



# Connecticut Summerfest

Contemporary Music Festival

2019 Season  
Concert Program Booklet  
June 13<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Aaron N. Price**  
Artistic Director

**Gala Flagello**  
Festival Director

# About Connecticut Summerfest

## **Our Mission**

Connecticut Summerfest brings together talented emerging composers with some of the country's most inventive chamber music ensembles for a week-long festival of artistic exchange culminating in nine world premieres. The festival provides the Greater Hartford community with contemporary music concerts of the highest caliber through a nightly concert series featuring three ensembles-in-residence and brand-new pieces written by festival composition students.

*Connecticut Summerfest, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.  
All donations are tax deductible.*

## **We Proudly Present Our 2019 Season:**

### **Ensembles-in-Residence**

Duo Alterity  
Hub New Music  
Quince Ensemble

### **Composition Faculty**

Robert Carl | The Hartt School  
Miguel del Águila | Three-time Grammy Nominee  
Laura Kaminsky | Purchase College  
Aaron Jay Kernis | Yale University

### **Featured Guest Lecturer**

Angela Myles Beeching

### **Festival Composers**

Leah Blankendaal  
Andrew Filson  
Michael Grebla  
Tzu-Chin Hsu  
Dale Osterman  
Nathan Scalise  
Becky Turro  
Ginny Jingchao Wang  
Chin-Shuo Wu

## A Note from the Directors

Thank you for joining us for Connecticut Summerfest's fourth season! We are thrilled to see the Connecticut Summerfest family expanding every year, and we are grateful that you are here.

At the end of our 2019 season, Connecticut Summerfest will have engaged **11 composition faculty members, 9 chamber ensembles, and will have premiered 35 new works** written specifically for the festival! Additionally, Connecticut Summerfest saw more applications to its 2019 Composition Program than ever before. We received applications from composers all over the world, including the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, China, and Iceland.

The incredible support of our donors, 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.

Thank you for joining us this evening and 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*

## Quince Ensemble

Friday, June 14, 2019 | 8:00pm | Berkman Recital Hall

Kayleigh Butcher, mezzo soprano  
Amanda DeBoer Bartlett, soprano  
Liz Pearse, soprano  
Carrie Henneman Shaw, soprano

**Bone Needles** (2006) Gilda Lyons

**The Four Winds** (2016) Laura Steenberge

- I. Look at the nations and watch
- II. Howling like a jackal, moaning like an owl
- III. North East South West
- IV. Pneuma
- V. Red Giant, White Dwarf

**Blowin' down the road** (2018) Michael Miller

**Cassandra, IL** (2018) Eliza Brown

*Pause*

From **In Dreams** David Reminick

The Trampoline (2016)

**Touch** (2017) Adrián Montúfar Herrera

**P is for...** (2016) Anthony Green

**More** (2015) Natasha Anderson

From **Trance Formations** Andres Carrizo

II: Vociferations (2016)

From **In Dreams** David Reminick

Aún (2018)

## About Quince Ensemble

Singing with the precision and flexibility of modern chamber musicians, Quince Ensemble is changing the paradigm of contemporary vocal music. Described as "the Anonymous 4 of new music" by *Opera News*, Quince continually pushes the boundaries of vocal ensemble literature.

As dedicated advocates of new music, Quince regularly commissions new works, providing wider exposure for the music of living composers. They recently launched the Quince New Music Commissioning Fund, a fund to grow the repertoire for women and treble voices. Quince has released three studio albums, *Realign the Time*, *Hushers*, and *Motherland*, all available on iTunes, CD Baby, Spotify, and Amazon.

Comprised of vocalists Liz Pearse (soprano), Kayleigh Butcher (mezzo soprano), Amanda DeBoer Bartlett (soprano), and Carrie Henneman Shaw (soprano), Quince thrives on unique musical challenges and genre-bending contemporary repertoire.

[www.quince-ensemble.com](http://www.quince-ensemble.com)

*Artist Residency Showcase*

## Hub New Music

Saturday, June 15, 2019 | 8:00pm | Berkman Recital Hall

Michael Avitabile, flute  
David Dziardziel, clarinet  
Tony Morales, violin  
Jesse Christeson, cello

**bound**

Natalie Dieterich

I

II

**The Life of Birds**

Mason Bates (b. 1977)

- I. Moving Parts
- II. Parakeet Daydream
- III. The Cages Bird Sings
- IV. On a Wire: Mating Dance
- V. Old World Flycatcher
- VI. Moving Parts

*Intermission*

**The Full Range of Blue**

Laura Kaminsky (b. 1956)

- i. Dawn: Mist Rising
- ii. Slate: Riverbed
- iii. Tundra/Waterfall
- iv. Lupines
- v. Glacier
- vi. Stars in Still Night
- vii. Boulder/Avalanche
- viii. Aftermath: Ash (September 12)

## About Hub New Music

Called “contemporary chamber trailblazers” by *the Boston Globe*, Hub New Music — comprised of flute, clarinet, violin, and cello — is forging new pathways in 21st-century repertoire. Through creative programming and ambitious commissioning projects, the quartet of “intrepids” (*WQXR*) celebrates the fluidity and diversity of today’s classical music landscape. Its performances have been described as “gobsmacking” (*Cleveland Classical*) and “innovative” (*WBUR*).

Highlights for the 2019-20 season include a performance of a new work by Hannah Lash presented by Seattle Symphony in its new chamber music venue Octave9; concerts with Taos Chamber Music Group (New Mexico), Ashmont Hill Chamber Music (Boston), and Newfields (Indianapolis); residencies at the universities of Michigan and Hawaii; and season-long partnerships with the Peabody Essex Museum (Salem, MA) and Celebrity Series of Boston. Hub will also premiere works by Takuma Itoh, Michael Ippolito, and an evening-length song-cycle by Oracle Hysterical. The season marks the release of its debut recording *Soul House*, and a new recording with shakuhachi player Kojiro Umezaki (Silk Road Ensemble).

The ensemble’s name is inspired by its founding city of Boston and the notion that a hub is a center of innovation. Hub New Music is exclusively represented by Unfinished Side.

*Artist Residency Showcase*

## Duo Alterity

Sunday, June 16, 2019 | 8:00pm | Berkman Recital Hall

Allison Hughes, flute  
Joseph Van Doran, guitar

### **Monhegan Suite**

John Kusiak (b. 1948)

- I. Prelude: 12 Nautical Miles
- III. Lobster Cove
- IV. Day Trippers
- IX. Epilogue – Dream: Winter on the Island

### From **Romeo and Juliet**

Ned Rorem (b. 1923)

- I. I ne're saw true beauty till this night (I, 5)
- III. How silver-sweet sound lovers tongues by night (II, 2)
- VII. Come weep with me... (IV, 1)
- VIII. ...empty tigers (V, 3)
- IX. ...never was a story of more woe (V, 3)

### **Appalaches**

Mathias Duplessy (b. 1972)

*Intermission*

### **El Anhelo\***

Alexis Carrier (b. 1996)

### **The Basin, After Rainfall\*\***

Aaron N. Price (b. 1990)

### **Histoire du Tango**

Astor Piazzolla (1921–1992)

- Bordel 1900
- Café 1930
- Nightclub 1960
- Concert d'aujourd'hui

*\*Written for and premiered at Connecticut Summerfest 2018*

*\*\*World Premiere*

## About Duo Alterity

“Duo Alterity is rapidly emerging as one of the premier Flute and Guitar Duos on today's concert stage” (Richard Provost, Professor Emeritus and Founder of The Hartt School Guitar Department). The multi-award-winning ensemble has performed extensively across the United States, and was most recently invited to be artists-in-residence for the 2018 Connecticut Summerfest Contemporary Music Festival where they had the opportunity to work closely with emerging composers and give three world premieres.

Duo Alterity is extremely dedicated to the performance of new music. “Their zest for contemporary music shines through in every performance, and their zeal for diving into new compositions is abundant in their work with emerging composers” (Aaron N. Price, Artistic Director & Co-Founder, Connecticut Summerfest, Inc.). In 2016, they gave the world premiere of “La Perla del Pico” by Frank Wallace, and the 2019 season will see them back to Connecticut Summerfest.

In 2017, Duo Alterity became finalists in the Classics Alive Young Artist Auditions, adding to their quickly growing list of awards. The ensemble also won 1st prize in the 2017 Music of Americas Great Composers Competition, the 2016 Vivo International Music Competition, and the 2016 Inaugural Hartt Chamber Music Competition.

Duo Alterity has performed at numerous prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall, the DiMenna Center for Classical Music, the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, and the Governor's Mansion in Hartford, CT.

Duo Alterity's “innovative programming” and “musically charged performances” make them “one of the most captivating emerging ensembles today” (Dave McLellan, Curator, Hartt@Home).

New Works Concert

Evening of Premieres

Tuesday, June 18, 2019 | 8:00pm | Berkman Recital Hall

*All of the pieces on this evening's program have been composed specifically for Connecticut Summerfest 2019! Festival composers have collaborated with Duo Alterity, Hub New Music, and Quince Ensemble throughout the festival in preparation for these exciting premieres.*

Duo Alterity

**salt in my eyes in my hair in my mouth** Leah Blankendaal (b. 1987)

**Fractured Mirrors** Andrew Filson (b. 1990)

**butterflies and permafrost** Dale Osterman (b. 1993)

Hub New Music

**A Curious Misadventure** Michael Grebla (b. 1989)

**Hub, Spoke, Universe** Nathan Scalise (b. 1993)

**Fusion-Fragments** Chin-Shuo Wu (b. 1993)

Quince Ensemble

**Undercurrent** Tzu-Chin Hsu (b. 1995)

**Five Transformations** Becky Turro (b. 1997)

**Again** Ginny Jingchao Wang (b. 1994)

## 2019 Festival Composers

**Leah Blankendaal** is a versatile musician. She holds a Bachelor of Music (Hons) from the University of Western Australia, where she won the Dorothea Agnus Memorial Scholarship, and a Masters degree in Communication Studies (Creative Dissertation: Sound Design), submitting her dissertation, A Thousand Facets, as a large-scale sound installation. Blankendaal has worked with ensembles including Tura, the Australian Art Orchestra, the Melbourne Metropolitan Sinfonietta, Halfsound, COMA, Soundstream, Tone List and the Adelaide Wind Orchestra. She was a winner of the 2016 Soundstream Emerging Composers Forum. In 2017 Blankendaal represented Australia in the Australian Music Centre's Classical:Next Fellows Program in Rotterdam.

**Andrew Filson** (b. 1990) is an emerging American composer and pianist currently located in Honolulu. Recent works have included collaborations with performers of traditional instruments found in Korea, China, and Japan, and notable performances have been given by Yang Jing, Duo Yumeno, and the Dolce Japanese Orchestra. Currently, he is pursuing a Ph.D. in Music Composition at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa where he studies with Donald Reid Womack and Thomas Osborne. Instilled with a love for collaborative projects, Filson hopes to continue working with fellow emerging musicians of all backgrounds to create innovative and intercultural experiences.

**Michael Grebla** is a New York based emerging composer from Perth, Australia. His music endeavours to create meaningful and inclusive cultural experiences, drawing influences from tradition and present. Michael recently completed a Master of Music with Honours at the New England Conservatory where he studied with Kati Agocs and also holds two bachelor degrees, one in Mechanical Engineering and one in Composition from the University of Western Australia. His music has been performed for festivals and ensembles including the Zodiac Festival, Australian Youth Orchestra, The West Australian Symphony Orchestra.

Composer **Tzu-Chin Hsu** draws her musical ideas from nature, social interaction and from the traditional music elements of her home country, Taiwan. Her works have been performed in Taiwan National Concert Hall and other hallmark venues such as

Singapore Esplanade and broadcasted on BBC Radio 3. Her recent work, *Dreaming in Sunlight*, which won the Lisker Music Foundation 2019 composition challenge, will be premiered in the LMF 2019 Fall Season in Chicago. She is a recent graduate majoring in composition at the Peabody Institute under Professor Kevin Puts.

**Dale Osterman** is a composer, performer, improviser, and cat-dad from Connecticut who crafts distinct premises out of diverse musical materials to create environments from which meaning can emerge. Dale's work makes use of memorable motivic and melodic material while structuring pieces around textural and timbral changes, a process inspired by an understanding that musical sound exists on a spectrum from silence, to noise, to pure musical tone; as well as by an interest in various musical genres. Dale also has an active career as a cellist, performing with the Torrington Symphony Orchestra and his experimental new music group, Dissidents.

**Nathan Scalise** blends the rhythmic drive of rock, direct expression of folk, formal considerations of classical music, and ecstatic emotion of gospel into an accessible and individual compositional voice. His works have been performed nationally and internationally by numerous professional artists including the Momenta Quartet, Ajax Quartet, Contemporaneous, Tenor Andrew Fuchs, Mezzo-Soprano Jacqueline Horner-Kwiatek, Dolce Suono Trio, and Orchestra 2001. Recent highlights include a win at NYC SongSLAM with Soprano Jordan Bowman and a premiere from the Ithaca New Music Collective. In addition to composing, Nathan performs frequently as a trombonist, pianist, and drummer. More at: <https://nathanscalise.squarespace.com>

The music of **Becky Turro** is heavily inspired by nature. Having grown up in rural New Jersey, her work often evokes images and emotions from experiences she has had while hiking to beautiful places.

She had her music performed by the Akropolis Reed Quintet and the Kinesis Project Dance Theatre. She has participated in the 2017 New York Musical Festival's songwriting workshop and the 2018 Connecticut Summerfest. Her works include orchestral, chamber and solo pieces.

Turro received her BM in Composition at Rutgers University,

studying under Robert Aldridge. This coming fall, she will be attending Ithaca College to pursue her Masters in Composition.

**Ginny Jingchao Wang** (b. 1994) is a Chinese composer who lived in China, Germany and the US. Her music is influenced by Spectralism and Impressionism with numerous Chinese elements. Wang has received many composition awards from Austria, Germany, Italy, USA and Serbia. Her pieces are frequently performed on the concerts and music festivals in America, China and Europe. She has collaborated with famous ensembles such as Dinu Lipatti Trio Berlin, Ensemble Fractales, and the Quince Ensemble. Having been studying in China and Germany, she is currently pursuing a Master's degree at Peabody Conservatory, in the studio of Michael Hersch.

**Chin-Shuo Wu** diversely explores harmonic color and timbral texture by the cognition of miscellaneous materials and creative notions to connect psychoacoustic and auditory perception in both acoustic and electro-acoustic music. He was awarded First Prize in the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra (NTSO) Competition and has collaborated with renowned orchestras, ensembles and musicians, including Transient Canvas, Lydian String Quartet, Beo String Quartet, Loadbang, and Sound Icon.

He is pursuing his MFA in music composition and theory at Brandeis University. His principal instructors are David Rakowski and Yu-Hui Chang. He earned his BM in music composition and theory at Taipei National University of the Arts.

## Festival Staff

**Aaron Nathan Price** is a composer, clarinetist, and arranger based in Manchester, Connecticut. He is the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Connecticut Summerfest, and Director of Woodwind Studies at the MusicMakers International Academy. Aaron currently serves as a Visiting Lecturer in Music at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. His works have received international performances, including the United States, France, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates.

Recently, Aaron was interviewed on New England Public Radio's podcast "Presto!" with John Nowacki. The interview is available

to stream on NPR, Apple Podcasts, Google Play Music, and Stitcher.

His compositions and arrangements have been honored with performances by many talented ensembles, including Apple Orange Pair, Aubarra Clarinet Duo, Doclé Reed Quintet, Duo Alterity, Khorikos, SMASH Ensemble, and Xelana Duo. Aaron has been commissioned to write several new works by various summer music festivals, including the Valencia International Performance Academy (VIPA) Festival (Valencia, Spain), Imani Winds Chamber Music Festival (New York City), Zodiac Festival (Valdeblore, France), Talis Festival (Saas-Fee, Switzerland), soundSCAPE Festival (Maccagno, Italy) and the Atlantic Music Festival (Waterville, Maine).

Aaron earned his Master of Music (M.M.) in Composition at The Hartt School, where he studied with Dr. Gilda Lyons, Dr. Robert Carl, and Dr. Larry Alan Smith. Previously, Aaron graduated magna cum laude from the University of Connecticut, earning his Bachelor of Music (B.M.) in Composition with a Minor in the Spanish Language. While attending the University of Connecticut, Aaron studied Composition with Dr. Kenneth Fuchs, Earl MacDonald, and Dr. Arthur Kreiger, as well as Clarinet with Curt Blood. Aaron also studied Clarinet at the Conservatorio Profesional de Musica Joaquin Villatoro in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain. Additionally, Aaron has served as an adjudicator for the CMEA All-State and Regional festivals at both the high school and middle school levels.

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

Composer **Gala Flagello**'s music "is both flesh and spirit, intensely psychological without sacrificing concrete musical enjoyment" (Lana Norris, *I Care If You Listen*). She is also the co-founder and Festival Director of the nonprofit contemporary music festival Connecticut Summerfest. 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). She has received two EXCEL Enterprise Grants for her projects Educational New Music for Developing Voices (2017) and The Contemporary Solo Horn (2018). Gala's piece *Self-Talk*, which was premiered at National Sawdust in August 2018, will be featured on Vanguard Reed Quintet's forthcoming debut

album. Two of her works will be performed at National Sawdust in July 2018. Gala also recently scored the 2018 short film, *Break a Leg*.

Gala holds a Bachelor of Music in Composition degree from The Hartt School, a Master of Music in Composition degree from the University of Michigan, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Michigan under the tutelage of Michael Daugherty and Kristy Kuster.

For more information, visit [www.galaflagello.com](http://www.galaflagello.com) and [www.soundcloud.com/galaflagello](http://www.soundcloud.com/galaflagello).

**Tobias Haus** (Technical Coordinator) merges characteristics of aleatory, guided improvisation, and ambient sound to craft consciously spacious and meaningful artistic narratives.

He is a co-founder and co-producer of the Pennsylvania-based concert series Bells & Whistles, and a social media assistant on The Phoenix Concerts in New York City. He has studied with Gilda Lyons, Daron Hagen, and Robert Carl.

From being raised in New Hampshire, **Will Jones** (Recording Engineer) owes his stylistic approach to music from this very state. From the White Mountains to the quaint towns he pulls spaces and textures from the state into his engineering a composition. As an engineer he has worked with many ensembles, artists and bands working with every type of music. He has recorded many great artists such as Jason Mraz and Van William through his work with WXRV 92.5 the River. He currently works as a mixing and recording engineer for a media and ad agency working with ad-music, VOs, and songs/jingles.

**Catherine Moore** (Festival Intern) is a freshman at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, where she studies choral music education and piano. An avid classical and jazz pianist and vocalist, Catherine loves to explore interdisciplinary styles of music in both her performance and composition. She has a particular interest in choral music and composition, as a writer herself she believes that music has the emotional power to unlock and convey an even greater understanding of text and story. As someone who loves to collaborate, socially and musically, she is ecstatic to work with the Summerfest Team.

**Maria Paterno** (Media & Development Manager) 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. Maria recently completed her Master of Music in Composition at the University of Michigan, and previously earned degrees in Music Composition and German from Western Michigan University. She has studied composition with Evan Chambers, Kristin Kuster, Christopher Biggs, and Lisa Coons.

**Pete Williams** (Technical Operations Manager) is a technologist specializing in software consulting, solution architecture, and building software engineering programs. He enjoys distilling ideas and requirements into solutions, and guiding those solutions to fruition. He has consulted startups from idea through pilot and beyond, refining minimum-viability through balancing scalable architecture with market and user experience.

Pete has led teams of engineers through sprints and milestones, professionally developing both team and program toward agile maturity. He is comfortable on the keyboard and in the boardroom, regularly engaging both to deliver great product. When he's not at Connecticut Summerfest you can find him in Ann Arbor architecting a Store Systems Platform for Domino's Pizza, to be deployed to 16000 franchises worldwide by 2025.

Our 2019 Season has been made possible in part by grant support from the following organizations:

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Many thanks to The Edward C. and Ann T. Roberts Foundation for funding Quince Ensemble's 2019 Artist Residency.

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# UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD

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