

Cleveland Composers Guild presents

Chamber Music

Sunday, January 21, 2024 | 3pm

**Fairmount Presbyterian Church
2757 Fairmount Blvd | Cleveland Heights**

Works by

TY EMERSON | KAREN GRIEBLING

CHRIS NEINER | INNA ONOFREI

RYAN RAMER | MATTHEW SAUNDERS

**& GRACELYN JACK, COLLEGIATE
COMPOSITION CONTEST WINNER**

Performances by

MARIA BEYENS | ERIC CHARNOFSKY

OPAL CURRY | MEGAN DENMAN

JOHN GAMIN | KAREN GRIEBLING

DREW HOSLER | SUNGEUN KIM

DYLAN MOFFITT | CHRIS NEINER

JAZMIN PASCUAL | BRENDON PHELPS

SAMUEL ROTBERG | DEREK SNYDER

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**Cleveland Composers Guild
2023-2024 Season
Concert 2: Chamber Music**

**Sunday, January 21 | 3:00pm
Fairmount Presbyterian Church
Cleveland Heights, Ohio**

Program

Pan Songs

Ty Alan Emerson

Dylan Moffitt, *steelpan*

Less Than Ten Days

Gracelyn Jack

1st Prize Winner, 11th Cleveland Composers Guild Collegiate Composition Contest

Barton Samuel Rotberg, *violin* Sungeun Kim, *piano*

Petroglyph Dances

Karen Griebing

II. Antelope Hunters

IV. Gossamer-Winged Butterfly

VI. Beetle and Gecko

IX. Rain in the Mountains

Karen Griebing, *viola* Drew Hosler, *alto saxophone* Eric Charnofsky, *piano*

Intermission

Astghik and Nane

Inna Onofrei

I. Astghik

II. Nane

Derek Snyder, *violoncello* Megan Denman, *piano*

Sonatina

Matthew C. Saunders

Allegro con brio

Adagio

Con moto

Opal Curry, *oboe* Eric Charnofsky, *piano*

Coup d'Essai

Ryan Charles Ramer

John Gamin, *piano*

Afterlove

Chris Neiner

Jazmin Pascual, *clarinet* Maria Beyens, *violin*
Brendon Phelps, *violoncello* Chris Neiner, *piano*

Composers, Performers & Their Music

TY ALAN EMERSON has presented music in Cleveland since 2000. Following two terms as chairman of the Cleveland Composers' Guild, he is currently the Director and Conductor of the Cleveland Chamber Collective. In 2022 Emerson's work, *Cast Thy Nighted Colour Off* was featured at the New Music on the Bayou New Music Festival. In 2021 the Chamber Collective, in partnership with Inlet Dance Theatre, premiered Emerson's dance work *Caliban Ascendant*. His awards include the ASCAP Morton Gould Award, two Individual Excellence Awards from the Ohio Arts Council and the MTNA/OMTA Composer of the Year. Look for his latest work, *Oath Breaker*, to be premiered April 2024.

PAN SONGS was composed on and for a one-of-a-kind, home-made instrument, which did not follow the "modern" steelpan pattern of notes, and was not as precise in its intonation. Notating the piece in a traditional way would not make sense as the notes were not where they should be, so I approached the piece as if the pan were an ensemble of prearranged, indefinite-pitch metal instruments. The technical drive in this piece is the organization of rhythms and spatial patterns, rather than pitch centrality. I am indebted to Dylan Moffitt, for whom the piece was composed, for his enthusiasm and dedication to the work.

DYLAN MOFFITT is often recognized for his versatility as a percussionist in the classical and world music genres. In 2009, Moffitt appeared as a soloist with The Cleveland Orchestra alongside renowned artists Alisa Weilerstein and Jamey Haddad in performances of Goli-*gov's, Azul* for cello and orchestra. He currently serves as principal percussionist and frequent soloist with the Firelands Symphony where in 2013, founded his "Drumming with Dylan" educational outreach program. Dylan specializes in world music, Brazilian percussion in particular. In 2013, Moffitt joined the percussion faculty of the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and has since joined the percussion faculty at Cuyahoga Community College.

GRACELYN JACK (b.2002) is a composer and clarinetist from Goshen, Kentucky. An avid enjoyer of the outdoors, her pieces often draw inspiration from natural or cosmic ideas. Her pieces have been performed at Brevard Music Center during its 2023 season, and she frequently plays clarinet with her college's music improv group. She studies composition at The College of Wooster under Dylan Findley.

The inspiration for **LESS THAN TEN DAYS** came from a conversation with my biologist friend Joe about moths. He explained to me that luna moths emerge from their cocoons without mouths; they spend so little time as a moth that there would be no point in finding food. In their short life, they hatch, they reproduce, and they die. And yet, they live. They flutter around street lights and porch lights, they travel long distances to find mates, and although it seems improbable because of their lifespan, their species has existed on Earth for thousands of years. This concept stuck with me: the idea of so much life condensed into less than ten days. In this piece, I reflect on both the fleeting nature and the timelessness of this creature's existence. A moth may only live for less than ten days, but I will be thinking about them for the rest of my (much longer) life.

BARTON SAMUEL ROTBERG enjoys a fulfilling career as a performer and instructor of violin and chamber music. Dr. Rotberg has been a featured soloist with numerous orchestras including the Erie Chamber Orchestra, Pittsburgh Philharmonic, Amherst (NY) Chamber Orchestra, and Warren (OH) Philharmonic in concerti of Mozart, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn, and others. Rotberg currently serves as concertmaster of the Ashland Symphony Orchestra, and has been a member of the Illinois Philharmonic, Ann Arbor Symphony, and Flint Symphony orchestras. Currently an instructor of violin at Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music, Rotberg is also a faculty member at BW's Community Arts School and Conservatory Summer Institute and Oberlin College Community Music School.

SUNGEUN KIM is Professor of Piano at Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music and a Steinway Artist, and a 2017 recipient of the BW Exemplary Teacher Award. She has given numerous concerts in the United States, Canada, Russia, Spain, Korea and Italy. A first-prize winner of the Virginia Waring International Piano Competition, she appeared as a soloist with the Russian Federal Orchestra in Bolshoi Hall at the Moscow Conservatory, the Banff Festival Orchestra, the International Chamber Ensemble of Rome, and the Gijon Symphony Orchestra. As an active adjudicator and clinician, she has judged numerous competitions and given master classes for institutions.

KAREN GRIEBLING holds degrees in music from the Eastman School of Music, University of Houston, and University of Texas. From 1987 to 2018 she taught at Hendrix College and was the founding conductor of the Hendrix College Chamber Orchestra while serving as violist with the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and the internationally acclaimed Cross Town Trio. She returned to her native Ohio in 2019 and currently holds several part-time university faculty positions while freelancing. Griebing has registered over 100 of her original compositions with BMI including six symphonies, three operas, four ballets, and chamber and solo works. She has several internationally released commercial CDs and publications, and her work has been commissioned, performed, and warmly received in Asia, Europe, and North America.

PETROGLYPH DANCES was commissioned on behalf of the Cross Town Trio by its saxophonist Dr. Jackie Lamar as a companion piece for Hindemith's virtuosic Heckelphone Trio, for the group's 2000 tour culminating in their performance at the North American Saxophone Alliance conference in Montreal. Griebing created a series of vignettes inspired by her visits to New Mexico, in particular, the ancient rock etchings known as petroglyphs left there by the now extinct Anasazi tribes. The original suite comprises nine movements that alternate representing specific petroglyph drawings of hunters and desert animals with interludes representing the Spaniards with whom they came in conflict. We have extracted a group of four movements from the suite for this performance. The names of all but one movement speak for themselves: "Rain in the Mountains", draws inspiration from a lithograph by New Mexico artist Gustav Bauman of Taos.

Saxophonist **DREW HOSLER** has commissioned, premiered, and collaborated on over 200 pieces by award-winning composers such as Andrew Mead, Jamie Leigh Sampson, David Heinek, and Marilyn Shrude. His upcoming solo album, *delta waves*, features thirteen world-premiere recordings of 21st-century works for the tenor saxophone. During the spring of 2024, he will premiere a new concerto for tenor saxophone and band by JaeEun Schermerhorn. Drew currently serves as a Substitute Instructor of Chamber Music and the Manager of Concerts and Events at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Drew holds master's degrees in saxophone and chamber music with a certificate in arts leadership from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree in saxophone performance from Bowling Green State University.

ERIC CHARNOFSKY enjoys a multi-faceted career as a pianist, composer, and lecturer. 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. 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 has worked as a classical radio announcer, pre-concert lecturer for the Cleveland Orchestra, Associate Faculty member at the Music Academy of the West, rehearsal pianist for Lyric Opera Cleveland, and convention accompanist for the National Flute Association. Mr. Charnofsky's compositions have been performed in several major U.S. cities, and he has received composition commissions from Pacific Sere-

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. Among the awards and prizes Onofrei has received for her compositions are Stavropol State Competition for Young Composers, KatePublishing Composition Competition, and HerVoice Composition Competition. One of Onofrei's compositions, written in 1997 about her hometown, Nevinnomyssk, was adopted as the town's anthem. Onofrei holds a bachelor's degree in music theory and composition from the Stavropol State College of Arts and master's 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.

ASTGHİK AND NANE (2016) is a duet for cello and piano in two movements inspired by Armenian mythology and influenced by Armenian folk music. In the last few years, while searching for my musical voice, I've been intrigued more and more by the culture of my ancestors. My inspiration for the first movement is Astghik, the Armenian goddess of love, maidenly beauty, and water. A feminine, delicate, ornamented melody played by the violoncello accompanied by arpeggiated piano figures is how I envisioned Astghik surrounded by the water waves and springs. In the second movement you will hear a fearless and restless melody in combination with syncopated rhythm drawing the image of Nane, Armenian mother goddess, a goddess of war and wisdom.

DEREK SNYDER began his cello studies at the age of six, progressing smoothly until Tuesday, March 17, 1982, when he left his cello behind the family station wagon while waiting for his Suzuki group class. Having fully recovered from the "accident," Derek maintains an active performing schedule. He has appeared as a soloist with orchestras in the United States and Europe, and as a chamber musician has collaborated with members of some of the country's most exciting ensembles, including the Cavani and Cleveland string quartets. In addition to being a founder and cellist in the nuevo tango band the Oblivion Project, he has been principal cellist of the Bluewater Chamber Orchestra, City Music, performs regularly with the Cleveland Chamber Symphony and is a board member of the Cleveland Cello Society. Derek also works as a portrait and event photographer as well as a filmmaker.

MEGAN DENMAN is a freelance musician from Lakewood, Ohio. She holds a bachelor's degree in piano performance from Baldwin Wallace University and a master's degree in piano performance from the University of Akron. Ms. Denman is a seasoned piano accompanist previously serving as staff at Baldwin-Wallace University, the University of Akron and Kent State University. She maintains a thriving piano studio through her home as well as at Chagrin Valley Music. Megan studied jazz piano with Rock Wehrmann and Ron Drotos, and her working knowledge of jazz and improvisation permeates her teaching and playing. She is an active Music Teacher's National Association member and volunteers with the Northeast Ohio chapter. In terms of performing, Megan most looks forward to intentional, dynamic musical art collaborations that coincide with her values.

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 draws inspiration from the vastness of space, the waterways and forests, mountains and prairies of America, the motion of atoms, and the mysteries of existence, but most importantly from collaboration with other musicians and his students. Dr. Saunders is a lover of both solitude and camaraderie, Cincinnati-style chili, road trips, movies, and random facts. His favorite dinosaur is the Parasaurolophus, but he thinks the best dinosaur is the Stegosaurus. He lives in Willowick with his wife Becky and their two children.

My **SONATINA FOR OBOE AND PIANO** (2007, rev. 2021) is the fourth in a series of sonatinas for woodwind instruments, following those for bassoon (2003), flute (2005) and clarinet (2007). As a set, the pieces served as test beds to refine my technical skills while delving into the practical technique for the solo instruments. Composed in Goodwell and Guymon, Oklahoma, it represents my first work after completion of my graduate studies, out from under a teacher's watchful eye. This work is dedicated to the memory of Donald M. Harris, professor emeritus of composition at The Ohio State University, my graduate advisor.

OPAL CURRY holds a master's degree in oboe performance from West Virginia University and earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Music in oboe performance from Kent State University, where she studied with Danna Sundet. Opal is the principal oboist of the Akron Symphonic Winds, and is a member of the Cleveland Philharmonic and Cleveland Winds. Opal is a dedicated educator, serving as a Pre-K through 8th grade general music teacher at St. Gabriel School in Concord Township. Opal's multifaceted career showcases her unwavering dedication to both performance and education, making her a dynamic force in the vibrant cultural and educational landscape of Northeast Ohio.

RYAN CHARLES RAMER is a Cleveland Arts Prize Verge Fellow, and the composer-in-residence of Cleveland Public Theatre. In 2023, performances of Ramer's work included a ten-minute piece for ten cellos in The Netherlands, two pieces for solo violin in France, a viola duet in New Jersey, a composition for solo bayan in New York City, and a work for toy piano in Wisconsin, and 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 stage production at Cleveland Public Theatre for three instrumentalists and twelve voices.

COUP D'ESSAI ("first attempt") is a world premiere. It demonstrates how silences can be as electric as the playing itself. The music mimics a composer beginning on a new project; inspirational fragments flit around the imagination, seeding various openings and intros. The title can also refer to a dummy round of any firearm—a completely inert round containing no primer, propellant, or explosive and used to check a weapon's function. Similarly, this piece sounds like a composer experimenting at the keyboard to check the effectiveness of certain musical material.

JOHN GAMIN is a composer and pianist living in Wooster, Ohio. He has served as accompanist for First Mennonite Church in Wadsworth for ten years and performs various gigs throughout Wayne and Medina County areas. At home, he practices on a restored 1880s Broadwood semi-concert grand. He recently had a sonata for cello and piano recorded in The Netherlands. A bartender by trade, John is a confident gourmet chef and mixologist. He is co-writing an opera, *The Beast*, with his wife Hellen.

CHRIS NEINER is a Cleveland-based composer of contemporary classical music with colorful harmony, diverse influences, and engaging energy. His recent commissions include *Time Machine Hyperboles* for NO EXIT; *Red Riding Pictures Proudly Presents* for Stars in the Classics; and *Aurora Fanfare & Dance* for the Aurora School of Music. Neiner is the composition faculty for the Aurora School of Music and artist-in-residence for Solich Piano. The music of Chris Neiner has appeared on programs by the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Sinfonia, American Modern Ensemble, and Boston New Music Initiative.

In **AFTERLOVE**, I wanted to create an intensely lyrical sensation through a blurring of dense, coloristic harmonies and rhythmic freedom and variety. For two years, there was a unique, sensual chord that occupied my brain. I originally intended for it to be used in an orchestra piece, but the COVID-19 pandemic made a large ensemble composition not realizable. As normalcy gradually returned, I still wanted to write a piece based on this chord and opted for a quartet: clarinet, violin, cello, and piano. Regarding rhythm, I specifically wanted to emulate the fluidity that I admire in the symphonic work of Hans Werner Henze and Per Nørgård.

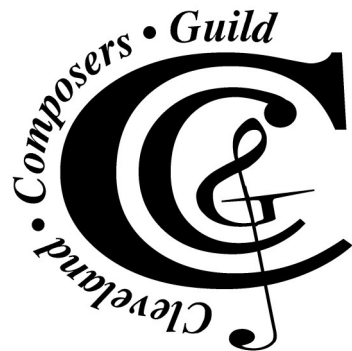
Clarinetist **JAZMIN PASCUAL** is currently an undergraduate student at the Cleveland Institute of Music under Afendi Yusuf and previously completed the pre-college program at The Colburn School under Yehuda Gilad. Jazmin made her solo debut with the Orquesta Sinfonica de Aguascalientes in 2016 and participated in a number of competitions earning prizes and awards such as second prize at the first World Clarinet E-Competition “Napolinova” (2020), third prize at the Festival Internacional de Clarinete Monterrey (2018), first prize at the “Luis Fernando Luna Guarneros” Pan-American Clarinet Competition (2022), second and first prizes at Tuesday Musical Scholarship Competition 2022, and the Cleveland Institute of Music Concerto Competition (2023).

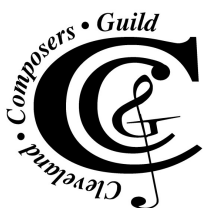
MARIA BEYENS holds a bachelor’s degree in violin performance from the Cleveland Institute of Music and a master’s degree from Carnegie Mellon University. As a chamber musician and member of the Commodore String Quartet, Maria was a semifinalist at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. Maria performs with the Mansfield Symphony, Cleveland Pops Orchestra, Firelands Symphony, and OPUS216. In addition to her musical work, Maria is a chef who has worked with a James Beard awarded Chef and is currently running her own Korean food pop up- “Maria Park Bistro”. She is a licensed realtor, serving the greater Cleveland area. Maria became an American citizen in 2023 and loves sharing her home in Cleveland with her husband, son and three cats.

BRENDON PHELPS is forging a path as an engaging cellist and collaborator, characterized by individuality, depth of expression, and expansive palette of color. As a collaborator, recent notable highlights include performing the Mendelssohn Octet with the Shanghai Quartet at the Tilles Center, and his Carnegie Hall debut premiering a string quartet commission from composer Anthony Vine. International concerts have included venues such as Casa de la Musica in Quito, Ecuador and the International Mendelssohn Festival in Hamburg, Germany as well as Princeton University, Boston Conservatory, and the Boston Early Music Festival. He maintains an online cello studio with students throughout the US and internationally, and is also the head of the cello department of the Akron Music Institute.

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.

Listen new, listen local!
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Upcoming Performances

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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