

presents

# **2023 FESTIVAL OPENING EVENT**

## Monday, January 30, 2023, 8:00 PM EST Marc Scorca Hall of the National Opera Center

hosted by Tania León founder & artistic director

## <u>Program</u>

Welcoming remarks by Tania León

2023 Composers Now Visionary Awards

Ellen Taaffe Zwilich (b. 1939)

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

#### 2023 Composers Now First Commission

Dorian Tabb (b. 2010)

Hymn for a Forgotten People (2023) World Premiere

Tamar Muskal (b. 1965), composer mentor

Bergamot Quartet Ledah Finck and Sarah Thomas, violins; Amy Tan, viola; and Irène Han, cello

funding for First Commission is graciously provided by Michael Minard and Phyllis Ross

Fall 2022 Collaborative Creative Residencies a project of the Pocantico Center of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Asian Cultural Council & Composers Now Tatyana Tenenbaum, Rally Cap Pictures: videography

> inti figgis-vizueta (b. 1993) & Wu Chien-Wei residency week: October 31 - November 5

Selma Savolainen (b. 1993) & Cheuk Wing Nam (b. 1983) residency week: November 7 - 12

#### Paola Marquez (b. 1978)

*Rosas for Rosi* New York Premiere Commissioned by the Puerto Rican / Latin American Cultural Center on the occasion of its 50th anniversary

> Intempo Ensemble Angélica Durrell, violin; Jon Garcia, trumpet; Jon Bush, piano

> > Gity Razaz (b.1986)

Metamorphosis of Narcissus (video presentation)

Seattle Symphony Orchestra Pablo Rus Broseta, conductor

**<u>Rick Baitz</u>** (b. 1954)

documentary and fiction films

David Virelles (b. 1983)

Nuna, selected solo works David Virelles, piano

#### **SPACE CADE7S**

Better Living & Earthbound

Hip-Hop Collective: Elliott Hall, drummer; Jeremy Hayden, bassist and vocalist; Tyler Yassky, Donte Hobbs, Malachi Elijah and Rico Luichiano, vocalists Basil Morgan, piano; Dave Fugel, flute

Post-concert conversations between composers, artists, and audience

Please join us for the post-concert reception





















### 2023 Composers Now Visionary Award Recipients

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941), composer, scholar and musician. His An American Port of Call was performed by the Boston Symphony Orchestra in March of this year. Recent compositions include The World Called (based on Rita Dove's poem Testimonial), a work for soprano, chorus and orchestra commissioned by the Oratorio Society of Virginia (premiered in May 2018) and Still Holding On (February 2019) an orchestra work commissioned and premiered by the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He is currently working on A Knee on the Neck (tribute to George Floyd) for chorus and orchestra and his fourth symphony. In addition to the Boston Symphony and Los Angeles Philharmonic, Hailstork's works have been performed by major orchestras including Philadelphia, Chicago and New York and by leading conductors including James de Priest, Paul Freeman, Daniel Barenboim, Kurt Mazur, Lorin Mazel, Jo Ann Falletta and David Lockington. His second and third symphonies were recorded by the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra and released on the Naxos label. Hailstork received his doctorate in composition from Michigan State University, where he was a student of H. Owen Reed, with prior studies at the Manhattan School of Music, under Vittorio Giannini and David Diamond, at the American Institute at Fontainebleau with Nadia Boulanger, and at Howard University with Mark Fax. Dr. Hailstork resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia and is Professor of Music and Eminent Scholar at Old Dominion University in Norfolk. www.adolphushailstork.com

Ellen Taaffe Zwilich (b. 1939) is a composer whose music is performed, recorded, broadcast and – above all – listened to and liked by all sorts of audiences the world over. Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians [8th edition] states: "There are not many composers in the modern world who possess the lucky combination of writing music of substance and at the same time exercising an immediate appeal to mixed audiences. Zwilich offers this happy combination of purely technical excellence and a distinct power of communication." Writing in virtually all media, her works have been performed by most of the leading American orchestras and by major ensembles abroad. Her works include five Symphonies and a string of concertos commissioned and performed over the past two decades by the nation's top orchestras. Zwilich is the recipient of numerous prizes and honors, including the 1983 Pulitzer Prize in Music (the first woman ever to receive this coveted award), the Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Chamber Music Prize, the Arturo Toscanini Music Critics Award, the Ernst von Dohnányi Citation, an Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Guggenheim Fellowship, four Grammy nominations, the Alfred I. Dupont Award, Miami Performing Arts Center Award, the Medaglia d'oro in the G.B. Viotti Competition and the NPR and WNYC Gotham Award for her contributions to the musical life of New York City. Among other distinctions, Ms. Zwilich has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 1995, she was named to the first Composer's Chair in the history of Carnegie Hall, and she was designated Musical America's Composer of the Year for 1999. Ms. Zwilich, who holds a doctorate from The Juilliard School, currently holds the Krafft Distinguished Professorship at Florida State University. www.zwilich.com

## 2023 Composers Now First Commission Award

**Dorian Tabb** (b. 2010) began his piano studies at age four and started composing one year later. A frequent performer of his own compositions and improvisations, in 2020 he was the youngest composer to be featured on "Tokyo to New York: Moments in Time," Thomas Piercy's benefit concert for Covid-19 musicians' relief, with his solo clarinet work, "Exploration," which later received its live premiere at Bargemusic. He currently studies piano with Lora Tchekoratova, conducting with Scott Wiley and is enrolled in the Very Young Composers "Bridge" program at the New York Philharmonic. Previous teachers have included Marc Peloquin, Avner Arad and Max Grafe at the Lucy Moses School. His quintet, The Journey Home, was premiered at David Geffen Hall in Oct. 2022.

Tamar Muskal (b. 1965) is a composer and violist, educated in Israel and the US. Her music harmonizes the unique cultural aspects of both places in a counterpoint style, carefully structured and with great attention to detail. Recent and future commissions include a double concerto for saxophone and viola for the Williamsport Symphony, a work for percussionist Steve Schick and a digital/interactive sculpture by Daniel Rozin, music for a 50-minute film for the historic, silent, black and white film about the Mexican revolution, a song cycle commissioned by ASCAP and music for a documentary film about finding a cure for blindness (narrated by Robert Redford). Her piece Yellow Wind (2007) was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Ms. Muskal also focuses on music for theater; recent works include "Angels in America" performed in Cincinnati, "The Labor of Life" and "The Seven Beggars" performed at La Mama Theater in New York, and "Cristabel" and "Trojan Women" performed in New Haven. *www.tamarmuskal.com* 

**Bergamot Quartet** is fueled by a passion for exploring and advocating for the music of living composers, continually expanding the limits of the string quartet's rich tradition in western classical music. With a priority given to music by women, the ensemble aims to place this new, genre-bending music in meaningful dialogue with the histories that precede it with creative programming, community-oriented audience building, and frequent commissioning. Bergamot values partnership and collaboration as a vital element of its creative work. 2022 season highlights were the release of its debut album, In The Brink, on New Focus Recordings featuring a work by member Ledah Finck with percussionist Terry Sweeney as guest artist, a co-commission of Darian Thomas with Sō Percussion as part of Sō's Flexible Commissions project, appearances at the NY City Center with NYC Ballet principal dancer Tiler Peck, performances at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, and the participation at the Klangspuren Chamber Lab in Innsbruck. The ensemble is particularly excited about helping young people discover their potential as music creators. Recent engagements include residencies at The Peabody Institute, Princeton University, Towson University, and being the 2020-2021 virtual ensemble-in-residence for the Junior Bach program at the Peabody Institute and for MATA Jr. 2021. Bergamot Quartet is Ledah Finck and Sarah Thomas, violins; Amy Tan, viola; and Irène Han, cello. Founded at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore in 2016, Bergamot Quartet is based in New York City and was the Graduate String Quartet in Residence at the Mannes School of Music for 2020-2022. www.bergamotquartet.com

## Fall 2022 Collaborative Creative Residencies

inti figgis-vizueta (b.1993) writes magically real music through the lens of personal identities, braiding a childhood of overlapping immigrant communities and Black-founded Freedom schools -- in Chocolate City (DC) -- with direct Andean and Irish heritage and a deep connection to the land. Her musical practice is physical and visceral, attempting to reconcile historical aesthetics and experimental practices with trans and indigenous futures. Recent activities include collaborations with Roomful of Teeth at MASS MOcA and a residency with Sö Percussion and a music fellowship from the Civitella Ranieri Foundation. Upcoming projects include new works for the Kronos Quartet and American Composers Orchestra with the Attacca Quartet. Prior commissions include works for the LA Philharmonic, JACK Quartet, Crash Ensemble, Jennifer Koh, Matt Haimovitz and Andrew Yee. Her music has been featured by International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), Music at Copland House in spaces including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center and the New Latin Wave Festival and on violinist Jennifer Koh's 2021 GRAMMY Award-winning album Alone Together as well as cellist Matt Haimovitz's 2021 GRAMMY-nominated album Primavera I: the Wind. She has served as a composer mentor for Luna Composition Lab and the Boulanger Initiative and served as composition faculty for the 2021-22 Altlanticx Composition Festival and studied privately with Marcos Balter, George Lewis, Donnacha Dennehy, and Felipe Lara, among others. www.initcomposes.com

**Wu Chien-Wei** received his graduate degree from the Graduate Institute of Dance Performance at Taipei National University of the Arts, where he studied under Professors Lo Men-Fei, Zhang Xiao-Xiong, and Wu Su-Jun. During his career, he has been a full-time troupe member of Compagnie Käfig in France and the Taipei Crossover Dance Company in Taiwan. Today, Wu is the director of Tussock Dance Company, dividing his attention between performance and creative work, theatre, and film. His 2008 work Aurora won the Australian Choreography Competition Jury Honor Award, while Development and Restructuring won the 2014 Taiwan Creative Dance Competition. Wu established Tussock Dance Company in 2013, and in the same year, the company's inaugural work Two Bodies earned a Taishin Art Award nomination. Tussock's second production, Embers, repeated this feat the next year. In 2017, Wu was nominated for the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative and was one of the final five contestants in the dance category. In 2019, he received the Lo Men-Fei Dance Grant. *@awei\_wu\_taiwan* 

Selma Savolainen (b.1993) is a vocalist and composer hailing from Finland. Growing up as an only child in a family devoted to artistic endeavors has encouraged her to approach musicmaking with an open mind and curiosity. Even though her musical roots lay in jazz, diverse influences from other genres can be heard in her singing and writing. Savolainen is an alumna of the Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead program and the Banff International Workshop for Jazz and Creative Music. She has studied at the Sibelius Academy and the Conservatory of Paris. In 2022 Savolainen was awarded with the Rising Talent Prize by the Pori Jazz Festival. Her latest work includes artistic production for folk-duo Akkajee, choir arrangements for indie group Karina & big band compositions for UMO Helsinki Jazz Orchestra. Currently Savolainen is working on a solo piece "The Imaginary Ladies" which explores female characters in literature as subjects of songwriting, as shapers of womanhood and as imaginary friends. *www.selmasavolainen.com* 

Cheuk Wing Nam (b. 1983) (also known as Chang May Wing Joy) is an interdisciplinary artist who is devoted to developing her artwork through new concepts of mixing sound and other media with modern computer technology. She graduated with a master's degree of Visual Arts (Studio Art and Extended Media) from Hong Kong Baptist University. Cheuk has exhibited and/or performed at Sonic Environment 2016 (Brisbane, Australia), Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK, Switzerland), XXX Gallery, 22 Degrees North, Connecting Spaces, floating projects, and Hong Kong Baptist University. She was selected to participate in the Sonic Transmission Artist Exchange Project 2016 by Contemporary Musiking Hong Kong (CMHK). Recently, her works were selected for exhibition in Art Central, Art Jakarta, and the 2021-22 Asia Society Triennial. *www.evilagnivv.com* 

Paola Marquez (b. 1978) is a Colombian composer, psychologist and social worker. She has earned two master's degrees, one in Composition at Syracuse University, where she received the 2008 Heaton Fellowship, and the other in Social Work at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where she received the 2014 Eleanor Cranefield Scholarship. She has made a name for herself in all three of her professional fields, combining her understanding of each to enrich her work across them all, her artistic leanings influencing her style as a social worker and psychologist, and her passion for social work and psychology influencing her art. Her mentors Jorge Pinzon, Dr. Daniel Godfrey, helped Paola understand how to use her passion for human psychology as inspiration for her work, creating a unique bridge linking art, music, and social issues. She has written film, orchestral, chamber, choir, and vocal compositions, many of which have been performed in several cities in Colombia, Canada, Australia, and the U.S. Her music has been part of projects for the Ruth Ellis Center sponsored by Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings, Syracuse Children's Chorus, Detroit Choir, Tree House Ensemble; Society of New Music from 2009-2012, MUSE Cincinnati's Women's Choir, Lima Symphony Orchestra, the University of Michigan en Español concert series and Boston Unitas Ensemble Orchestra at "Mujeres Concert" conducted by Lina Gonzalez-Granados. In further recognition, Marquez earned the Honorable Mention Citation at the International Music Prize for Excellence in Composition Competition in 2011 in Greece. Currently, Paola Marquez works as an educator, composer and Marshall Goldsmith certified executive coach at Marquis Executive Coaching. Paola is the Assistant Director at Michigan State University Community Music School-Detroit, and Co-Vice Chair for INTEMPO in Stamford, Connecticut. www.pmarquezmusic.com

Angélica Durrell, an Ecuadorian-born violinist, educator and social entrepreneur, is the founder and CEO of INTEMPO, an organization dedicated to making music education relevant, accessible and inclusive using folkloric and classical music and instrumentation. Under her leadership, INTEMPO was a 2016 and 2017 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award finalist and recently won the 2022 Accelerator Award from the Lewis Prize for Music. Durrell has trained under the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures (NALAC) Advocacy Leadership Institute, National Arts Strategies, and was an inaugural fellow of Sphinx LEAD, a national executive leadership program. She has given talks on social entrepreneurship at Princeton University and University of Michigan, among others. In 2017 she became the first Latina commissioner of the City of Stamford's Arts and Culture Commission. She serves as artist ambassador for SpreadMusicNow. Durrell's artistic highlights include performing at the Wounded Knee memorial and an invitation to perform for Pope Francis on his first visit to Latin America in Quito-Ecuador in 2015. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Violin Performance from the University of Connecticut. She is currently pursuing a Master's of Business Administration degree (MBA) from Sacred Heart University.

Jon Garcia is a Brooklyn-born trumpeter who spent his childhood years in Aguada, Puerto Rico. At the age of 9, Jon and his family migrated to Meriden, Connecticut. There, Jon learned trumpet and continued to build his passion for Latin music by learning how to play guitar, bass, piano and drums at church. In 2009 he joined his first salsa band, Kultura Boricua, and later became its music director and arranger. Jon has shared the stage with artists such as A Decade of Soul, Tony Vega, The Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Victor Manuel, Oscar de Leon, Frankie Negron, Los Hermanos Moreno, amongst others. He has also performed in Medellin, Colombia with Johnny Zamot at Las Leyendas de la Salsa concert in Plaza Macarena. Jon has been featured as the guest National Anthem solo performer on nationally televised ESPN games featuring National Champions UConn basketball teams. In 2017, he joined B.B. King's All-Stars band, aboard the Holland America Line cruise ships. Jon currently teaches beginning band in Wilton, CT and can be found freelancing around the NY Tri-State area as an S.E. Shires Performing Artist. He serves as the Equity and Advocacy Chair for CT Music Educators Association (CMEA). Garcia graduated from the University of Connecticut, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and a Bachelor of Arts in Music. He obtained his master's degree at Full Sail University in Florida.

Joseph Bush, pianist, has played in numerous venues across diverse genres. He is the artist-in-residence at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Newburgh, New York, and helped revive and develop its choral program. In 2016 he debuted with the South Bend Symphony alongside his teacher, Alexander Toradze, playing the first movement of Prokofiev's 3rd Piano concerto. Bush has taken part in the Wendell P. Whalum recital series at the Hampton University Ministers Conference. In 2018, he was featured in the Howland Chamber Music Circle pop-up concert accompanying cellist Daniel Frankhuizen and soprano Rachel Hall. In 2020 he won second place in the National Association of Negro Musicians (NANM) New York regional competition, where he received the national encouragement prize. Bush is a sought after accompanist in Fairfield County and the greater New York area, and currently maintains a piano studio of over 50 students. Joseph Bush is a graduate of the University of Connecticut, where he studied under Irma Vallecillo. He received his master's degree in piano performance from Indiana University, where he studied under Alexander Toradze.

**Gity Razaz** (b. 1986) is an Iranian-American composer whose music has been hailed by The New York Times as "ravishing and engulfing". Her music ranges from concert solo pieces to large symphonic works. With intense melodies and inventive harmonic languages, Razaz's compositions are often dramatically charged. As described by John Corigliano: "...her Middle Eastern roots have merged with her Western sensibilities to produce music that is both original and startling. She is on her way to becoming a major force in contemporary music." Gity is an active collaborator involved in projects across disciplines from opera and modern ballet to electro-acoustic sonic landscapes. Recent projects have included an opera commission from the Washington National Opera, "The Kreutzer Sonata" a 60-minute original score for Ballet Moscow based on Tolstoy's novella of the same title, a sextet for Latitude 49 commissioned by Chamber Music of America, a work for violinist Francesca DePasquale and the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society based on the poetry of Pablo Neruda, as well as a commission for Brooklyn Youth Chorus' "She Is Called: Dear Stranger" project. Recent commissions include an upcoming piece for Alisa Weilerstein and her ground-breaking project "Fragments," a 2021 commission from BBC Symphony Orchestra under Sakari Oramo for the prestigious Last Night of the BBC Proms at London's Royal Albert Hall and a new work for world-renowned flautist Sharon Bezaly and the United Strings of Europe. Aside from her ongoing engagements in composition, Ms. Razaz is also active as a teacher and an educator. She has appeared as a guest artist presenting master classes across the nation while teaching piano, composition and music theory privately in New York. Ms. Razaz joined the faculty of Ramapo College of New Jersey, where she taught music theory and ear training in 2012-2013 and served on the advisory committee for the American Federation of Teachers Graduate Scholarship. From 2017-2021, Ms. Razaz offered composition teaching and mento

**Rick Baitz** (b. 1954) composes for the moving image, the concert hall, dance and theater. Among his media credits are the award-winning documentary "What She Said: The Art of Pauline Kael" (2020), HBO's "The Vagina Monologues", plus recent scores for installations at the FDR Presidential Library and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. Other credits include the Sundance-honored "The Education of Shelby Knox" and National Geographic's "The New Chimpanzees" and "Heart of Africa". Among Rick's concert works are his Juilliard-commissioned quintet River of January, which was awarded the Grand Prize of the Delius Composition Contest, and termed a "glowing jewel of a new score" by The New York Times. Rick's album of electro-acoustic chamber pieces, Into Light, released on the Innova label in 2018 and features his string quartet Chthonic Dances, his percussion quartet with live electronics, Hall of Mirrors, and his eponymous trio, Into Light. Most recently, his quintet (also with electronics) Music For A Sacred Space, was premiered in 2022 at Juilliard's "Beyond The Machine" concert series, and has been recorded for release in the Summer of 2023. In 2018 Rick was honored with BMI's "Classic Contribution Award" in recognition of his years as Founding Director of their workshop "Composing For The Screen: A Film Scoring Mentorship Program." Rick also teaches "Scoring to Picture" at the Juilliard Extension Division and is faculty and former Chair of Vermont College of Fine Arts' MFA in Music Composition. Raised in Los Angeles, Rio de Janeiro and Durban, South Africa, Rick has worked as a deckhand on a dredger in Durban and a cab driver in New York City. He received his Bachelor's and Master's in Composition from Manhattan School of Music and his DMA from Columbia University. He composes and teaches out of his studio in New York City. *Www.rickbaitz.com* 

David Virelles (b. 1983) is a New York-based composer and pianist who grew up in a musical family in Santiago de Cuba, steeped in the music of the Afro - Caribbean diaspora and Western classical music. Having been invited to Canada by Jane Bunnett in 2001, Virelles relocated to Toronto where he eventually graduated from Humber College. He worked extensively all over Canada with his own groups and as a sideman. Moving to the United States in 2009, David organically brings together Cuban folkloric and New York improvisational worlds, an interest that started when he was 14. While he views his work as "a hundred percent traditional," drawing from multiple traditions, in practice, he is creating a syncretic new personal music, rather than a mixture of elements or a recreation. Besides his solo work, he has also worked with Henry Threadgill, Ravi Coltrane, Andrew Cyrille, Reggie Workman, Oliver Lake, Bill Frisell, Román Díaz, Tomasz Stanko, Stanley Cowell, Terri Lyne Carrington, Sam Rivers, Chucho Valdés, Milford Graves, Chris Potter, Tom Harrell, Wadada Leo Smith, Steve Coleman, Mark Turner, Paul Motian, Marcus Gilmore, Hermeto Pascoal, Changuito and Juan Pablo Torres, among others. David's 2012 CD, Continuum, was listed as a Best Album of 2012 in The New York Times. He has released three records on the Munich label ECM to critical acclaim, documenting a wide artistic range – Mbóko, Antenna and Gnosis. His release, Igbó Alákorin (The Singer's Grove) Vol I & II, is a celebration of the musical history of Santiago de Cuba. It was named Best Latin Jazz album by NPR in 2017. Virelles latest album is NUNA (El Tivoli Music/ Pi Recordings), an exploration of the solo piano setting. He is a Shifting Foundation Fellow, a recipient of the Canada Council for the Arts, Louis Applebaum Award, Cristobal Díaz Ayala Travel Grant and The Jazz Gallery Commission. He has been named '#1 Rising Star' in the Piano category by DownBeat and 'Artist of the Year' by Musica Jazz Magazine (Italy). While a student at Humber College in Toronto

**SPACE CADE7S** is a seven piece hip hop collective based in Brooklyn, NY. Its members balance a diverse blend of voices along with live instrumentation. The ensemble has created a sound revolving around a fusion of Hip Hop, Soul and R&B. With a deep love for the culture and history of hip hop, the artists carry the old school torch with a new school sound. Beneath an explosive on stage energy, the message of SPACE CADE7S is always centered around love, positivity and inclusion. The collective is composed of: Elliott Hall, drummer; Jeremy Hayden, bassist and vocalist; Mike Brightly, guitarist; and Tyler Yassky, Donte Hobbs, Malachi Elijah and Rico Luichiano, vocalists. The Collective has a non-profit, The Good Lives Foundation. With added support from NYSCA, the goal of the non-profit is to provide youth mentorship through musical arts workshops in the greater NYC area. www.spacecade7s.com

## Composers Now Team

Tania León, artistic director Chitra Arunasalam, finance David Bridges, website management Simon M. Brown, technical direction Isaiah Cuesta, stage management Marcello Di Russo, development and technical assistance Amy Roberts Frawley, programs and initiatives consultant Béatriz Hernández, production David Hernandez, social media Taya Higgs, technical direction Andrew Porter, stage management



**WQXR** is a media partner of Composers Now, empowering living composers through virtual and live events where music of today, its creators, performers and audiences meet.

Composers Now is an organization that empowers all living composers, celebrates the diversity of their voices, and honors the significance of their artistic contributions to the cultural fabric of society.

We proudly acknowledge the support of our funders:

The Amphion Foundation The ASCAP Foundation Howard Gilman Foundation The Cheswatyr Foundation Michael Minard and Phyllis Ross Newburgh Institute for the Arts and Ideas The Rockefeller Brothers Fund Alexander Sanger The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation The Witherspoon Fund



Composers Now is actively engaged in diversity, equity and inclusion in all of its practices, initiatives and programs.

www.composersnow.org