

# Cleveland Composers Guild

presents

## Music for Winds

Sunday, October 15, 2023 | 3pm

Fine Arts Building | KSU Stark  
6000 Frank Avenue | North Canton

North Coast Winds

ZOE STIER FLUTE

JOHANNA COX PENNINGTON OBOE

BEN CHEN CLARINET

EMILY SHELLEY HORN

ARLEIGH SAVAGE BASSOON

WITH PIANIST LORENZO SALVAGNI

### Works by

BIRCH

BROUWER

CONNER

GRIEBLING-HAIGH

HAXO

NEINER

ONOFREI

QUICK

RAYER

SALVAGNI

63 years of presenting new music in Northeast Ohio.

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Cleveland Composers Guild  
2023-2024 Season  
Concert 1: Music for Winds

Sunday, October 15 | 3:00pm  
KSU Stark Fine Arts Building  
North Canton, Ohio

### Program

#### Alarm

Margaret Brouwer

North Coast Winds

Zoe Stier, *flute*   Johanna Cox Pennington, *oboe*   Ben Chen, *clarinet*  
Emily Shelley, *horn*   Arleigh Savage, *bassoon*

#### Usonian Games

Margi Griebing-Haigh

Perpendicularities

Ms. Stier   Ms. Pennington   Ms. Savage

#### Variation

Cara Haxo

North Coast Winds

#### Toy Suite

Sebastian Birch

Flying Tops  
Wind-Up Flowers  
Toy Soldier Stampede

North Coast Winds

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### Intermission

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#### Sextet

Lorenzo Salvagni

North Coast Winds  
Lorenzo Salvagni, *piano*

#### Terzetto Joviale

Jeffrey Quick

Sonata AND Allegro  
Duets & Choruses  
Promenade & Fugue

Ms. Stier   Mr. Chen   Ms. Savage

#### Suite 24

Inna Onofrei

Morning  
Afternoon  
Evening  
Night

Ms. Stier   Ms. Pennington  
Mr. Chen   Ms. Savage

#### Excursions

Jennifer Conner

Playful  
Adagio  
Allegro  
Allegro

North Coast Winds

### Petite Suite

Flippitance (Poulenc)  
Variations (Satie)  
Toccatà Dancing (Ravel)

Chris Neiner

Ms. Pennington Mr. Chen Ms. Savage

### The Dirac Sea

Calm  
Ripples

William Rayer

North Coast Winds

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## The Composers and Their Music

MARGARET BROUWER’S music has been praised by the New York *Times*, *American Record Guide*, *EarRelevant*, *New Music Box*, and many others. Her honors include an Award in Music from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Meet The Composer Commissioning/USA award, Guggenheim Fellowship, Ohio Council for the Arts Individual Fellowship, the Cleveland Prize, and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Ford Foundation, Cleveland Foundation and John S. Knight Foundation. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center has established a Margaret Brouwer Collection that will be available for research by scholars, composers and performers. Dr. Brouwer headed the Cleveland Institute of Music composition department from 1996 to 2008.

ALARM began as a study of sounds for woodwind quintet, some based on research for another piece where I was looking for frightened bird sounds. The material took me in different directions as well. Still the word *alarm* came very clearly into my mind as I was finishing the work. There are so many ways to interpret the word alarm—as a verb—as a noun. So I leave it to the listeners' imagination. Or it can just be heard as a study in wind quintet sounds.

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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 degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Her works *jde Chiripa!* and *Windrush Madrigals* were featured on the 2023 She Scores Festival presented by the Local 4 Music Fund. Other recent compositions have included *Sortilège*—now on the Juilliard School’s list of required bassoon audition pieces.

USONIAN GAMES pays homage to Frank Lloyd Wright’s Rosenbaum House of Florence, Alabama, an outstanding example of the architect’s Usonian style—practical, cost-effective, and blending into natural surroundings—and the only example of Wright’s work in that state. The lines of horizontal brickwork, punctuated by repetitive strong vertical wood framing supporting the flat, cantilevered roofline; the enormous windows reflecting light all around; the slivers of glass lights illuminating the ceilings above the galleries; the cascading brick steps descending to the expansive lawn; the decorative built-in bookshelves and quirky-but-utilitarian furniture all provided inspiration. The second of three movements, “Perpendicularities” is a passacaglia built around a constant pedal tone. The widest ranges of the instruments represent the great “ceiling height.”

CARA HAXO’S compositions juxtapose delicate, sparkly textures with the gritty and the grotesque. Haxo is the winner of the 2022 National Women’s Music Festival Emerging Women Composers Competition. She was also awarded the 2019 International Alliance for Women in Music Libby Larsen Prize, the 2013 National Federation of Music Clubs Young Composers Award, and the 2013 IAWM Ellen Taaffe Zwilich Prize. A Massachusetts native, Haxo earned her doctorate in composition at the University of Oregon and also holds degrees from Butler University and the College of Wooster. Haxo is a Visiting Assistant Professor in Music at the College of Wooster.

VARIATION (2018) was composed for 5th Wave Collective as part of its October 2018 concert in honor of the Women’s March. The piece is a response to Ethel Smyth’s *The March of the Women* (1910), a variant of which occurs in the horn and grotesquely builds to a short-lived climax. In studying Smyth’s march, I was particularly fascinated by the voicing she uses in the first measure. While her piece is in F major, the first measure only provides the notes A and C, hinting perhaps at F major and perhaps at A minor, I chose instead to focus on the possibility of a minor march. The result is a haunting, ethereal work that surrounds and provides context for the variant of Smyth’s march that occurs at the work’s center.

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SEBASTIAN ANTHONY BIRCH, a native of Ohio, holds a doctorate from the Cleveland Institute of Music where he studied with Donald Erb. Dr. Birch has composed numerous works for the stage including the opera *Ligeia* and the musical, *Cricket on the Hearth*. *The Hidden City*, was commissioned by the city of Cleveland, and premiered by pianist Anita Pontremoli. *Argentum*, a work for “flutes and silverware” was commissioned by the Cleveland Museum of Art and first performed by Mary Kay Fink and Mel Csicila. *Detectio Sonoris* for flute and piano has been released on the Phasma Music label. The string quartet, *Life in a Day*, has been performed by the Cavani, Vórtice Ensemble, and Efferus quartets. Dr. Birch is associate professor of music at Kent State University at Stark, where he teaches theory, composition, and piano.

TOY SUITE’S three movements are each inspired by a toy linked to an oxymoron. “Flying Tops” features a constant stream of fast, repeated notes that are arranged in a variety of patterns organized in threes, each pattern giving the piece the sensation of spinning and flying. “Wind-Up Flowers” is a slow movement and revolves around arpeggiates figures in a pattern of four long beats followed by a short beat. This meter conveys the feeling of the toy being tirelessly wound up, over and over again, without ever truly being set free. “Toy Soldier Stampede,” is “in 3,” with fighting and overlapping of the three eighth-note patterns against the meter’s quarter notes.

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A native of Rome, Italy, LORENZO SALVAGNI is a well-established composer, pianist, organist, translator and language instructor in the Greater Cleveland area. His music is frequently performed, recorded and broadcast both in the United States and Italy, and is currently available on all major streaming services. Dr. Salvagni is the chairman of the Cleveland Composers Guild.

The SEXTET was specifically composed for our collaboration with North Coast Winds. I wanted to showcase the defining tone quality of each instrument, using three main interlocking themes that grow into an exciting “tutti” in the second half of the piece.

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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. He lives in Windham, Ohio on six acres with his wife Rusty and assorted livestock.

**TERZETTO JOVIALE** is, as Easley Blackwood would have said, “high class entertainment music.” The opening movement is named “Sonata AND Allegro,” both to match the other two movements, after the joke, *We have both kinds of music here, Country AND Western*. “Duets & Choruses” is three duets followed by a repeated-but-varied trio. Each duet recomposes the first, emphasizing first sixths, then sevenths, and finally fifths. “Promenade & Fugue” is self-explanatory.

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**INNA ONOFREI** is an Armenian-American composer and educator living in the Cleveland area. Onofrei’s music has been performed in Russia, the United States, and Greece. One of Onofrei’s compositions, written in 1997 about her hometown, Nevinnomyssk, Russia, was adopted as the town’s anthem. She holds degrees from the Stavropol State College of Arts and Cleveland State University. In 2020, with Maisy Byerly (illustrator) and Cheryl Williams (writer), Onofrei published an original children’s piano album, *Lola’s Adventures*, named for her dog. She is a free-lance composer and arranger, and an educator at Musicologie Cleveland Heights.

**SUITE 24** (2016) is four short movements for wind quartet, inspired by the concept of time defined as the progression of events. Every day is made up of 24 hours and four parts: Morning, Afternoon, Evening and Night. Every part of the day has a different mood as well as its own unique flow. This suite shares the feeling and flow of one of my days. In these four movements you will hear the world waking as the sun rises, a restless afternoon full of movement, and a calm and decompressing evening followed by a peaceful night.

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**JENNIFER CONNER** was a Regents scholar at the University of California Irvine where she received degrees in Music, Dance and Fine Arts Interdisciplinary, and holds a doctorate from the Cleveland Institute of Music. Her orchestra music has been performed by the Cleveland Orchestra, Oregon, Akron, Canton and Grand Rapids Symphonies and ensembles who have performed her choral and chamber works include The Cleveland Chamber Choir, Quire Cleveland, Panaramicos, Solaris, The Cleveland Chamber Collective, Myriad, and Epicyle New Music Ensemble. Dr. Conner teaches theory and composition at the Cleveland Institute of Music and at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory.

Jennifer Conner writes: “I decided with **EXCURSIONS** to write a series of short, simple pieces for my first exploration of the woodwind quintet. The first excursion brings the listener into a playful, rhythmically off-kilter world spun from the opening motive. The second excursion begins with a soulful horn solo. The other instruments pick up on the materials, particularly the opening perfect fifth and minor third cell spanning the minor seventh as they join in the meditative atmosphere. The third excursion is a light country dance using the interval cell from the prior movement in the new melodic line... In the final excursion, quick flurries over a march-like accompaniment race through shifting tonalities in a light, final hurrah.

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**CHRIS NEINER** is a Cleveland-based composer of contemporary classical music with colorful harmony, diverse influences, and engaging energy. Recent commissions include *Time Machine Hyperboles* for NO EXIT New Music Ensemble; *Red Riding Pictures Proudly Presents* for Stars in the Classics; *Aurora Fanfare & Dance* for the Aurora School of Music; and *Playtime* for a consortium of collegiate horn professors across the United States. Currently, Neiner is the composition faculty for the Aurora School of Music and artist-in-residence for Solich Piano.

Each movement of **PETITE SUITE** depicts a different French composer’s style and character: The twists and turns of “Flippitance (Poulenc),” reflect the contrasting characters of Francis Poulenc’s music: the “monk” and the “rascal” as described by musicologist Claude Rostand. The second movement, “Variations (Satie),” takes a simple melody and transforms it through incrementally sassier repetitions, echoing the often eccentric and tongue-in-cheek works of Erik Satie. “Toccata Dancing (Ravel)” taps the spirit of Maurice Ravel’s perfectly-constructed Piano Concerto in G, using interlocking patterns to create fast, bubbling rhythmic grooves.

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**WILLIAM F. RAYER** is a composer, trumpet player, author, and painter. He is a member of the Cleveland Composers Guild and ASCAP. His undergraduate degree is a B.A. in Music Education from Kent State University. He has a M.A. degree in Music Composition from Cleveland State University. His many compositions have been performed by the Ohio Chamber Orchestra, Lakeland Civic Band, Lakeland Civic Orchestra, Lorain Civic Orchestra as well as local high schools and junior high schools. He performs regularly as the principal trumpet of the Lorain Civic Orchestra, the Broadale Brass Sextet and the Vermilion Civic Band.

**THE DIRAC SEA** takes its title from British physicist Paul Dirac’s 1930 model of the vacuum as an infinite sea of particles with negative energy. The piece mimics a “sea” of negative and positive energies using an eleven-note scale centered on D. The mathematical possibilities of the work also center around the prime number 11. The second and fourth of the four movements heard today. In “Calm,” the energy is in constant flow, but often the Dirac Sea is calm with some particles floating to the surface or popping in and out of existence. Then, in “Ripples,” the positron, the antimatter counterpart to the more familiar electron, causes holes in the Dirac Sea causing ripples through its depths.

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## The Performers

From the shores of Lake Erie, **NORTH COAST WINDS** (NCW) has emerged as a dynamic player in the cultural and educational fabric of Northeast Ohio and beyond. Formed by five alumni of the Cleveland Institute of Music, NCW’s commitment to inspired music-making and memorable educational programming has led the group across the United States in performances and residences. NCW is thrilled to be celebrating their 10th Anniversary in the 2023-2024 season. Awarded second prize at the Yellow Springs Competition for Emerging Professional Ensembles, NCW delights listeners in spaces such as The BopStop, Arts Renaissance Tremont, the iconic Cleveland downtown public library, for communities in Sitka, Alaska, and notably, at Nighttown in Cleveland Heights, presented in collaboration with Cleveland Orchestra member Rob Walters, as the first woodwind quintet ever featured at this famous jazz club. This performance included an unpublished arrangement by Paquito D’Rivera of the Latin jazz tune, “La Fleur de Cayenne,” shared with NCW when D’Rivera visited Cleveland in 2017. Dedication to accessibility and advocacy for the wind quintet distinguish NCW. In 2015, NCW founded the North Coast Winds Summer Institute while raising significant scholarship funds to enable every qualified student to attend.

**ZOE STIER**, flute, received her Bachelor of Music degree in Flute Performance at the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM), and is currently pursuing her Master’s degree there under the tutelage of Mary Kay Fink. Stier has flourished in the orchestral atmosphere, and has had great success performing as a part of the CIM orchestra and other regional symphonies, appearing several times as principal flute and principal piccolo at Severance Hall. Stier is a recipient of two Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation scholarships, as well as being the recipient of two named scholarships at CIM. In 2023, Stier was also chosen as one of two winners in CIM’s ‘Imperfect Pitch’ entrepreneurship contest.

**JOHANNA COX PENNINGTON**, oboe, Johanna Cox Pennington, Professor of Oboe at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music, joined the faculty in Fall 2023. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music and Northwestern University, she also studied with Heinz Holliger in Freiburg, Germany. Pennington has subbed with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and Chicago Symphony and was a member of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic and Tulsa Symphony. She has performed at Carnegie Hall three times as a soloist receiving accolades in the New York Concert Review. Her solo CD of world premiere music for oboe and English horn was released by Albany Records in August 2018.

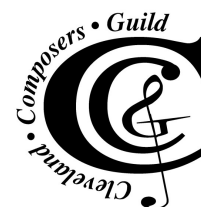
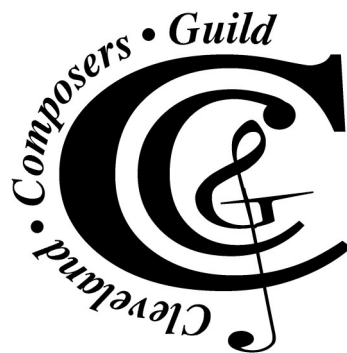
**BEN CHEN**, clarinet, has performed across the globe on three continents and throughout the United States, from Maine to Alaska. He has served as assistant principal and E-flat clarinetist with the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. Ben was previously principal clarinetist of the Youngstown Symphony and currently holds positions with the Sarasota Opera Orchestra, Cleveland Pops Orchestra, and the Erie Philharmonic. Ben 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 they present recitals nationwide as the Edgewater Duo.

**EMILY SHELLEY**, horn, was born in Toronto, Canada. She is currently second horn of the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra and the Erie Philharmonic. Ms. Shelley is a faculty member at the Music Settlement and is co-founder of North Coast Winds. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Toronto, where she studied with Gabriel Radford, completed a master's degree at The Cleveland Institute of Music under the tutelage of Cleveland Orchestra hornist Richard King, and earned an artist's diploma at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Roland Pandolfi. In both Canada and the United States, Ms. Shelley attended Domaine Forget, Windfest, the Banff Centre, and the Music Academy of the West summer festivals.

**ARLEIGH SAVAGE**, bassoon, is a founding member and ensemble coordinator of North Coast Winds, bringing her love of live music performance and enthusiasm for community-driven arts projects to her work. She is a member of the Youngstown Symphony, Cleveland Pops Orchestra, Cleveland Ballet, and the Lancaster Summer Festival Orchestra. Arleigh's newest project is Sororii, a female-led cello/bassoon duo writing original world-indie music exploring sisterhood across cultures. Sororii released their debut album, *Esperanza*, in 2022 with grant support from New Music USA. Arleigh taught bassoon at The College of Wooster and recently joined the music faculty at Cleveland State University. Arleigh grew up in East Lansing, Michigan and earned a bachelor's degree at Michigan State University, followed by a master's degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music under the tutelage of John Clouser, where she was the recipient of the George F. Goslee Prize in bassoon.

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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***clevelandcomposers.com***



## 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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