



Connecticut Summerfest

Contemporary Music Festival

2023 Season
Concert Program Booklet
June 8th–14th, 2023

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 is proud to amplify voices of composers from historically underrepresented groups, specifically gender diverse composers and composers of color, through our Composition Program and concert programming.

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

We Proudly Present Our 2023 Season:

Ensembles-in-Residence

arx duo
Hub New Music
Sugar Hill Salon

Composition Faculty

Takuma Itoh | University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Jessica Meyer | Composer, Violist, Educator
Ken Steen | The Hartt School, University of Hartford
Joel Thompson | Houston Grand Opera Composer-in-Residence

Festival Composers

Andrew Haile Austin
Grace Coberly
Paul Gabriel L. Cosme
Gordon Green
Alan Mackwell
Sofia Rocha
Nicholas Sokol
Jun Jie Edmund Song
Sebastian Suarez-Solis


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Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for Connecticut Summerfest's extraordinary eighth season!

The support of our donors, partners, and new music advocates is crucial in helping us provide deeply enriching artistic experiences to our festival composition students and audiences. 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.

By the end of our 2023 season, Connecticut Summerfest will have engaged 22 composition faculty, presented 17 chamber music ensembles, and premiered over 71 new works. In 2022, we garnered 700 concert series views from both our in-person and online audience members. Additionally, Connecticut Summerfest received 102 applications to its 2023 Composition Program. Nine composers from this pool were selected as our 2023 festival composers whose stellar new pieces you'll experience at our Evening of Premieres concert.

Connecticut Summerfest is proud to serve the Greater Hartford community through outstanding artistry in our nightly concert series. 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 proud 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.

Now more than ever, we believe that the performing arts have the power to uplift and inspire. Your support of

Connecticut Summerfest makes a significant difference in the lives and careers of contemporary musicians and aids in the creation of new art.

We thank you for joining us this evening and on this eight-year musical journey. And now, enjoy the music!

Sincerely,



Aaron N. Price
Artistic Director



Gala Flagello
Festival Director

Artist Residency Showcase

arx duo

Friday, June 9, 2023 | 8:00 PM | Berkman Recital Hall

Garrett Arney & Chris Whyte, percussion

“Fading Light” from *Evergreen* Robert Honstein

Music for Pieces of Wood Steve Reich

Anthem for Two Heather Stephenson

Forever, My Grace... Ian Gottlieb

V. ...is all the particles of dust, drifting on a desert wind
II. ...is all the stars of night, endlessly bursting with light
III. ...is the snake that eats its own tail, eternally
compressing and expanding
I. ...is all the droplets of rainy skies, falling at manifold
velocities

TBA Chris Whyte

Seeds DESVIO Duo

Toccata Anders Koppel

arx duo is dedicated to the expansion of the percussion chamber music repertoire through the creation and presentation of new works, the educating and inspiring of young artists, and exciting performances inviting audiences to engage with new works and artists from all over the world. They have had premiere performances throughout the globe, conducted workshops on three continents, and worked with a variety of composers and artists to bring new creations to life for communities everywhere.

Artist Residency Showcase

Hub New Music

Saturday, June 10, 2023 | 8:00 PM | Berkman Recital Hall

Michael Avitabile, flutes
Gleb Kanasevich, clarinets
Meg Rohrer, violin
Jesse Christeson, cello

**Pedazos intermitentes de un
lugar ya fragmentado**

Angélica Negrón

Wavelengths

Takuma Itoh

Spirits and Sinew

Jessica Meyer

What If We're Beautiful

Daniel Thomas Davis

Song for L.H.
Prelude for J.W. & K.H.
Anthem for M.M.
Arietta for M.A.
Verses for A.I. and H.R.

Called “contemporary chamber trailblazers” by the Boston Globe, **Hub New Music** is a “nimble quartet of winds and strings” (NPR) forging new paths in 21st-century repertoire. The ensemble’s ambitious commissioning projects and “appealing programs” (New Yorker) celebrate the rich diversity of today’s classical music landscape. Founded in 2013, Hub has grown into a formidable touring ensemble driven by an unwavering dedication to building community through new art. Across its career, Hub has commissioned dozens of new works and continues to usher in a fresh and culturally relevant body of work for its distinct combination of flute, clarinet, violin, and cello. Hub is proud to collaborate with today’s most celebrated emerging and established composers, and is equally proud to count many of them as friends.

Artist Residency Showcase

Sugar Hill Salon

Sunday, June 11, 2023 | 3:00 PM | Berkman Recital Hall

Julietta Curenton, flute
David Valbuena, clarinet
Alex Davis, bassoon

Bethena	Scott Joplin (1868–1917) <i>arr. Bill Holcombe</i>
Trio, op. 32	Kaspar Kummer (1795–1870)
Habanera	Paquito D' Rivera (b. 1948)

Intermission

Divertimento	Ramiro Cortés Jr. (1933–1984)
Midweek Tedium	Mary D. Watkins (b. 1939)

Sugar Hill Salon is one of the first chamber music series and artistic collectives that centers on black and brown woodwind artistry in classical music. They are a black and queer-owned organization that offers free public concerts in Harlem that showcase wind repertoire that lacks representation within "traditional" chamber programming along with uplifting black and brown musicians performing them. Through commissioning chamber works and monthly concerts featuring artists on the scene, Sugar Hill Salon is decolonizing classical music for a more equitable future for black and brown communities.

New Works Concert

Evening of Premieres

Tuesday, June 13, 2023 | 8:00 PM | Berkman Recital Hall

All pieces on this evening's program were composed specifically for Connecticut Summerfest 2023! Festival composers have collaborated with arx duo, Hub New Music, and Sugar Hill Salon in preparation for these exciting premieres.

arx duo

Three Miniatures

Andrew Haile Austin

The mirror crack'd from side to side
Wafted autumn leaf, dropt in the closing grave
At sixes and sevens with you

Play-Time

Gordon Green

Crystal Says

Sofía Rocha

Hub New Music

view of the raton pass from the interstate

Alan Mackwell

Interchanges

Nicholas Sokol



Sebastian Suarez-Solis

Sugar Hill Salon

my own whirring bones

Grace Coberly

Face Out Phase Out

Paul Gabriel L. Cosme

《Ecstatic Escapades》

Edmund Song

2023 Festival Composers

Andrew Haile Austin (he/him) is a composer, pianist, and conductor currently living in Brooklyn. Upon moving to NYC, he worked at several arts schools while freelancing as a conductor. Since that time, he has music directed almost 100 productions of operas and musicals across the country. As a composer, he has participated three times in the Golden Fleece Opera's Square One Series in New York and has also had his operatic works presented in NYC, VA, and Baltimore. Andrew graduated from James Madison University, studying with John Hilliard and Jason Haney, with a Master's degree where he was awarded the James A. Riley Award for his song cycle, "Melville Songs." Other of his songs have been presented at the New York Festival of Song in NYC and Source Song Festival in Minneapolis, MN. He was named composer-in-residence for the Tidewater Opera Initiative in Norfolk, VA who presented his opera, *The Snow Maiden of Appalachia*. His cantata, *Medusa*, and the chamber piece "Medusa's Song and Dance" based on the same material, have been awarded prizes by SCI/ASCAP and Project Trio, respectively. Andrew holds a doctorate in composition from the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University where he studied with Kevin Puts.
www.andrewhaileaustin.com

Grace Coberly is a Massachusetts-based composer, singer, and educator with a passion for human connection. Above all, they seek to create musical experiences that are accessible to audiences of any background. Their work has been performed across the United States and Europe, including commissions from Chicago Fringe Opera, Latin School of Chicago, Heritage Chorale of Oak Park, IL, and All Saints Church of Worcester, MA. Recent honors include being named a finalist in ASCAP's Morton Gould Young Composer Awards Competition (2022), a performance winner of the EXTENSITY Commission (2022), and a semi-finalist for the American Prize in Composition (vocal chamber music division, 2023). Grace completed their undergraduate studies in music and linguistics at Haverford College; they are now working towards their master's in music education at George Mason University. When not making music, they enjoy doing yoga, roasting vegetables, and playing with their cat. Read more about their work at gracecoberly.com.

Filipino composer **Paul Gabriel L. Cosme** (he/him) (b. 2000) blends and breaks boundaries in narrating stories of home, loss, and recovery through sound and scholarship. As a composer, Paul syncretizes various media, forms, and sound worlds from Asian and Western traditions with classical, jazz, and ethnic artists from the United States, Germany, Korea, and the Philippines. He recently finished a residency with traditional musicians from Seoul National University and is currently a JACK Studio artist with the Grammy-nominated JACK Quartet.

As a scholar, Paul investigates Filipino so-called national culture(s)—from folk, “high” art, to pop—in the 20th and 21st centuries. His recent work examines the life of National Artist Lucrecia “King” Kasilag, her compositions, contributions to Filipino cultures, and relationship to sociopolitical landscapes in the Philippines. His current project traces developments in Filipino popular music, Original Pilipino Music, and national identity. Paul received prizes and grants for his research and presented his work at international conferences.

Paul currently studies composition as a master's student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and is a Graduate Degree Fellow at the East-West Center. A winner of the Lila Bell Acheson Wallace Endowed Prize in Music, Paul graduated with highest honors from Macalester College where he majored in Music and International Studies. His teachers include Randy Bauer, Victoria Malawey, Donald Reid Womack, Takuma Itoh, and Thomas Osborne.

Paul loves dogs, the morning dew, Beethoven op. 132, Pinoy indie music, mangoes, Haruki Murakami's short stories, and his favorite Filipino dish—sinigang

Reviewers have called **Gordon Green's** music “wonderfully evocative,” “twisted,” and “terrifically inspired.” His CD-length recordings include *Rhapsody for Cello and Electronics* (with Cellist Astrid Schween); *Serpentine Sky and Other Music for Computer-Controlled Pianos*; *LightCycles and Other Music for Dancers*; *Impossible Christmas*; and *Arrangements and Variations for Digital Piano*. His chamber music has been commissioned and performed by a variety of soloists and chamber ensembles including Ethos Percussion Group with the Jerome Foundation, hornists Josh Michal and Laura Klock, and the Lark Chamber Artists. He has an MFA in Music Composition from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. More information about his work is available at gordonmgreen.com.

Described as "an original composer with new ideas and a command of complex symphonic writing" (BroadStreet Journal), New Zealander-American **Alan Mackwell** (b. 1998) is an award-winning young composer and banjo-player based in Boston, Massachusetts. In his work, Alan seeks to explore atmospheres inspired by his experiences in the Permian Basin and the Southern Rocky Mountains using a highly resonant and bluegrass-influenced musical language, as well as the utilization of original field recordings and interactive/generative digital interfaces.

Alan was the grand prize winner of the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra's Inaugural Young Composers' Competition in addition to being a two-time finalist for the Todd Corporation Young Composers' Awards hosted by the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra. Alan is also the recipient of a BMI Student Composer Award, which he won in 2022 for his string trio *Remains of a Permian Gas Station*. He earned his BM at the Boston Conservatory, where he studied with John Murphree, Dr. Eun Young Lee, Dr. Curtis Hughes, and Dr. Marti Epstein, and earned his MA at Tufts University where he studied with John McDonald and Kareem Roustom.

Sofía Rocha (b. 1996) writes music of uncompromising emotional intensity while exploring cognition, randomness, rhythm, and counterpoint within post-tonal frameworks. Winner of a 2022 Copland House Residency Award and the 2022 Hermitage Prize at the Aspen Music Festival, her recent and upcoming projects include newly commissioned works for the International Contemporary Ensemble in partnership with the New World Symphony, the Emory University Symphony Orchestra, and the Grammy-award-winning New York Youth Symphony via their First Music Commissioning program. Her first orchestral work, *Replier*, was described as 'unforgettable' and evocative of 'the feeling of being confronted with something unknowably vast' (The Boston Globe) as well as 'music at its most elemental' (The Boston Classical Review). She has also received honors from Earplay, Fresh Inc Festival, ACO/Earshot and ASCAP, among others. She has worked with ensembles including the Arditti Quartet, JACK Quartet, Fifth House Ensemble, Aspen Contemporary Ensemble, DeCoda, loadbang, Brentano String Quartet, Castle of our Skins, Transient Canvas, Hypercube, and Duo Entre-nous.

Sofía received her master's degree in composition from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory, studying with Chen

Yi, Yotam Haber, Paul Rudy and Zhou Long. She completed her undergraduate work at the Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College in 2019, studying composition with Avner Dorman. She has also attended festivals and residencies including a MacDowell residency, Aspen Music Festival, June in Buffalo, the Hermitage Artist Retreat, Fresh Inc Festival and Longy's Divergent Studio. Besides composing, Sofía is also an avid trombonist and conductor, having performed with numerous symphony orchestras, wind ensembles and jazz groups.

Nicholas Sokol (he/him) is a composer, conductor, and pianist based in Indianapolis, IN specializing in solo, chamber, orchestral, vocal and electronic music.

Nicholas' music can be characterized by an improvisatory and dynamic sense of gesture, combined with arresting and colorful harmony presented in an organic and seamless form.

Nicholas' music has been performed throughout the United States and at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall. His music has been performed by members of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and members of the Carmel Symphony, members of the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, and members of the New World Symphony. In addition, his music has also been performed by the Abel Family Quartet, Atlantic Music Festival Orchestra, Atlantic Music Festival New Music Ensemble, Cleveland Institute of Music Orchestra, as well as the Indianapolis based ensemble, Forward Motion.

His music has been featured at multiple festivals including: Atlantic Music Festival, Music in Bloom Festival, Earth Day Art Model, HighSCORE Festival and Impulse New Music Festival.

Nicholas attended Butler University (B.M.A.) for his undergraduate studying piano, music composition, and conducting. While at Butler University, he studied music composition with Michael Schelle, Frank Felice, and James Aikman. He is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music (M.M.) studying music composition with Keith Fitch.

Nicholas Sokol joined IUPUI's Music and Arts Technology faculty as an adjunct professor in the Fall of 2019.

Described as writing music which “emanated a variety of aromatic incenses” (pianofortephilia, 2022) and having “richness and variety from his double bass than one would have thought possible” (Straits Times, 2019) US-based Singaporean composer and double bassist **Edmund Song** is a re-imaginer of Eastern Traditional music with a Western flair.

Edmund started as an engraver and copyist for ensembles and it developed into an arrangement and orchestration collaborations with numerous international singers like Nathan Hartono, Rahimah Rahim, and Derrick Hoh. He then moved into music production and game music and is currently composing and arranging for the stage and film. In 2022, Edmund’s first staged work, 《The Chu Emperor》, was performed with Ding Yi Music Company, and he won a compositional award for 《A Joo Chiat Fantasy》 as a media composer and concert producer. His recent compositional collaborations include works for Hub New Music, PRISM Quartet, Transient Canvas and HyperCube Ensemble. In 2023, Edmund would collaborate with the Civic Orchestra of Orchestra fellows to feature his film score 《The Smart Dog》 in concert and Edmund will be curating the Jacob’s School of Music’s first student-organised “film score in concert” at Auer Hall featuring his entire own film scores and rarely-seen-live Foley presentations.

Edmund currently studies film scoring and composition at the Jacobs School of Music (USA) with Larry Groupe and PQ Phan. He is the appointed Composer-in-residence of Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra and the Early Music Double Bassist with the Red Dot Baroque (Singapore).

Sebastian Suarez-Solis (b. 1999) is a Baltimore-based sonic and visual artist whose works range from musical compositions to visual pieces, installations, performances, and happenings. A Caracas-born Venezuelan-American artist, their dialectic output is derived from the ablation of established performance practice, injecting elements of spontaneity, irreverence, and profane action into their works wherever possible (as in their prepared harpsichord solo *Seven Sounds for Strings*). Their works are varied, their artistic philosophy is singular: disseminate new modes of thought across many art forms, treating all mediums as one vehicle for expression. As such, while their works are undoubtedly musical in their sound, they are visually more suited to the print, the page, or the gallery.

Be it a 15' scrolling-cell-score-video-game-music tapestry, a concerto for film cameras, sonic sculptures, paintings, MaxMSP patches, video installations, or countless, countless noise sets, Sebastian has their hands in many forms of expression. As a performer, they have recently been playing drum set, amplified bass viola da gamba, prepared guitar, harpsichord (prepared and otherwise), and laptop, focusing on free improvisation, fluxus performance, and low-fidelity methods of amplification.

Sebastian is currently at the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University, where they are the 2022-2023 Richard Dragon, Louis Cheslock, and Philip D. Glass named scholar; in their Masters studies in Music Composition under Sky Macklay and Oscar Bettison, they have recently worked with ensembles like Parker Quartet, Mivos Quartet, Ensemble Dal Niente, Alexandre Ribeiro, Trio Immersio, Estrella Consort, TORCH Collective, among other groups and personal commissions.

Festival Staff

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Gala Flagello	Festival Director, Co-Founder
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Thank you to the entire Connecticut Summerfest team for all their hard work on our extraordinary eighth season!



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