



# Connecticut Summerfest

Contemporary Music Festival

2018 Season

Concert Program Booklet

June 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Aaron N. Price**  
Artistic Director

**Gala Flagello**  
Festival Director



## A Note from the Directors

Thank you for joining us for Connecticut Summerfest's third season! The Connecticut Summerfest family grows larger every year, and we are grateful that you are here! The incredible support of our donors, business partners, and new music advocates is crucial in helping us provide deeply enriching artistic experiences to our ensembles-in-residence, festival composers, and audiences like you.

We would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has contributed to Connecticut Summerfest through their monetary gifts, donations of goods and services, and volunteering. With your help, we bring forth the work of a diverse range of talented emerging composers and innovative chamber music ensembles. Connecticut Summerfest is proud to serve the Greater Hartford community through outstanding artistry in our nightly concert series. Our thanks is also extended to our incredible ensembles-in-residence and festival composers, whose new music comes to life during our concert series. Your artistry inspires and excites us. We proudly serve as an advocate and platform for your music, and we can't wait to hear what is next for all of you as you continue to share the gift of contemporary music across the globe!

When you enjoy something that you hear, we encourage you to speak to the performers and composers after the concert! Be sure to check out their websites, find them on social media, and tell your friends and family all about them! We are thrilled to be a formative step in the careers of many emerging composers and ensembles, and we aspire to continue our work in uniting artists to collaborate in West Hartford, Connecticut.

In an especially difficult political climate, the voices of contemporary artists help cultivate and nourish our humanity in the face of adversity, while contributing broadened perspectives to the conversation. Your support of Connecticut Summerfest makes a positive difference in the lives and careers of contemporary musicians, and aids in the creation of new art when we need it more than ever.

At the end of our 2018 season, Connecticut Summerfest will have engaged 8 composition faculty members, 7 chamber ensembles, and will have premiered 26 new works commissioned by the festival! Thank you for joining us on this journey. We look forward to presenting you with many future concerts. And now— please enjoy the music!!

Sincerely,



**Aaron N. Price**  
Artistic Director



**Gala Flagello**  
Festival Director

# Artist Residency Showcase

2018 Season Concert Series

Friday, June 15, 2018 8:00pm EDT Berkman Recital Hall

## Duo Alterity

Allison Hughes, flute; Joseph Van Doran, guitar

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**Progresiones para Pauline** José Luis Merlin (b. 1952)

**From the Dreaming** Phillip Houghton (1954-2017)

Cave Painting  
Wildflower  
Gecko

**Histoire du Tango** Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

Bordel (1900)  
Café (1930)  
Concert d'Aujourd'hui

Intermission

**Romeo and Juliet** (1995) Ned Rorem (b. 1923)

I. I ne'er saw true beauty till this night  
II. Queen Mab hath been with you  
III. How silver-sweet sound lovers tongues by night  
IV. O serpent heart ...  
V. ... sad hours seem long  
VI. ... it was the nightingale  
VII. Come weep with me ...  
VIII. ... empty tigers  
IX. ... never was a story of more woe

**From Balkan Songbook** Alan Thomas (b. 1967)

Evgenija  
Lament  
Rachenitsa  
Haj, mene majka

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Gala Flagello, Festival Director; Aaron N. Price, Artistic Director  
[ctsummerfest.org](http://ctsummerfest.org)

## About Duo Alterity

Quickly emerging as a prominent chamber ensemble, **Duo Alterity** recently gave its Carnegie Hall debut after being awarded First Prize in the 2016 Vivo International Music Competition.

Further establishing themselves as a significant duo, they were finalists in the 2017 Classics Alive Young Artist Auditions, as well as winning First Place in both the 2016 Hartt Chamber Music Competition and the 2017 Music of Americas Great Composers Competition.

In addition to Carnegie Hall, Duo Alterity has performed at many major venues including the DiMenna Center for Classical Music and the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts. They were also invited to perform at the Governor's Mansion in Hartford, CT.

Duo Alterity has performed in masterclasses for world-renowned musicians including the Imani Winds, Oscar Ghiglia, Denis Azabagic, the Lions Gate Trio, Antigoni Goni, and Richard Provost. Duo Alterity is praised for its sensitive musicality and captivating performances.

# Artist Residency Showcase

2018 Season Concert Series

Saturday, June 16, 2018 8:00pm EDT Berkman Recital Hall

## Akropolis Reed Quintet

Tim Gocklin, oboe; Kari Landry, clarinet;  
Matt Landry, saxophone; Andrew Koepp, bass clarinet;  
Ryan Reynolds, bassoon

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**Mandragora** (2017) Michael Lesniak (b. 1995)

**Geryoneis** (2017) Joshua Harris (b. 1977)

- I. Geryon (tutti)
- II. Meanwhile He Came (bassoon)
- III. Geryon's Parents (clarinet and saxophone)
- IV. Geryon's Death Begins (bass clarinet)
- V. Geryon's Reversible Destiny (English horn)
- VI. Meanwhile in Heaven (tutti)
- VII. Geryon's Weekend (tutti)
- VIII. Geryon's Father (bass clarinet and bassoon)
- IX. Geryon's War Record (saxophone)
- X. Schooling (clarinet)
- XI. Right (oboe and clarinet)
- XII. Wings (saxophone)
- XIII. Herakles Killing Club (bassoon)
- XIV. Herakles Arrow (bass clarinet)
- XV. Total Things Known About Geryon (tutti)
- XVI. Geryon's End (tutti)

**Refraction** (2015) David Biedenbender (b. 1984)

- I. Death Metal Chicken
- II. Kyrie for Machaut and Pärt
- III. Goat Rodeo

Intermission

**Point Blank** (2018) Logan Rutledge (b. 1993)

**Sorrow and Celebration** (2015) John Steinmetz (b. 1951)  
*for Reed Quintet and Audience*

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## About Akropolis Reed Quintet

The Akropolis Reed Quintet was founded in 2009 at the University of Michigan and is the first ever ensemble of its makeup to win a Fischhoff Gold Medal (2014), Grand Prize at the Plowman and MTNA national competitions, and 6 national chamber music prizes in total.

Hailed by *Fanfare* for its “imagination, infallible musicality, and huge vitality”, Akropolis has performed from Juneau to Abu Dhabi and has showcased at five national conferences, including as a participant in APAP’s prestigious Young Performers Career Advancement Program (YPCA). Winner of the 2015 Fischhoff Educator Award, Akropolis conducts extensive educational residencies and impacts thousands of children each year.

A maverick of new wind music, Akropolis has commissioned over 30 reed quintet works and recorded three albums, including its 2017 release, *The Space Between Us*, which the San Francisco Chronicle calls, “pure gold”.

Akropolis has received grants for its community programming in Detroit, MI from the National Endowment for the Arts (Art Works), Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, CultureSource, Quicken Loans, and Chamber Music America, as well as operating support from the Aaron Copland Fund for Music and the Amphion Foundation.

# Artist Residency Showcase

2018 Season Concert Series

Sunday, June 17, 2018 8:00pm EDT Berkman Recital Hall

## Xelana Duo

Ana García Caraballos, saxophone;  
Alexander Davis, bassoon

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**Rubispheres #4 and #5** (2016) Valerie Coleman (b. 1970)  
I. Milonga Misterio  
II. With Groove and Precision

**Scarlet** (2018) Gala Flagello (b. 1994)  
*World Premiere*

**Amethyst | Obsidian** (2018) Aaron N. Price (b. 1990)  
*World Premiere*

**Suite** (2017) Zachary Gulaboff Davis (b. 1991)  
I. Melody  
II. Dance  
III. Allegro

Intermission

**Breathe, in these Moments,  
Just Let go** (2017) Matthew Jaskot (b. 1984)

**Render Uncertain** (2017) Christopher Kaminski (b. 1994)

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## About Xelana Duo

**Xelana Duo** balances the refinement of classical music while zigzagging through hip-hop, blues, flamenco, bollywood, and rock n' roll.

The Duo surprises you with an unexpected instrumentation filled with vibrant shades, that are each dazzling on their own, but simply breathtaking when joined together. Daring these two instruments to have a conversation, Xelana Duo commissions electrifying works, creating an ice-breaker for this unusual collaboration.

Their musical dynamism has carried the members of Xelana Duo to venues such as Alice Tully Hall, Symphony Space, Instituto Cervantes NY, Merkin Concert Hall, The National Opera Center, Spectrum and Le Poisson Rouge. They have also performed with a range of ensembles, from Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and the Kronos Quartet, to CityMusic Cleveland Chamber Orchestra, The Juilliard New Music Ensemble, Windscape, and Imani Winds.

With each performance, audiences will be swept into an exciting collision of sound worlds and cultures; each piece is a fresh musical conversation.

# Commissioned Works Concert

2018 Season Concert Series

Tuesday, June 20, 2018 8:00pm EDT Berkman Recital Hall

## Evening of Premieres

Xelana Duo, Duo Alterity, Akropolis Reed Quintet

*All of the pieces on this evening's program have been composed specifically for Connecticut Summerfest 2018! Festival Composers have collaborated with Duo Alterity, Akropolis Reed Quintet, and Xelana Duo throughout the festival in preparation for these exciting premieres.*

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### Xelana Duo

- Elegy** (2018) David Jones (b. 1990)  
**Sorcery** (2018) Joungmin Lee (b. 1975)  
**without reason... without purpose** (2018) D.H. Regnier (b. 1992)

### Duo Alterity

- Laidback 悠然** (2018) Yufei Chen (b. 1993)  
**El Anheló** (2018) Alexis Carrier (b. 1996)  
**What Friends Are For** (2018) Grace Ma (b. 1993)

### Akropolis Reed Quintet

- Thaw** (2018) Becky Turro (b. 1997)  
**create. process.** (2018) Mario Godoy (b. 1988)  
**The Sun Rising** (2018) Patrick Holcomb (b. 1996)

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## 2018 Festival Composers

Composer and pianist **Alexis Carrier** (b.1996) is a native of Manhattan, Montana. She began piano lessons at the age of 6 with Marcia Pickering and continued on under Janell McKenney and Kenneth Christensen later on. As her love for music grew, so did her love for composition, creating her first piece at the age of 12. As a composition major at the University of Montana, she is studying under Dr. Emilie LeBel and is enthusiastically involved in multiple ensembles. Although her main instrument is piano, she also enjoys playing the trumpet, guitar, flute, and singing.

**Yufei Chen** is a composer who has already had success with her compositions for Chinese instruments. She has been commissioned by New York Rovaco Dance Company, Hangzhou Opera and Dance Theatre, Shanghai Jin Qi Ensemble, Wuhan Qinshiyayun Ensemble. Her music has been performed in New York, Shanghai, Taipei, Tainan, Wuhan. Yufei Chen was born in 1993 in China. She started to play the piano and Erhu at an early age. Yufei majored in Erhu in Zhejiang Art School. She majored in Chinese instrument composition and got her bachelor degree at Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Yufei got her master degree at Mannes School of Music in New York Where she studied composition with composer Robert Cuckson.

**Mario Godoy** is a composer, saxophonist, and music educator based in Oakland, CA. His works have been described as "rhythmically brilliant" and "imaginatively colorful". He has written for solo instruments, chamber ensembles, wind ensemble, works with electronics, as well as music for video games and films. He holds a Master's degree in composition from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music where he studied under David Garner and Dan Becker. He also holds a Bachelor's degree in Saxophone Performance from the University of Redlands where he studied saxophone with Eddie Smith and composition with Anthony Suter.

**Patrick Holcomb** is a composer pursuing his master's degree in composition at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he is Assistant Director of the New Music Ensemble. His composition teachers

have included Evis Sammoutis, Dana Wilson, Jorge Villavicencio Grossmann, and Mark Camphouse. His compositional honors include the 2018 Richard K. Joseph Composition Prize, first prize in the 2017 Mu Phi Epsilon Original Composition Contest, and first prize in the 2014 Neva Greenwood Memorial Student Composition Competition. Holcomb is also an active performer, having studied horn with Alex Shuhan, piano with Deborah Martin, and tabla and Indian harmonium with Denise Nuttall.

**David A. Jones** (b. 1990) is a composer and horn player from Olympia, Washington. He is currently in the midst of his doctoral studies in composition at Rice University, and holds degrees from Brigham Young University and Brigham Young University-Idaho. Jones's style focuses on the elaboration of musical and extramusical gestures and ideas, and many of his works explore the dynamic relationship between composer and performer through the use of aleatoric and improvisatory techniques. His music has been performed by a variety of ensembles, including the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, the BYU Chamber Orchestra, Ensemble Hexnut, and the Nautilus Brass Quintet.

**Joungmin Lee's** music has been performed in North & South America, Europe, and Asia. Lee's work has been recognized by Global Music Awards, American Prize, Salvatore Martirano Memorial Composition Award, Orchestrating the 21st Century Orchestra, AMF Institute, Alba Music Festival, RED NOTE, Florence String Quartet Competition, Valencia International Academy & Festival, Keep Composers Weird in Melbourne, IV Rieti Elettroacustica Festival, NYCCEF, SIME, SEAMUS, Musinfo Opus-centrum, Florida Contemporary Music Festival, SPLICE, NSEME, Radio Transmission Art Pieces, and SCI Region Conferences, and among many others. Currently he is pursuing the DMA composition at The Ohio State University with Dr. Thomas Wells. He holds degrees from NYU (MM in music technology).

**Grace Ma** has received numerous accolades for her versatile, eclectic, and imaginative compositions. Her repertoire includes chamber, solo-instrumental,

electronic, orchestral, and vocal works, as well as film music. In 2018, Ma had her SXSW debut as composer to "A Woman Loves," a film directed by Austin filmmaker Vanessa Uhlig. Ma is winner of the 2017 Duino Composition Prize at the International Music Festival of the Adriatic in Italy, and is recently recorded by Invoke string quartet sponsored by Austin-based non-profit Golden Hornet.

**D.H. Regnier** is a composer who recently graduated from the University of Delaware with a Master's in Clarinet Performance and Composition. He studied composition with Dr. Jennifer Margaret Barker. His music has been performed by the University of Delaware Symphony Orchestra, Drexel University Concert Band, Christiana Winds, Meraki Chamber Players, and others. In 2014, he was named a finalist for the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer's Awards. He also participated in the 2017 season of Connecticut Summerfest.

**Becky Turro**, 21, is an undergraduate composition major at Rutgers University. Here, she has studied under Vadim Neselovsky, Brian Landrus, and Robert Aldridge, and often has pieces performed by the graduate and undergraduate ensembles, Helix! and RUNME. Her works include orchestra, chamber, and solo piano pieces, with a growing interest in orchestral music. She has collaborated in three dance works, one being with the New York City based dance company, the Kinesis Project. She also participated in the 2017 New York Musical Festival's (NYMF) songwriting workshop. Some of her influences are Joni Mitchell, John Luther Adams, Steve Reich, and Sibelius.

## Festival Staff

**Aaron N. Price** (b. 1990) is the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Connecticut Summerfest, and Director of Woodwind Studies at the MusicMakers International Academy. His works have been performed in the United States, France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates.

Aaron has been commissioned to write several new works by various summer music festivals, including the

Valencia International Performance Academy (VIPA) Festival (Spain), Imani Winds Chamber Music Festival (NYC), Zodiac Festival (France), Talis Festival (Switzerland), soundSCAPE Festival (Italy), and the Atlantic Music Festival (Maine, USA).

His compositions and arrangements have been honored with performances by many talented ensembles, including Apple Orange Pair, The Aubarra Clarinet Duo, Khorikos. and Xelana Duo.

Aaron holds a Master of Music in Composition from The Hartt School, and a Bachelor of Music in Composition from the University of Connecticut.

For more information, visit [www.aaronpricemusic.com](http://www.aaronpricemusic.com)

**Gala Flagello** (b. 1994) is a composer and horn player, as well as the co-founder and Festival Director of the nonprofit contemporary music festival Connecticut Summerfest. She was the 2017 Composer in Residence for the Nonnewaug High School Music Festival in Woodbury, CT and the 2016 Composer in Residence at the Unitarian Society of Hartford. Gala is a recipient of the Edward Diemente Prize for Excellence in Creative Activity (The Hartt School), the Artist Scholarship (Artists for World Peace), and the Dorothy Greenwald Graduate Fellowship (University of Michigan).

In 2017, she received an EXCEL Enterprise Grant for her project *Educational New Music for Developing Voices*, a collaboration with educator Jaqueline Bouffard to create a comprehensive online resource for the composition of contemporary works for vocalists in kindergarten through high school.

Gala recently scored the short film *Break a Leg*, sponsored by the University of Michigan, and will premiere two new works at National Sawdust in Brooklyn, NY in August 2018. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Composition degree from The Hartt School and is currently pursuing a Master of Music in Composition degree at the University of Michigan under the tutelage of Michael Daugherty. More information may be found at [www.galafagello.com](http://www.galafagello.com)

**Maria Paterno** (Connecticut Summerfest 2018 Media & Development Intern) is a composer currently residing in southeast Michigan. She creates music through a combination of intuitive and pattern-based decision making, often finding inspiration in mathematical and astronomical concepts. Her work is most often focused on where gestures are placed over time, and how the silence between gestures impacts the listener. A current graduate student at the University of Michigan, Maria recently graduated with degrees in Music Composition and German from Western Michigan University. She has studied composition with Kristin Kuster, Lisa Coons, David Colson, and Christopher Biggs.

Being raised in New Hampshire, **Will Jones** (Connecticut Summerfest 2018 Recording Engineer) fostered a strong connection to nature. That, along with growing up in a musical family, are what formed the foundation of his Audio Engineering and Composition through the use of space and clarity. As a freelance engineer, Will works with many artists, a local independent radio station, and ensembles throughout the New England area. Music is a huge part of what makes Will who he is and will continue to be through his life. Will currently records at Armory Sound Recording Studio in Somerville MA.

**Brandon Keogan** (Connecticut Summerfest 2018 Technical Coordinator) is a graduate of the Hartt School with a Bachelor's degree in Music Composition. He currently works as a paraprofessional in a kindergarten class in Norwich, Connecticut. He enjoys composing and playing the piano, and is working on developing his own style of jazz-classical piano music.

*Connecticut Summerfest is a weeklong contemporary classical music festival for the education and career advancement of emerging composers and performers. The festival is comprised of seminars, lessons, rehearsals, and recording sessions for participants, as well as a free concert series open to the public, featuring our ensembles-in-residence and new works by participant composers!*

*Connecticut Summerfest, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

Our 2018 Season has been made possible in part by grant support from the following organizations:

**The Edward C. & Ann T.  
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Many thanks to The Edward C. & Ann T. Roberts Foundation for funding Akropolis Reed Quintet's 2018 Artist Residency at Connecticut Summerfest.



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