

Cleveland Composers Guild

presents

Creativity: Learning Through Experience **31**

Sunday, May 14, 2023

3:00pm

The Music Settlement
11125 Magnolia Drive | Cleveland

Works by

Sebastian Birch | Jennifer Conner | Cara Haxo
Joseph Hollings | Chris Neiner | Inna Onofrei | Nick Puin
Jeffrey Quick | Ryan Charles Ramer | William Rayer
Robert Rollin | Lorenzo Salvagni | Matthew Saunders
student composer Evan Dan

The Cleveland Composers Guild's Creativity:
Learning Through Experience is supported in part
by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a
public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.



Cleveland Composers Guild

2022-2023 Season: Year of the VOICE!

Creativity: Learning through Experience 31

Sunday, May 14 | 3:00pm

The Music Settlement

Cleveland, Ohio

Program

Spring Showers

Sebastian Birch

Maxim Melnichuk (age 16), piano
Lilia Paladova, teacher

Spring Nocturne

Cara Haxo

Michael Temesi (age 17), voice Lydia Yu, piano
Dina Kuznetsova, teacher

The day takes her ease in slippered yellow.
Electric signs gleam out along the shop fronts.
They grow, and grow, and blow into patterns of fire-flowers.
Trades scream in spots of light at the unruffled night.
But the sky is high and has her own stars, why should she heed ours?

The night is fresh-washed and fair and there is a whiff of flowers in the air.

Wrap me close, sheets of lavender.
Pour your blue and purple dreams into my ears.
The breeze whispers at the shutters and mutters queer tales of old days, and
cobble streets,
and youths leaping their horses down marble stairways.
Pale blue lavender, you are the colour of the sky
when it is fresh-washed and fair...
I smell the stars...
they are like tulips and narcissus...
I smell them in the air.

—Amy Lowell

Six in Four

Nicholas Puin

Ophelia Calhoun (age 14), violoncello
Mingyao Chao, teacher

Konvaliia (Lily of the Valley)

Lorenzo Salvagni

Polina Kornyuushenko (age 17), voice Lorenzo Salvagni, piano
Dina Kuznetsova, teacher

Росла в гаю конвалія
Під дубом високим,
Захищалась від негоди
Під віттям широким.
In a grove grew a lily of the valley
Beneath a tall oak tree,
Sheltering herself from poor weather
Beneath its wide branches

Та недовго навтішалась
Конвалія біла, –
І їй рука чоловіча
Віку вкоротила.
But she did not rejoice for long,
This white lily of the valley
For a man's hand
Shortened her life.

Ой понесли конвалію
У високу залу,
Понесла її з собою
Панночка до балу.
Oh, the lily of the valley was brought
To a large hall
And carried by
A young lady to a ball.

Ой на балі веселя
Музиченька грає,
Конвалії та музика
Бідне серце крає.
Oh the ball is very joyful
The musicians are playing
And for the lily of the valley, this music
Breaks her heart.

То ж панночка в веселому
Вальсі закрутилась,
А в конвалії головка
Пов'яла, схилилась.
The young lady spins
In a joyous waltz
And the lily of the valley's head
Bends down as she wilts.

Промовила конвалія:
«Прощай, гаю милий!
І ти, дубе мій високий,
Друже мій єдиний!»
The lily of the valley speaks,
"Farewell, my dear grove!
And you, my tall oak tree,
My only friend!"

Та й замовкла. Байдужою
Панночка рукою
Тую квіточку зів'ялу
Кинула додолу.
Then she was silent. Indifferently,
The young lady
Took the wilted flower in her hand
And discarded it upon the ground.

Може, й тобі, моя панно,
Колись доведеться
Згадать тую конвалію,
Як щастя минеться.
Недовго й ти, моя панно,
Будеш утішатись
Та по балах у веселих
Таночках звиватись.
Maybe one day, young lady,
Something will happen
And you will remember this lily of the valley
When happiness passes you by.
For the time of your rejoicing, my young
Lady, will not last long
Nor will the joyful balls
Nor the spinning dances.

Може, колись оцей милий,
Що так любить дуже,
Тебе, квіточку зів'ялу,
Залишить байдуже!
Maybe someday this beloved man
Who loves so much
Will leave you, a wilted flower,
With indifference!

—Lesya Ukrainka

—trans. Nadia Tarnawsky

Music of a Forgotten People

Joseph Hollings

Grace Waters (age 16), violin Stephen Sims, violin
Stephen Sims, teacher

I Choose to Believe

Jennifer Conner

Mariana Fuery (age 15), voice Lydia Yu, piano
Kim Lauritsen, teacher

I'm so excited but terrified, how to decide,
what to do,
What to do, where to go, I don't know, tell me
what path should I take?
It's all so new to me what if I make a mistake,

What if I'm foolish for hoping, and dreaming,
and seeming to grasp for what may not be
there,
Do I dare to keep reaching, to struggle and
care
can I truly believe I'll achieve what I want,
that it's out there somewhere?

I choose to believe my dreams are worth chas-
ing
I choose to believe, they're mine to take
And if on the journey I make a mistake or two
My dreams may still come true
That's what I choose to believe.

But what If I'm not likeable, or beautiful, ac-
ceptable
Maybe I'm not sociable. What If I just don't fit
in?
What if I'm not talented, or good enough, or
smart enough,
What if I'm rejected before I even begin?

What if I am destined always to be all alone
What if I never can feel what it feels like to
truly be known?
Or loved?

I choose to believe that no one defines me
I choose to believe that my worth lies within
And if I am loving and giving in all I do
Others will love me too.
That's what I choose to believe.

And I choose to believe while my choices are
many
There's no one right path, the others all wrong.
And where I wind up at the end of the journey
that is where I belong
That's what I choose to believe.
And if I can live out my life in this way
I choose to believe I'll look back on my living,
the triumphs and sorrows, the losing and win-
ning,
and still, I will honestly say:
I believe I have had the very best life
and I wouldn't have had it any other way.
That's what I choose to believe.

—Jennifer Conner

Song for Elijah

Ryan Charles Ramer

Elijah Ondrish (age 18), flute T.C. Biggs, piano
Leslie Moder, teacher

Evening Song

Chris Neiner

Urja Chauhan (age 17), voice Linda Allen, piano
Oksim Nam Kim, teacher

Frosty Evening
It is not the bright light in your
window
Which dazzles my eyes;
It is the dim outline of your
shadow
Moving upon the shoji.

By Messenger
One night
When there was a clear moon,
I sat down
To write a poem
About maple trees.
But the dazzle of moonlight
In the ink
Blinded me,
And I could only write
What I remembered.
Therefore,
I have inscribed your name.

Bullion (excerpt)
Come, You! and open my heart;
May my love torment me no longer,
But glitter in your air.

—Amy Lowell (adapt.)

Fantasy Impromptu No. 1

Evan Dan (age 14)

Lorenzo Salvagni, piano
Bill Tennet & Patti Evans, teachers

Winter Night Song

Jeffrey Quick

Lily Dunn (age 16), voice Lorenzo Salvagni, piano
Sierra Pabon, teacher

Will you come as of old with singing?
And shall I hear as of old?
Shall I rush to open the window
In spite of the piercing cold?

Ah no, my dear, ah no,
I shall sit by the fire reading.
Though you sing half the night in the snow
I shall not be heeding.

Though your voice remembers the forest,
The warm green light and the birds.
Though you gather the sea in your singing
And pour its sound into words.

Even so, my dear, even so,
I shall not heed you at all;
Though your shoulders are white with snow.
Though you strain your voice to a call,

I shall drowse and the fire will drowse.
The draft will be cold on the floor,
The clock running down.
Snow banking the door.

—Sara Teasdale

Gospel Stylings

Robert Rollin

Thomas Burrows (age 14), violin Avis Yan, piano
Eva Mondragon, teacher

Going to the Movies

William Rayer

Faith Fischer (age 17), piano
Katie Cross, teacher

Echo

Inna Onofrei

Austin Prince (age 18), voice Geoffrey Zimmerly, piano
Denise Milner Howell, teacher

Come to me in the silence of the night;
Come in the speaking silence of a dream;
Come with soft rounded cheeks and eyes as bright
As sunlight on a stream;
Come back in tears,
O memory, hope, love of finished years.

O dream how sweet, too sweet, too bitter sweet,
Whose wakening should have been in Paradise,
Where souls brimful of love abide and meet;
Where thirsting longing eyes
Watch the slow door
That opening, letting in, lets out no more.

Yet come to me in dreams, that I may live
My very life again though cold in death:
Come back to me in dreams, that I may give
Pulse for pulse, breath for breath:
Speak low, lean low,
As long ago, my love, how long ago!

—Christina Rossetti

Bay Village Barn Dance

Matthew Saunders

Miya Debolt (age 18), flute Rachael Ploezke (age 18), violin
Darren Allen, teacher

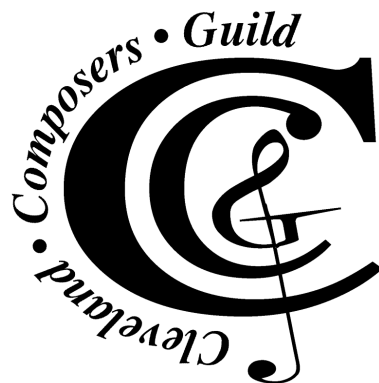
Following today's concert, please join us for social time and light refreshments in
the lobby.

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, 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.

CREATIVITY: LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE originally occurred in another guise chaired by longtime Cleveland Composers Guild member Katherine Warne. In the early days, young students from the Junior Fortnightly Clubs played existing compositions by Guild members. In 1993, Cleveland area composer and pianist Marshall Griffith took the lead in a reimagined form of the project, and *Creativity: Learning through Experience* was born.

Since the first *Creativity: Learning through Experience* concert, the Cleveland Composers Guild has collaborated with the Music Settlement, Junior Fortnightly Clubs, Cleveland School of the Arts, Cleveland Institute of Music, and Baldwin Wallace Conservatory. Professional composers are paired with talented musicians aged 6 to 18 from the other organizations to write pieces specifically for the students, coaching them with their teachers before the new works are premiered. More recently, the project expanded to include young composers selected to work with professional musicians, who offer advice before performing these student pieces publicly. Generous funding support from Cuyahoga Arts and Culture makes this a truly professional experience by compensating composers, performers, accompanists, and teachers for their time and talents.

Over thirty-one annual installments, *Creativity: Learning through Experience* has been the platform for world premieres of nearly four hundred pieces of music written for young student performers. Student participants have gone on to conservatories and music programs that include CIM, Eastman School of Music, Juilliard, University of Michigan, Oberlin, Baldwin Wallace, Indiana University, and others. Student composers whose works were performed at one of these concerts have won awards from BMI, ASCAP, the National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC), and the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA), at the state, regional, and national levels. Numerous works premiered on these concerts are now on the required lists for the NFMC Festivals, reaching hundreds of clubs and thousands of students across the United States. Many of these works are now published and have been performed by professional musicians around Northeast Ohio and beyond. In collaboration with fifteen student performers and their teachers, today's concert adds premieres of thirteen Cleveland Composers Guild members' works, and a work by one student composer to that growing legacy.



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!

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

Gamble Auditorium | 96 Front Street

Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music | Berea

Scenes from operatic works by Guild members Inna Onofrei, Karen Griebing, Margi Griebing-Haigh, Lorenzo Salvagni, and Jeffrey Quick, performed by local voices in collaboration with the Cleveland Chamber Symphony with Steven Smith, music director and Marla Berg, Stage director.

She Scores Festival | June 2-4, 2023

Presented by the Local 4 Music Fund

3rd Annual festival of new music by Northeast Ohio women composers, including works by Guild members Jennifer Conner, Margi Griebing-Haigh, Cara Haxo, and Inna Onofrei.

Visit <https://www.local4musicfund.org/shescores2023> for details.

Innovations!

Sundays | 9pm | WLCV 90.3FM

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

2023-2024 Season

Coming Soon!

Watch our website, clevelandcomposers.com, for information about future events and performances.

Contact | Follow

Web: clevelandcomposers.com

Email: clecomposers@gmail.com

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Acknowledgements

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