



COMPOSERS CONNECTION CONCERT

***Sunday, April 30, 2023
7:00 PM***

***Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Cleveland
Shaker Heights***



PROGRAM



Parallel Isolations

Margaret Brouwer

*Khari Joyner, cello; Linda Miller, flute;
Mari Sato, violin; Adam Whiting, piano*

Among the Living

Stephen Stanziano

Bryan Kennard, Cathy Spicer, Bonnie Svetlik - flutes

Cantwell Cliffs

Robert Brownlow

*Bonnie Svetlik, flute
Adam Whiting, piano*

The Thrill of Being in Love with Someone Who Loves You Far Less

Ryan Charles Ramer

*Sara Lambert & Linda Miller, flutes
Adam Whiting, piano*

So Alone

Monica Houghton

Martha Somach, flute

Between, Around, Above

Alex Berko

*Rebecca Chen, flute
Alex Berko, piano*

--- Short Intermission ---



PROGRAM (CONT.)



Dark Nebulae

James Wilding

*Rebecca Chen, Sara Lambert, Linda Miller, Martha Somach,
Cathy Spicer, Bonnie Svetlik, Rae Yeager - flutes
Olivia Shelton - contrabass flute
Bryan Kennard, conductor*

Humoresque

Inna Onofrei

Lisa Heinrich, flute

Hymn for Chaw Su

Brian Taylor

*Cathy Spicer & Rae Yeager, C flutes
Ann Droste & Emily Matz, alto flutes*

Canto Notturmo

Sebastian Birch

Kelly Mollnow Wilson, alto flute

When In Doubt

Bryan Kennard

*Rebecca Chen, Ann Droste, Sara Lambert, Emily Matz,
Linda Miller, Kelly Mollnow Wilson, Olivia Shelton, Martha
Somach, Cathy Spicer, Bonnie Svetlik, Rae Yeager - flutes
Bryan Kennard, conductor*

Margaret Brouwer's honors include Award in Music from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Meet The Composer Commissioning/USA award, Guggenheim, Ohio Council for the Arts Individual Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts, Ford Foundation, Margaret Brouwer Collection at Lincoln Center's Performing Arts Library for research by scholars, composers and performers. Performances by Detroit, Dallas, Seattle, Liverpool, Rochester, Cabrillo, ACO, Royal Scottish National Orchestras, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Tanglewood Festival, Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Kennedy Center, Corcoran Gallery, Philips Gallery, and venues throughout Taiwan, Germany, and UK.

Dr. Brouwer served as head of the composition department and holder of the Vincent K. and Edith H. Smith Chair in Composition at the Cleveland Institute of Music from 1996 to 2008. Residencies include the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center, Norton Stevens Fellow at the MacDowell Colony. Recordings of Brouwer's music can be found on Naxos, New World, CRI, Crystal, Centaur, and Opus One labels. www.margaretbrouwer.com.

Stephen Stanziano is an active composer, educator, and bassist in Northeast Ohio, and holds a Ph.D. in music theory and composition from Kent State University. His works have been performed by the Cleveland Chamber Collective, Grammy-award winning guitarist Jason Vieaux, baritone Andrew White, several Cleveland Orchestra members including violist Lisa Boyko, flautist Peter Bloom, members of the Greater Cleveland Flute Society, the Gruca White Ensemble, and The Cleveland Chamber Symphony.

His music has been recorded by the Gruca White Ensemble on Big Round Records, the St. Cecilia Foundation, and performed live throughout the United States and Europe, including St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. His commissions include works for The Panoramicos, John Carroll University's Schola Cantorum, The Lakeland Community College Civic Band, baritone José Gotera, and pianist Randall Fusco.

He is a 2022 ASCAPPLUS award winner, past president of the Cleveland Composers Guild, and on the music faculty at Cleveland State University, Hiram College, and Lakeland Community College. Stephen and his wife live in Lyndhurst, Ohio. www.stephenstanzianocomposer.com

Robert J. Brownlow has enjoyed a varied career as an educator, composer and performer. After earning a Bachelor of Arts in music from Luther College, he continued his studies in composition and trumpet at the University of Iowa where he graduated with a Master of Fine Arts and a Doctor of Musical Arts in 1993. He began his teaching career at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 1994. In 1999, he began teaching composition and theory at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. In the fall of 2006, he arrived at the University of

Akron and remains there today. He is currently co-chair of composition and theory activities. From 1999-2018, he taught composition at the Interlochen Arts Camp.

Dr. Brownlow has been composing since the age of 16. He has nearly 75 compositions in his repertoire ranging from various solo and chamber works up to wind ensemble and orchestra. Many of his commissions have been premiered at several national and international conferences. His music has been played across the globe- from Thailand, throughout North and South America as well as much of Europe. All of his music is published with BCMP.

Ryan Charles Ramer is the Composer-In-Residence at Cleveland Public Theatre and is also a Cleveland Arts Prize Verge Fellow. He has been an active member of the Composer's Guild since 2012, and is the co-founder/composer for Gordon Square Classical Concerts. He is also a regular performer at CPT's monthly Dark Room Series and has had countless pieces performed for Cleveland Classical Revolution. Recent performances of his work have involved a focus on Eastern Asian themes include a song cycle for tenor and bassoon trio in January of poetry written by Jihadists and a dance for viola duet in February by Julliard duo Tallâ Rouge | طلالی سرخ. Last month he released a new album of works for reeds and voice called Quarantine Poems. Recordings of his music can be found on Spotify, Apple Music, and Youtube. Free downloads of his scores for voice, choir, piano, and chamber music are available from www.ryancharlesramer.com.

American composer **Monica (Niki) Houghton** grew up in Reno, Nevada. She earned A.B. and A.M. degrees from Harvard University and an M.M. in Composition from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she served on the faculty for nine years. Ms. Houghton was honored with an Individual Excellence Award from the Ohio Arts Council in 2007. Among the large ensembles which have commissioned and performed her works are the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, the Contemporary Youth Orchestra and the Reno Philharmonic. Nevada Chamber Opera presented the world premiere of her opera The Big Bonanza in April 2016. Houghton works have been performed live at music festivals around the country and the world, including the AKI Festival of New Music, Ernest Bloch Festival, Oregon Bach Festival, Virginia Arts Festival, and Shanghai Spring International Music Festival. Her music has been described as "evocative" and "full of feeling." A glance at her catalog reveals a wide range of influences inspiring her works, including nature, poetry, the visual arts, language, science and world events. For further information about the composer please visit www.monicaoughton.com.

The "stirring" (New York Times) and "intoxicating" (Philadelphia Inquirer) music of American composer **Alex Berko** (b. 1995) has been commissioned and performed by the Monterey Symphony, Cape Symphony, Bloomington Symphony, The Crossing, Conspirare, NOTUS Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, Miró Quartet, Del Sol String Quartet, and the Boston New Music Initiative among many others. His music has received national recognition from ASCAP, SCI, ACDA, The American Prize, The Television Academy Foundation, Cleveland Institute of Music, and more. Berko is a recent graduate of Rice University's Shepherd School of Music where he received his MM in composition. He holds a BM in composition with an outside concentration in piano and a certificate in entrepreneurship from Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. www.alexberko.com

James Wilding is of British heritage, and was born and raised in South Africa. He studied at the University of Cape Town, and later moved to the United States to continue his studies at Youngstown State University and Kent State University. His musical mentors were Neil Solomon, Stewart Young, Peter Klatzow, and Thomas Janson. Praised by the Cape Times as 'highly original,' Wilding's mastery of structure and lyricism, and his use of ethnic instruments, folk tunes, connections to art, photography, literature, and stories, capture audiences in the US and abroad. His work has been enthusiastically championed in Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Senegal, Germany, Holland, France, Switzerland, Britain, Canada, South Africa, and the USA, by such groups as the Stow Symphony Orchestra, the New York Middletown Wind Ensemble, the Harburger Orchester Akademie, the TEMPO ensemble, and the Chamber Music Society of Ohio. He has received commissions from Bayerischer Rundfunk, the South African Music Rights Organization, the Tuesday Musical Association, and the Orange County School of the Arts. Broadcasts of his music have taken place all over the world, including Bavaria Radio (Fürth), Fine Music Radio (Cape Town), SAFM (Johannesburg), WUOL (Louisville), and KKGO (Los Angeles). His piano pieces Etude and Poem were prescribed for the UNISA-Transnet International Piano Competition and the Hennie Joubert National Competition. He won the Oude Meester Prize for South African composers and the Chancellor's Trust Prize of Potchefstroom University. His music is published by Hal Leonard, Musica Ferrum, and Afri-Piano. Dr. Wilding teaches composition and theory at The University of Akron in Ohio. www.jameswilding.com

Inna Onofrei always loved to draw and wanted to follow in her grandfather's footsteps to become an artist, but then she fell in love with the music. She discovered a way to paint not on a canvas but with sound in the air. Her personal motto is *hands are my brushes, sound is my paint and air is my canvas*.

Onofrei is an Armenian-American composer and educator living in the Cleveland area. Her catalogue includes music for piano, choir, chamber ensembles, orchestra, solo instruments, as well as electronic and electro-acoustic works. Onofrei's music has been performed in Russia, the United States of America, and Greece.

Onofrei is currently working as a freelance composer and arranger, as well as an educator at Musicologie Cleveland Heights. One of her most recent projects includes an opera based on the Armenian legend "Ara the Beautiful", libretto by Tim Tibbitts. www.innaonofrei.com

At first glance, **Dr. Brian Taylor**'s life sounds like something out of a comic book. During the day, he is a mild-mannered scientist, engineer, and researcher. However, when he is not at work, Dr. Taylor is a trumpeter/flugelhornist, composer, and arranger. While his primary musical focus is jazz, Dr. Taylor enjoys and draws on many styles and genres, ranging from Debussy to Ellington, and bebop to R&B. As a high school student, Dr. Taylor studied trumpet with long-time New York educator Dr. Peter Archer, whose life and career was the real-life inspiration for the Disney film "Soul". During his undergraduate and graduate years at Case Western Reserve University, Dr. Taylor played and studied under the tutelage of trombonist/composer/arranger Paul Ferguson, currently the Artistic Director for the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra. Since his school days, Dr. Taylor has had the fortune to play with a variety of artists including the Paul Ferguson Jazz Orchestra, the Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, the Gary Wofsey Big Band, Phil Woods' bassist and three time Grammy winner Steve Gilmore, the late David Sheldner, and rising pianist Gino Rosaria. In 2016, Dr. Taylor released his debut album, "Spirito Sereno", consisting of three original compositions, and three jazz interpretations of music from "Les Misérables". Dr. Taylor is a triple alumnus of Case Western Reserve University, holding a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering with a Minor in Music (2005), and a M.S. (2009) and Ph.D. (2012) in Mechanical Engineering. When he is not playing or composing, Dr. Taylor is an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Case Western Reserve University. www.engineeringmusician.com

Sebastian Anthony Birch is a composer from Ohio with a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, where he studied with Donald Erb. Birch has composed numerous works for the stage, including the opera Ligeia and the musical Cricket on the Hearth. His commission for the city of Cleveland, The Hidden City, premiered with 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. Birch's song cycle, Trois Chansons, was performed at the New Music and Art Festival in Bowling

Green, Ohio. His piece Detectio Sonoris for flute and piano has been released on the Phasma Music label, and his string quartet, Life in a Day, has been performed by Cavani, Vórtice Ensemble, and Efferus.

Currently, Birch is an associate professor of music at Kent State University at Stark, where he teaches theory, composition, and piano.

Composer and flutist **Bryan Kennard** has written works for big band, classical and jazz chamber ensembles, and full orchestra. Bryan has taught courses in jazz, composition, and arranging at Youngstown State University and University of Miami. He is an active performer throughout Northeast Ohio. Recently, Bryan was appointed as Director of the BOP STOP at The Music Settlement. He received a DMA in Jazz Composition from the Univ. of Miami's Frost School of Music and holds degrees from the Univ. of Texas at Austin (MM), Youngstown State Univ. (MM), and Mercyhurst Univ. (BM). He has studied jazz composition and arranging with Gary Lindsay, Stephen Guerra, John Daversa, John Mills, and Dave Morgan. bryankennard.com



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GCFS Mission:

The Greater Cleveland Flute Society (GCFS) sponsors recitals, masterclasses, student festivals, and lectures throughout the year to promote flute education and instruction in the community at all levels. GCFS provides outreach activities to enhance awareness of music and the flute through performance and is actively involved in regional and national organizations. Its members include students, adults, teachers, amateur, and professional flutists, and corporate sponsors. The Greater Cleveland Flute Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Visit us at www.gcfs.org

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Checks should be made payable to GCFS. Send to:
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GCFS SPONSORS 2022-2023

 An advertisement for the Royalton Music Center. It features a purple border. At the top, it says "Discover an extensive suite of step-up & professional instruments at". In the center, there is a logo with a treble clef and the text "ROYALTON MUSIC CENTER". Below the logo, it says "take a **minor** drive & experience a **Major** difference". Underneath that, in green, it says "CALL US TODAY TO SCHEDULE YOUR PRIVATE APPOINTMENT". At the bottom left, there is a small logo for "Ohio's only Top 100 Music Store 9 years running". At the bottom right, it lists services: "Music • Rentals • Lessons • Repairs", "Kindermusik • Competitive School Bids", and "Accessories • Music Therapy • Pro Instruments". The address "10187 Royalton Rd. North Royalton, OH 44133 (440) 237-9400 | (877) RMC-1984 www.royaltonmusic.com" is also present.

An advertisement for Flute Specialists. On the left is a vertical image of a flute. To the right, the text "UNDYING PASSION" is in a large, bold, serif font, with "DESERVES MASTER CRAFT" in a smaller, sans-serif font below it. Below that is a logo with the word "FLUTE" in a large, bold, serif font and "SPECIALISTS" in a smaller, sans-serif font, with a small flute icon to the right. At the bottom, the website "WWW.FLUTESPECIALISTS.COM" is listed.

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