GRUCA** is an exciting guitarist who performs a wide range of solo, chamber, and concerto repertoire. Possessing powerful musical interpretation and complete technical command over his instrument, Robert Gruca has earned several first prizes in national guitar competitions. Other awards and honors include receiving the 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award from Grand Valley State University.

**LUKE RINDERKNECHT**, marimba, has performed as soloist with The Cleveland Orchestra, CityMusic Cleveland, and Rogue Valley Symphony. Chamber orchestra performances include Metropolis Ensemble, Alarm Will Sound, Cleveland's baroque orchestra Apollo's Fire, The

Knights, and CityMusic Cleveland, where he has been principal timpanist since 2013. Luke is on faculty at Cleveland State University and CIM's Academy.

Tenor **BRIAN SKOOG'S** 2022-2023 season includes performances as Jake in Matthew Aucoin's *Second Nature* Lurcanio in Handel's *Ariodante*, and Mozart in Rimsky-Korsakov's *Mozart and Salieri* with The Cleveland Opera. A champion of living composers, Skoog was recently the tenor soloist for the world premiere of Margaret Brouwer's environmental oratorio *Voice of the Lake*, and in 2022, he gave the world premiere of the song cycle *Quarantine Poems for Tenor and Three Bassoons* by Ryan Charles Ramer.

The **ALL THUMBS BASSOON ENSEMBLE**, comprised of Akron-area bassoonists, has been performing together since 2012 in various configurations, with a mission to educate the public about the bassoon through the performance of arrangements, new music, and existing bassoon ensemble repertoire. The group regularly provides free concerts that educate and entertain audiences at venues such as Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens, the John S. Knight Center, and numerous public libraries, art galleries, and healthcare facilities. Today, All Thumbs is represented by founding members **JENNIFER KOWALSKI** and **EMILY CAMPBELL** as well as newcomer **ALEX MORRIS**. This particular trio has performed multiple new works by Ryan Charles Ramer over the past year.

Soprano **LEXY JENSEN** is an undergraduate soprano at the Cleveland Institute of Music studying with Dr. Mary Schiller. Previous credits include Witch 2 in *Macbeth* (CIM), and the soprano solos in Hailstork's *Four Spirituals* and Rossini's *Stabat Mater*. She was the recipient of the Ann Gillespie Achievement Award from Key Bank as well as artistic awards from Berea Arts Fest and Mighty Goliath Productions.

Violist **PABLO RONDEROS** studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music with Wesley Collins and Robert Vernon. He is a member of the Astro Quartet. He has performed with the Canton Symphony Orchestra and the Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom Music Center. Pablo was the recipient of the 2022 Robert Vernon Prize in Viola. Other mentors include Si Yan Li, Todd Phillips, Phillip Setzer, Mahoko Eguchi, and Dr. Alina Kirshon Goldman. Pablo is additionally pursuing a music theory degree at CIM.

**JACK FISCHER** is a percussionist from Orchard Park, New York. He is currently a third-year undergraduate student the Cleveland Institute of Music, studying with Paul Yancich and Marc Damoulakis of the Cleveland Orchestra.

**GABRIELLE HAIGH**, soprano, released her first solo CD, *Il Circolo Respighi* in the summer of 2022 to excellent reviews. Recent performances have included the role of Euridice in Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* at the Miami Classical Music Festival (2022). She will appear as soloist in several songs by Richard Strauss and in Dvorak's *Te Deum* with the Canton Symphony Orchestra in April, and will sing the role of Donna Anna in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* this summer at the Lyric Opera Studio Weimar (Germany). Ms. Haigh holds degrees in Classics from Cambridge University (UK) and voice from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

**BRIAN KEITH JOHNSON**, baritone, has performed many roles in opera from Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* to Ford in *Falstaff*. He has performed operatic and musical theatre roles across the United States including performances with The Cleveland Orchestra, Akron Symphony Orchestra, Canton Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Opera, Lyric Opera Cleveland. This year's engagements include *Sweeney Todd* at Weathervane Playhouse, Handel's *Messiah*, Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, and Brahms' Requiem.

Treble **ALEX COSMA** lives in North Royalton, Ohio and studies music with Olga Druzhinina. He earned first-place in two consecutive Stars of Summer Competitions in 2021 and 2022 and has performed in St. Petersburg, Russia, the Mozarteum Salzburg, New York's Carnegie Hall, and locally at concerts of the Fortnightly Musical Club. His first appearance on a concert of the Cleveland Composers Guild was in a work by Mary Ann Griebing composed as part of the 2017 Creativity: Learning Through Experience program.

**ROBIN "ROB" BROWN** is a native of Liverpool, United Kingdom. A salesman, Rob appeared in advertisements on behalf of the shops he served around greater Manchester and Leeds. His specialties include audio and video equipment and Japanese motorcycles. He is an audiophile and avid motorcyclist as well as a sports enthusiast, movie buff, and music-lover. He attended his first opera, *Don Giovanni*, in Newcastle with Karen Griebing while they were courting and was taken with the genre. His appearance as narrator for this scene from Griebing's *Roly Poly Pudding* is his debut narrating for a musical performance.

**LARA TROYER** was the soprano soloist in the world premiere of *The Emergent Universe* with the Cleveland Chamber Choir and also recently sang the role of The Foreign Woman in *The Consul* with Nightingale Opera Theatre. She has made solo appearances with the Akron Symphony, Canton Symphony Orchestra, Heights Chamber Orchestra, Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra, Lansing Symphony Orchestra, and Rochester Symphony Orchestra. She is currently Assistant Professor of Voice at Kent State University where she teaches voice and Opera Workshop.

**HANNAH JENCIUS FLOWER**, mezzo-soprano, holds a bachelor's and master's degrees in voice performance from Kent State University. She has been twice selected as a Young Artist with Nightingale Opera Theatre and has been a featured soloist in area concerts with repertoire ranging from bluegrass to Beethoven. She is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Hannah currently teaches at Kent State University and the Aurora School of Music where she works with students of all ages in diverse vocal styles.

Hailing from Washington, Pennsylvania, **ELEANOR LEE** is a cellist with the Canton Symphony Orchestra and acting principal cello of the Ashland Symphony Orchestra. Lee is on faculty at Mercyhurst University and coaches the cello section of the Contemporary Youth Orchestra. Lee holds master's degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and Bard College, and a bachelor's degree from the Eastman School of Music. Lee is an avid chamber musician, regularly performing with the Listeso Quartet for Fever's Candlelight Cleveland series.

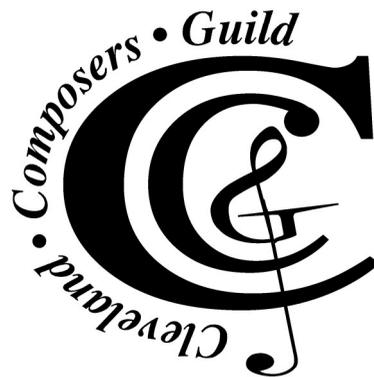
Baritone **LOREN REASH-HENZ**, performs on opera stages and in performance halls both nationally and internationally. A graduate of Miami University, Loren is currently studying voice with Christopher Neely. His recent appearances include Doctor Bartolo in *Le nozze di Figaro* and Simone in *Gianni Schicci* at the Festival of International Opera in Urbania, Italy. Loren performs regularly in northeast Ohio as lead vocalist at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Berea and with The Cleveland Opera. He can be heard on the *Billboard* "Top 10" Apollo's Fire recording, *O Jerusalem!*

**ANDRÉA BELDING-ELSON**, violin, received bachelor's and master's degrees in violin performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Some of Andréa's most recent projects include two years of participation in the AFM Local 4 *SheScores* Festival; a piano trio concert with the Lake Effect Trio in spring of 2022; and playing in the pit orchestra for the *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Ain't Too Proud* tours at Playhouse Square. Andréa enjoys performing for weddings and other events while maintaining a studio of violin and viola students.

Cellist **KENT COLLIER**, has enjoyed being a member Cleveland's freelance musician community for 35 years. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Eastman School of Music. A native Clevelander, Kent has been principal cellist for Cleveland Opera, Cleveland Ballet, Ohio Chamber Orchestra, and Lyric Opera for over twenty years. He has been a cello instructor at Allegheny College, Baldwin Wallace Conservatory, and the Cleveland Music School Settlement. Kent was happy to be named one of *Cleveland Magazine's* "Most Interesting People."

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 Burning River Baroque, the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, Contemporary 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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## Upcoming Performances

**Our 2022-2023 Season: A Year of Vocal Music**  
Concerts of art song, vocal chamber music, opera scenes, and choral music by Cleveland Composers Guild members, plus the our annual Junior Concert. Watch our website for programs!

**CCG & CJO | March 29, 2023 | 7:30pm**

The Bop Stop at the Music Settlement | Ohio City  
Jazz-meets-classical works by Guild and Cleveland Jazz Orchestra members.

**Cleveland Chamber Choir | April 2, 2023 | 4pm**

CSU's Drinko Recital Hall | Cleveland  
A return of a favorite collaboration including choral works by Guild members performed by Cleveland's premiere professional chorus.

**Creativity: Learning Through Experience XXXI | May 14, 2023 | 3pm**

The Music Settlement | University Circle  
Return of our annual Junior Concert! Works written specially for young musicians by Cleveland Composers Guild members.

**Opera Scenes | May 19, 2023 | 7:30pm**

BW's Gamble Auditorium | Berea  
Scenes from operatic works by Guild members performed by local voices and accompanied by Steven Smith and the Cleveland Chamber Symphony.

### Innovations!

Sundays | 9pm | WLCV 90.3FM

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

### Contact | Follow

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### Acknowledgements

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