

# Composers Now 2022 Festival Virtual Opening Event

Thursday, January 27th, 7pm (EST), streamed event



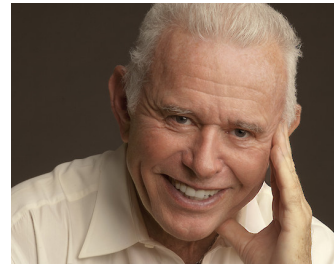
photo by Gail Hadani

hosted by  
**Tania León**  
founder/artistic director

## The 2022 Visionary Awards

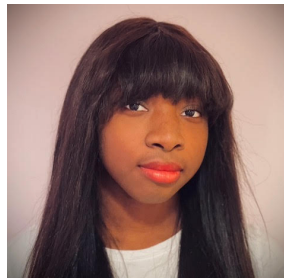


**Mary Watkins**



**David Del Tredici**

## The 2022 First Commission Award



**Ebun Oguntola**

## The December 2021 Collaborative Creative Residency



**Seong Ae Kim & Andre Veloux**

and works by



**Rohan Chander**



**Joy Guidry**



**Jonathan Saraga**

# Composers Now 2022 Festival Virtual Opening Event

Thursday, January 27th, 7pm (EST), streamed event

## Program

### Welcome and Opening Remarks

Tania León

### The 2022 Visionary Awards

David Del Tredici (b. 1937)  
(video courtesy of Boosey & Hawkes)

Mary Watkins (b. 1939)  
"Mamie's Lament" from "Emmett Till: The Opera" (2019)  
Lucia Bradford, mezzo-soprano

"Pap's Song" from the opera "Dark River: The Fannie Lou Hamer Story" (2009)  
Philip Lima, baritone; Andrea Chinedu Nwoke, soprano  
Mount Holyoke Symphony Orchestra  
Ng Tian Hui, conductor; Darryl V. Jones, director  
dress rehearsal, April 2014

### The 2022 First Commission Award

Ebun Oguntola (b. 2005)

Interim (2022) for trio and electronics  
Jonathan Hulting-Cohen, soprano saxophone; Erin Rogers, alto saxophone; Zach Herchen, baritone saxophone  
world premiere

*Erin Rogers, composer mentor*

*Award made possible through the generosity of Michael Minard and Phyllis Ross*

### The December 2021 Collaborative Creative Residency

Seong Ae Kim, composer & Andre Veloux, visual artist

a joint initiative of the Pocantico Center of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Composers Now

### The Tragedy of Hikikomori Loveless (2021) for electronics

Rohan Chander (b. 1998)  
Vicky Chow, keyboards

### Face to Face (2022)

Joy Guidry (b. 1995)

### Recurring Dream (2012/2021 quartet arrangement)

Jonathan Saraga (b. 1987)  
Jonathan Saraga, trumpet; Chris Pattishall, piano; James Robbins, bass; Mark Whitfield Jr., drums  
January 11, 2022; Douglas Recording, NYC  
Scott Chiu, video recording & production

## About the artists

Generally recognized as the father of the Neo-Romantic movement in music, **David Del Tredici** has received numerous awards and has been commissioned and performed by nearly every major American and European orchestral ensemble. He was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1980 for *In Memory of a Summer Day* for soprano and orchestra. Much of his early work consisted of elaborate vocal settings of James Joyce and Lewis Carroll. More recently, Del Tredici has set to music a cavalcade of contemporary American poets, often celebrating a gay sensibility. CDs abound: on Deutsche Grammophon, an all-Del Tredici CD featuring conductor Oliver Knussen, soprano Lucy Shelton and the Netherlands' ASKO Ensemble; on the Music and Arts label, a pair of recent Del Tredici song cycles featuring soprano Hila Plitmann with the composer at the piano; on Dorian, *In Wartime*, a spectacular work for concert band; and on Koch, a selection of piano compositions played by Anthony de Mare. Among past recordings were two best-sellers: *Final Alice* and *In Memory of a Summer Day (Part I of Child Alice)*. In 2012, Naxos released an album of solo piano works, including *Ballad in Lavender* and *Gotham Glory*, performed by Marc Peloquin. March 2012 marked Del Tredici's 75th birthday with performances of *Final Alice* at the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, *Syzygy* at Carnegie Hall with the San Francisco Symphony, and celebratory portrait concerts in New York. His 70th birthday in March 2007 featured major events throughout the year, including the premieres of *Magyar Madness*, a chamber piece commissioned by Music Accord for clarinetist David Krakauer and the Orion String Quartet, and *S/M Ballade* for solo piano, which was performed by Marc Peloquin at Symphony Space in New York City. Del Tredici has been on the faculties of Harvard and Boston Universities, and for more than 25 years, Distinguished Professor of Music at The City College of New York. He lives in Manhattan's West Village. His music is published exclusively by Boosey & Hawkes.

[www.daviddeltredici.com](http://www.daviddeltredici.com)

Composer **Mary Watkins** most recent work, "Emmett Till: The Opera", inspired by the 1955 lynching of fourteen year old Emmett Till, was a creative collaboration with librettist Clare Coss. A concert presentation at John Jay College's Gerald W. Lynch Theater NYC is planned for March 2022. Watkins and Coss received the NYC GRIOT Circle's 2019 Changemaker Award for their collaboration, and Watkins received a 2020 Opera America Discovery Award. She was trained in classical music at Howard University and has written for symphony orchestra, chamber and jazz ensembles, opera, film, theatre, and choral groups. Watkins wrote the score and libretto for her opera "Dark River: The Fannie Lou Hamer Story", premiered in California at the Oakland Opera Theater in November 2009 with Deirdre McClure conducting. The opera's East Coast premiere was coproduced by WomenArts and the Mount Holyoke College Music Department in April 2014 with Ng Tian Hui conducting. Watkins composed "Queen Clara", an opera based on the life of Clara Barton with libretto by Lance Belville. Mary Watkins' music has been performed by the Berkeley Symphony Chamber Orchestra; Rohnert Park Symphony; Palo Alto Philharmonic; Richmond (VA) Chamber Orchestra; Women's Philharmonic Orchestra; Camellia Symphony Orchestra; Plymouth Symphony, and The New Black Music Repertory Ensemble of Chicago, among others. Her recent recordings include *Prayer for Peace*, a meditative CD, and *Music of the African Diaspora* (Albany Records, 2010; Center for Black Music Research; Department of Columbia College in Chicago, IL). A popular recording artist and cofounder of Olivia records in the 1970s, she also composed the scores for numerous award-winning films such as *Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter*, *Straight from the Heart*, *Freedom on My Mind*, and *Ethnic Notions*. Watkins composed, arranged, and was music director for a "jazz" adaptation of Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* for the San Francisco Dance Brigade's *Revolutionary Nutcracker Sweetie*, performed as an annual holiday special for over a decade.

[www.marydwatkins.com](http://www.marydwatkins.com)

**Ebun Oguntola** is a 16-year-old composer, conductor, violinist, pianist, and high school junior. She was brought to the attention of Composers Now by composers Missy Mazzoli and Ellen Reid, founders of the innovative program Luna Lab that supports young creators. As a Luna Lab Fellow during the 2019 - 2020 season: her mentor was composer Reena Esmail; there were masterclasses with Caroline Shaw and Natalie Joachim; the orchestral work *Dimensions* was recorded and received its premiere with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Derrick Skye (2021), followed by a chamber version that received its premiere, also in 2021, on NPR's *From The Top*, and at the Bergen International Festival; and an introduction to Johnny Gandelsman led to two projects - the commission and premiere of a solo violin work with Chamber Music Pittsburgh (2022) and Oguntola's own curation of an online pandemic project. She attended the NYSSMA Conference All-State in 2021 and attended Junior High Area All State and Junior High All County (second year as concertmaster) two years in a row. She is currently enrolled in a program for young conductors with the Eastman School of Music and conducted her high school orchestra in a performance of her string work *Tiptoes* for string orchestra in 2021, and will be conducting a piece in the Symphoria Young Artist Orchestra in 2022. Also upcoming is writing a quartet for piano, viola, cello, and flute as part of Salastina's *Sounds Promising* professional development program. Additionally, Oguntola is a violinist in the Symphoria Young Artist Orchestra. Her work has been endorsed by and included in *I CARE IF YOU LISTEN*, *Music by Black Composers (MBC)*, and *WSYR-TV*. When not engaging with music, her other interests include math and computer science.

[www.ebunoguntola.com](http://www.ebunoguntola.com)

Based in New York City, **Erin Rogers** is a Canadian American saxophonist, composer, and improviser dedicated to new and experimental music. Her work ranges from chamber music performance to solo experimental improvisation to individual and collaborative compositions that incorporate live electronics, theatre, and text. Rogers' music has been performed at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Elbphilharmonie (Hamburg), Roulette Intermedium, Centro Nacional de las Artes (Mexico City), Celebrity Series (Boston), the MATA, Ecstatic, and Prototype Festivals (NY), wasteLAnd (LA), Winspear Centre (Edmonton), Resonanzraum (Germany), French Quarter Festival (New Orleans), Gardner Museum (Boston), Circulo de Bellas Artes (Madrid), and NyMusikk Bergen (Norway). Rogers is co-artistic director of the NYC-based performance ensembles thingNY, New Thread Quartet, Hypercube, Popebama, and is a member of LA-based Wild Up. "A consummate collaborator" (*The New Yorker*), Rogers crosses genres from music-theatre-to-dance-to-installation-to-silence in her work with Abilities Dance Boston, Orange Theatre, Panoply Performance Lab, Harvestworks, Experiments-in-Opera, Decoder, HERE Arts Center, and Music for Contemplation. She has received commissions and honors from The Barlow Endowment, Library of Congress, Robert Bielecki Foundation, Copland House, ASCAP, and the Jerome Foundation. *2000 Miles*, her recent solo album, was listed in *Best Experimental Music on Bandcamp* (October 2021). Rogers is a D'Addario Woodwinds and Conn-Selmer artist and Manhattan School of Music Contemporary Performance Program faculty member.

[www.erinrogers.com](http://www.erinrogers.com)

**Seong Ae Kim** is a Korean-born composer based in New York City. She has received commissions from internationally acclaimed ensembles and soloists such as Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, Amanda Gookin, Forward Music Project, Parhelion Trio, Hypercube, Ensemble Mise-en, Iktus Percussion+, Ensemble Pan, Multicultural Sonic Evolution, Josh Perry, Vasko Dukovsky, Kelley Barnett, and Jessica Kunttu, among others. Her music has been presented internationally on concert stages including Merkin Hall, Opera America's National Opera Center, Herbert von Karajan Centrum (Vienna, Austria), Seoul Arts Center (Seoul, South Korea), National Olympic Memorial Youth Center in Tokyo (Japan), Alte Schmiede (Vienna, Austria), and Culture Tank Park (Seoul, South Korea) among others. As an advocate for social justice, she uses her creative voice, music and collaborations to address current social crises. Through these pieces, Seong Ae's goal is to encourage those who are marginalized and voiceless to stand up and to empower them to assert their basic human rights. Another large focus of recent works has been a focus on amplifying self-truth. #MeToo (2018), the other untold story (2019), Percée (2018) and Collocation (2018) are self-confessional in nature. These four pieces aim to tell her own stories of past breakthroughs and to create safe spaces to share vulnerabilities that connect us all as human beings. Kim holds a Ph.D. in music composition from Stony Brook University, Mdiv from Drew University and an MA and BA in both composition and conducting from University for Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, Austria.  
[www.seongaekim.com](http://www.seongaekim.com)

**Andre Veloux** explores gender, women's rights, and consent issues as a visual artist using the medium of Lego bricks. His mission is to take his art to live audiences who can interact intimately with the artwork and with other members of the audience. His "Pause" live art event in collaboration with Princeton University took place in February 2019, and student campuses will remain an important target audience for Andre going forward. Veloux's works include 2 dimensional striated and soft-palette imagery with subtle messaging, alongside 3-dimensional portrait works and series such as "Freedom Without Judgment". The latter references pop art, depicting bold images built from pixels and leverages the 3-dimensional opportunity coming from the medium. These bold images comment on beauty, fashion choices, and societal pressures inflicted on young women. Andre also coined the term "Anti-portrait" to label a series of female figures depicted showing their backs, emphasizing their vulnerability to 'the male gaze'. He has shown at SCOPE Miami, been represented at Krause Gallery, New York, New York since 2016, and Parlor Gallery in New Jersey since being chosen by Jonathan Levine for their 2014 Juried Show. Andre created a podcast "Velouinous" to spotlight women he has personally connected with and been inspired by during his art career, to bring their voices to a wider audience. Veloux's work has been featured on *Insider Art*, *Vice*, *Aspire Design and Home Magazine*, *Quiet Lunch*, *Blended NYC*, *Curated by Girls*, *The Tax Collection*, *WideWalls*, *Little Things TV* and many others. He was the first artist in residence at Princeton Public Library (2018) and was also awarded a 2-week artist residency at Bethany Arts Community in Ossining, NY in 2021.  
[www.veloux.com](http://www.veloux.com)

**Rohan Chander** (aka AIYYER) is a composer and creative artist based in New York and Los Angeles. His work concerns the positioning of personal experience upon post digital culture, calling attention to identity, body, performativity, and bias. Rohan's primary engagement with genre space as a vehicle for critique of community against the self creates larger, often extra-terrestrial narratives about methods for self-actualization. His work attempts to grapple with how these processes enable a malleable understanding of identity while recognizing our responsibility towards community, equity, and expressive liberty. Rohan has been commissioned by organizations such as the Barlow Endowment for Music Composition, the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association, the Matt Marks Impact Fund as well as Bang on a Can, and has had works performed by the International Contemporary Ensemble, Alarm Will Sound, Chromic duo, So Percussion, and Bearthoven. He was recently named a finalist for the 2022 Gaudeamus Award for his upcoming solo album to be released by Cantaloupe Music spring 2022. Rohan also has served as the production manager for the Wet Ink Ensemble.  
[www.rohanchander.com](http://www.rohanchander.com)

**Vicky Chow** has been described as "one of our era's most brilliant pianists" (*Pitchfork*). Her mission is to advocate for living composers by commissioning, recording, and performing their works. Since joining the Bang on a Can All-Stars in 2009, she has collaborated and worked with artists/ensembles such as the International Contemporary Ensemble, The Knights, Meredith Monk, Tyshawn Sorey, Andy Akiho, John Zorn, Steve Reich, Wet Ink Ensemble, Yarn/Wire, Momenta Quartet, to name a few. In 2022, Chow will be releasing three new solo albums (Philip Glass: Piano Etudes Book 1 in celebration of his 85th Birthday, Jane Antonia Cornish: Sierra, and Michael Gordon: July) on the Cantaloupe Label and her other recordings can be found on the Nonesuch, New Amsterdam, Tzadik, among others. During the pandemic, she worked with Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company on a new production "Afterwardsness" which premiered at the Park Avenue Armory October 2020. Upcoming performances in Spring 2022 include performances at the Big Ears Festival, Emerald City Music, the premiere of a new concerto by Kristis Auznieks in Latvia, tours with Bang on a Can All-Stars and Meredith Monk in Europe, as well album release concerts at Roulette in Brooklyn. Originally from Vancouver, Canada, she is based in Brooklyn, NY. She serves as faculty at the Bang on a Can Summer Institute and has been on faculty at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. Chow is on the Board of Advisors for Composers Now and is also a mentor at The Juilliard School. A graduate of The Juilliard School (B.M. '05, M.M '07 Piano Performance) and The Manhattan School of Music (M.M. Contemporary Performance '09) She is a Yamaha Artist.  
[www.vickychow.com](http://www.vickychow.com)

Radical self-love, compassion, laughter, and the drive to amplify Black artmakers and noisemakers comprise the core of NYC-based composer and bassoonist **Joy Guidry's** work. Their performances have been hailed by *The San Diego Tribune* as "lyrical and haunting...hair-raising and unsettling." A versatile improviser and a composer of experimental, daring new works that embody a deep love of storytelling, Joy's own music channels their inner child, in honor of their ancestors and predecessors. In every aspect of their practice, Joy seeks to support, hire, and promote Black artists. To this end Joy has spearheaded Sounds of the African Diaspora, a competition and commissioning platform for composers from the African diaspora. This new initiative ensures that composers from the diaspora have access to the space, resources, and time necessary to foster new, innovative music. Joy holds a bachelor's degree in Bassoon Performance from the Peabody Conservatory and a Graduate Performance Diploma from the Mannes School of Music. They have performed with the Dance Centre Kenya Ballet Orchestra, International Contemporary Ensemble, Alarm Will Sound, and have been a featured soloist in Yvette Jackson's opera "Fear is their Alibi" that premiered at the 2021 PROTOTYPE festival. They have been commissioned by The National Sawdust, Long Beach Opera, JACK Quartet, and the I&I Foundation, and they have attended and been featured by prestigious festivals including the Spoleto Festival USA and the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. Guidry is a finalist for the 2021 Berlin Prize for Young Artists taking place in Berlin, Germany in January 2022.  
[www.guidrybassoon.com](http://www.guidrybassoon.com)

**Jonathan Saraga** is a NYC-based composer, trumpeter, arranger, producer, educator and Doctor of Musical Arts whose music has been called "inventive" (*JazzWise*, U.K.), "profound, beautifully-crafted" and "glorious" (*Jazz da Gama*), and "brilliant and technically spot-on" (Debbie Burke-Jazz Author). He has also been said by *All About Jazz* to possess the musical "wisdom and maturity of veterans more than twice his age," and that "his chops, lust for musical life and don't-box-me-into-a-stylistic-corner mentality make him seem like the musical offspring of trumpeters Dave Douglas and Ambrose Akinmusire." Jonathan has been selected for twenty residency, grant, commission and/or otherwise competitive opportunities over the past fifteen years by the International Trumpet Guild, ASCAP, the Herb Alpert Foundation, BMI, Chamber Music America, Downbeat Magazine, the Association for Popular Music Education, the International Society for Improvised Music, United States Artists, the International Society of Jazz Arrangers and Composers, the International Songwriting Competition, and the Jazz Foundation of America. Saraga's thriving playing career includes work with the Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra, Darcy James Argue's Secret Society, the Birdland Big Band, The Mingus Big Band, Orrin Evans' Captain Black Big Band, the Jason Marshall Big Band, the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, and the Jimmy Greene Big Band, as well as with ensembles led by Tyshawn Sorey, Steve Coleman, and Henry Cole.  
[www.jonathansaraga.com](http://www.jonathansaraga.com)

***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 Aaron Copland Fund for Music  
The Amphion Foundation  
Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation  
BNY Mellon Wealth Management  
The Cheswaty Foundation  
The DuBose and Dorothy Heyward Memorial Fund  
Fund for the City of New York  
Michael Minard and Phyllis Ross  
Newburgh Institute for the Arts and Ideas  
Alexander Sanger  
The Witherspoon Fund  
New Music USA  
The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation**

*Composers Now is made possible in part with public funds from Creative Engagement, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and administered by LMCC.*



**Composers Now Team**

Tania León, artistic director  
David Bridges, website management  
Marcello Di Russo, development and technical assistance  
Amy Roberts Frawley, programs and initiatives consultant  
Béatrix Hernández, production  
Andrés Vera León, technical direction  
Julia Veinblat, social media  
Andrew Porter, stage management  
Deborah Steinglass, development strategies consultant

***Composers Now is actively engaged in diversity, equity and inclusion in all of its practices, initiatives and programs.***  
[www.composersnow.org](http://www.composersnow.org)