



Connecticut Summerfest

Contemporary Music Festival

2021 Season

Concert Program Booklet

Aaron N. Price

Artistic Director

Gala Flagello

Festival Director

Artist Residency Showcase

ZOFO

Friday, June 11, 2021 | 8:00 PM EDT

Eva-Maria Zimmermann, piano
Keisuke Nakagoshi, piano

G-song

Terry Riley (b. 1935)
arranged by ZOFO

Dancing with the Torah at Mount Meron*

Avner Dorman (b. 1975)

Painting: *Dancing with the Torah at Mount Meron* (ca.1924) by Reuven Rubin (1893–1974), courtesy Rubin Museum, Tel Aviv

Inspector's Scrutiny*

Sahba Aminikia (b. 1981)

Painting: *Inspector's Scrutiny* (2012) by Nicky Nodjoumi (b. 1942), Taymour Grahne Gallery, New York

3-Day Mix

Eleanor Alberga (b. 1949)

Paisaje*

Pablo Ortiz (b. 1958)

Painting: *Paisaje* (2005) by Eduardo Stupía (b. 1951)

Viajeros

Keyla Orozco (b. 1969)

Painting: *Viajeros* (2008) by Douglas Pérez Castro (b. 1972), von Christerson Collection, London

Guest Suite

Adolphus Hailstork (b. 1941)

Street Solace*

I Wayan Gde Yudane (b. 1964)

Painting: *Street Solace* (2000) by I Made Budhiana (b. 1959)

Spring Morning in Baku*

Franghiz Ali-Zadeh (b. 1947)

Painting: *Spring Morning in Baku* (1959) by Sattar Bahlulzade (1909 - 1974), courtesy Azerbaijan National Museum of Art, Baku

Sacred Chichibu Peaks at Spring Dawn*

Kenji Oh (b. 1981)

Painting: *Sacred Chichibu Peaks at Spring Dawn* (1928) by Yokoyama Taikan (1868 - 1958), The Museum of the Imperial Collections, Sannomaru Shōzōkan, Tokyo

Tupan and Davul*

Erberk Eryılmaz (b. 1989)

**Written for ZOFO*

Artist Residency Showcase

Hub New Music

Saturday, June 12, 2021 | 8:00 PM EDT

Michael Avitabile, flute
Nicholas Brown, clarinet
Alyssa Wang, violin
Jesse Christeson, cello

New Addresses

Christopher Cerrone (b. 1984)

Breathing Light

Gala Flagello (b. 1994)

Work//Flow

Aaron Price (b. 1990)

From ***Requiem for the Enslaved***

Carlos Simon (b. 1986)

Light Everlasting

Lord Have Mercy

We All Found Heaven

Remember Me

Gloria

Artist Residency Showcase

Front Porch

Sunday, June 13, 2021 | 4:00 PM EDT

Ben Jackson, violin
Maddy Wildman, bassoon
Karalyn Schubring, piano
Jacob Rogers, percussion

Disenraged

Maddy Wildman (b. 1997)

Earth's Invocation

Evan Premo (b. 1985)

...remnants...

Corey Dundee (b. 1991)

As Long as We Are Headed to The Same Place

Jung Yoon Wie (b. 1990)

Architecture of Silence

Dayton Hare (b. 1996)

Enough

Gala Flagello (b. 1994)

Mesmera

Ari Sussman (b. 1993)

New Works Concert

Evening of Web Premieres

Friday, June 18, 2021 | 8:00 PM EDT

All of the pieces on this evening's program have been composed specifically for Connecticut Summerfest 2021! Festival composers have collaborated with Front Porch, Hub New Music, and ZOFO throughout the festival in preparation for these exciting premieres.

ZOFO

Stars	Brittney Benton (b. 1999)
Bloom	Natalie Nicolas (b. 1992)
What kind of land will we be together in?	Annie Nikunen (b. 1998)

Hub New Music

Dialectic	Cory Brodack (b. 1997)
Agreeable Gray	Christian Quiñones (b. 1996)
Chaos - Cosmos	Davide Tammara (b. 1984)

Front Porch

Rush Hour	Grace Ann (Jung Yoon) Lee (b. 1996)
Porch Light	Daniel De Togni (b. 1993)
Color Wheel Dances	Aaron Hendrix (b. 1989)

Bios

Front Porch

Front Porch is a mixed quartet that invites audiences to engage personally with the voices of their close friends, reimagining the classical concert experience with warmth and love at its foundation. Their uncommon instrumentation—violin, bassoon, piano, and percussion—makes them equally at home with composers, folk artists, opera singers, and everyone in between.

When Front Porch first came together in the summer of 2017, they were only slightly disappointed to find that no repertoire existed for their unusual combination of instruments. They pride themselves on seeking out collaborative and creative opportunities as much as possible: since their founding, they have premiered 23 new works, given 45 performances, and worked with over 50 collaborators, including composers, instrumentalists, singers, educators, and dancers.

Bringing the arts to new audiences is at the heart of every Front Porch project. Some of their favorite past performances include:

- Songs from the Porch, a showcase of four Ann Arbor indie, folk, and pop singer-songwriters featuring Front Porch as the house band.
- Interactive performances for adults with developmental disabilities at Howie Stone Adult Day Center and for inmates in Michigan prisons in collaboration with the Prison Creative Arts Project.
- Workshops with hundreds of elementary and middle schoolers at public schools from Detroit to New York City.
- A partnership with Ann Arbor's University Musical Society to lead a workshop with a group of aspiring college-age teaching artists at the University of Michigan.

Learn more about Front Porch at <https://frontporchensemble.org/>

Hub New Music

Called “contemporary chamber trailblazers” by the Boston Globe, Hub New Music – composed of flute, clarinet, violin, and cello – is forging new pathways 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. Its performances have been described as “gobsmacking” (Cleveland

Classical), "innovative" (WBUR), and "the cutting edge of new classical music" (Taos News).

Highlights for the 2020-21 concert season include performances presented by Arizona Friends of Chamber Music, Williams Center for the Arts at Lafayette College, Texas Performing Arts, Celebrity Series of Boston, Sacramento State Festival of New American Music, and a European debut at the Alba Music Festival (Italy). The season features premieres of new works by Christopher Cerrone and Eric Nathan; and multiple performances of recent commissions by Hannah Lash, Kati Agócs, Takuma Itoh, and Michael Ippolito.

Hub's debut album, *Soul House*, released on New Amsterdam Records in 2020 was called "ingenious and unequivocally gorgeous" by the Boston Globe. The ensemble's upcoming recording with Silkroad's Kojiro Umezaki (shakuhachi) and Asia-America New Music Institute (AANMI) will be released on Tōrō Records.

Hub New Music brings its passion for adventurous and relevant programming to global audiences as both a quartet and as collaborative artists. Recent projects include *Terra Nova* with composer/songwriter collective Oracle Hysterical; *The Nature of Breaking*, a 30-minute collaborative work with composer/harpist Hannah Lash; and a choreographed production of Robert Honstein's *Soul House* with Boston's Urbanity Dance. Upcoming projects include *Requiem for the Enslaved*, an evening length mass by Carlos Simon supported by Georgetown University's GU272 Project that honors the lives of 272 African American slaves and their descendants; a new 'modular' work by Sō Percussion's Jason Treuting; and new works by composers Nina C. Young, Nathalie Joachim, and Laura Kaminsky.

For its visionary programming, HNM was named one of WQXR's "10 Cutting-Edge Artists that Have Captured the Imagination" in 2016, and has been featured in major press outlets including the Boston Globe, New York Times, WFMT (Chicago), The New Yorker, WBUR (Boston), Houston Chronicle, and several others.

Hub New Music is a group of passionate educators whose approach to teaching melds the artistic and entrepreneurial facets of modern musicianship. Working with student performers and composers at residencies across the country, Hub empowers younger generations of musicians through workshops on building an arts organization, commissioning new work, and developing meaningful collaborations. Residency activities have brought Hub New Music to the New England Conservatory, Princeton, Harvard, University of Michigan, University of Texas-Austin, UC Irvine, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Stetson University, Bowling Green State University, Boston Conservatory, University of Hawaii, and others. In 2020-21 the ensemble introduces

HubLab, a K-12 residency program that uses graphic scores and improvisation to create group compositions with students of all levels.

Learn more about Hub New Music at <http://www.hubnewmusic.org/>

ZOFO

Since joining forces as a professional duo in 2009, internationally acclaimed solo pianists Eva-Maria Zimmermann and Keisuke Nakagoshi — ZOFO — have electrified audiences from Carnegie Hall to Tokyo with their dazzling artistry and outside-the-box thematic programming for one-piano-four-hands. This Grammy-nominated, prize-winning Steinway Artist Ensemble — one of only a handful of duos worldwide devoted exclusively to piano duets — is blazing a bold new path for piano four hands groups by focusing on 20th and 21st century repertoire and by commissioning new works from noted composers each year.

ZOFO, which is shorthand for 20-finger orchestra (ZO=20 and FO=finger orchestra), also performs heart-pumping duet arrangements of famous orchestral pieces such as Stravinsky's Rite of Spring, exploring the realms in which many composers first experienced their symphonic visions. ZOFO believes that the piano duet is the most intimate form of chamber music, with two musicians playing individual parts on one instrument in a complex, often beautiful choreography of four hands.

ZOFO's concert programs often incorporate a unifying theme that connects the works both musically and historically. Several of these thematic programs have been released worldwide as critically acclaimed commercial CDs under their multi-disc recording contract with Grammy Award-winning label Sono Luminus Records. Their 2013 debut CD *Mind Meld* was nominated for two Grammy Awards for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance and Producer of the Year.

ZOFO made its Carnegie Hall debut in 2010, the same year they won the Bradshaw & Buono International Piano Competition. ZOFO was the only piano duo to be elevated to the final round in the 2011 Osaka International Chamber Music Competition. They have performed at a wide variety of concert venues across North America, Europe, Australia, and Japan, including intimate, informal spaces; colleges and universities; and major concert venues such as the Tokyo Opera Recital Hall, the Sydney City Recital Hall, and Tonhalle Zurich. ZOFO has participated at numerous festivals such as Murten Classics in Switzerland, the Sun Valley Music Festival in Idaho, the Music on the Heights International Chamber Music Festival in Poland, and the Kusatsu Summer International Academy and Festival in Japan.

Committed to contemporary music, ZOFO duet has commissioned more than thirty works by noted composers including Pulitzer Prize-winner William Bolcom, Gabriela Lena Frank, Terry Riley, Akira Nishimura, Carl Vine, Pawel Mykietyn, Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Pablo Ortiz, and many others. For their cutting-edge project ZOFOMOMA – New Pictures at an Exhibition, ZOFO commissioned new works from 15 top composers around the globe, and requested each to select a painting representative of his or her culture as a springboard to the creative process. With this project, ZOFO was invited to a nine-concert Australia tour presented by Musica Viva in spring 2019. ZOFO's newest projects are two commissions of one-piano four-hand concertos by Australian composer Carl Vine and Argentinian-American composer Pablo Ortiz.

ZOFO's innovative and inspired performances have garnered national media attention, and ZOFO has been featured on American Public Media's Performance Today, WFMT Chicago's Impromptu, KING-FM's Second Inversion, Australia's ABC Radio National's The Art Show, among many others.

Brittney Benton

Composer Brittney Benton is a senior studying music composition at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. With extensive experience as a pianist, she has explored writing for a variety of instruments and musical styles. Brittney is an aspiring media composer, hoping to specialize in video games. Brittney's teachers have included Cynthia Wong, Diego Vega, and Jennifer Bellor.

Learn more about Brittney here: brittneybentonmusic.wixsite.com/composer

Cory Brodack

Cory Brodack (b.1997) is a composer from the St. Louis area. His acoustic and electronic music is inspired by unique aspects of the human condition, with an emphasis on rich timbre, harmony, shifting rhythm, combining textures and gestures in creative ways, and the exploitation of musical decisions and choice. He has worked for the Municipal Theatre Association of St. Louis (The Muny) on projects such as the first staging of Jerome Robbins's Broadway since 1989, and a new orchestration of The Wiz during the Muny's historic centennial season. Recently, his work Harmonicity earned honorable mention in the Charlotte New Music National String Quartet Competition with Beo String Quartet.

Brodack's recent awards include the 2020 Rudolf Nissim Prize, an honorable mention in the American Prize, East Carolina University's New Music Initiative Orchestra Composition Competition, and an ASCAP Plus Award. His music has been played by performers such as the Rhythm Method String Quartet, Hypercube, Icarus Quartet, Andrew Pelletier, Daniel Anastasio, and the Metropolitan Orchestra of St. Louis. This summer, he is participating in Fresh Inc, Connecticut Summerfest with Hub New Music, CCI with Unheard-of//Ensemble, and New Music on the Point with the JACK quartet. He earned his bachelor degree from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, where he studied with Kimberly Archer. He is finishing his masters studies at Bowling Green State University with Christopher Dietz and Mikel Kuehn, and will be pursuing his PhD at Eastman in the fall.

Learn more about Cory here: corybrodack.com

Aaron Hendrix

A Houston native, Aaron recently completed his Masters degree in composition from the University of Michigan, where he studied with Michael Daugherty and Evan Chambers. He completed his undergraduate studies at Houston Baptist University, where he graduated first in his class with a double major in composition and piano performance.

His portfolio includes commissions and performances by various Houston-based ensembles, including the Scordatura New Music Society, the Fidelis String Quartet, and HBU's Schola Cantorum. More recently, his music has been performed by Michigan's University Symphony Orchestra, and the University of Arizona Percussion Ensemble.

While at Michigan, he co-founded //meridian, an eight-voice, new-music chorale. His orchestral work "Night Train" was selected for the 2018 Cone Emerging Composers Institute with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

Aaron currently teaches music theory, aural skills, and arranging at Siena Heights University and serves as music director for Commerce United Methodist Church. He lives in Ypsilanti with his amazing wife, Emily, and the best-dog-in-the-world, Cooper.

Learn more about Aaron here: <https://www.aaronhendrix.com/>

Grace Ann Lee

Driven by curiosity, Grace Ann Lee (b. 1996) composes music that is based on drama, highlighting appearances of playful rhythm and textural lyricism.

Grace Ann's works had been widely performed across United States. Her recent collaborators include Front Porch, Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, Michael Karsher's Young New Yorkers Chorus, Fifth House Ensemble, and Nunc, among many others. Her music has earned honors and awards from Young Arts National Foundation in music, Society for Chamber Music in Rochester, and Women in Music. Her most recently finished project, *On the Ecchoing Green* (2021) for violin and cello, commissioned by the cellist Feng Hew of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, is to be premiered in June, 2021.

Lee started her musical career by studying the piano at age 4 and had expanded her studies in music through cello and Hae-Geum (Traditional Korea Folk-Instrument). She also was an active member in numerous orchestras, choirs, and studied music theory and jazz. She continues to incorporate her diverse musical trainings in her works as a composer. Grace Ann began studying composition at age 17 with Dr. Stephen Shewan and is currently pursuing a master's degree in composition at Rice University Shepherd School of Music as a student of Karim Al-Zand and Shi-Hui Chen.

Learn more about Grace Ann here: <https://www.graceannlee.com>

Natalie Nicolas

Sydney composer, PhD candidate, and music educator Natalie Nicolas completed her Master of Music (Composition) degree under scholarship at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Nicolas is a tutor and lecturer at Sydney Conservatorium of Music, the 2021 Composer in Residence at Loreto Normanhurst, vocalist/pianist in gigs, and owns/runs a piano tuition school. She has written for artists such as the Australian String Quartet, Claire Edwardes, the Goldner String Quartet, the Muses Trio, the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Sydney Philharmonia Choirs, Canberra Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, and others.

In 2013, Nicolas wrote for the ASQ under the guidance of Andrew Ford, as a winner of the National Composers Forum. Nicolas was selected for the inaugural National Women Composer's Development Program in 2016-2018. Nicolas won the prestigious Flinders Quartet Composition Competition in 2017 and 2019, and went on to receive the Flinders String Quartet 'All That We Are' residency. In 2017-18, Nicolas was commissioned by the Hush Foundation, and wrote for the Australian Chamber Orchestra, premiering her piece in City Recital Hall, Sydney, and further in Melbourne Recital Centre.

In February 2021, the Southern Cross Soloists and Slava Grigoryan commissioned and premiered a new work of Nicolas' at QPAC, to their largest audience in 26 years. Nicolas was the only female, youngest, and only premiered composer of the program. Some of her other projects for 2020/21 include collaborations with the Australian Ballet with Orchestra Victoria, and award-winning guitarist Matt Withers thanks to a generous commission by the ABC as part of their Fresh Start Fund initiative. Nicolas was a winner of the Cybec 21st Century Australian Composers' Program 2021, and is being commissioned to write a new work for the orchestra, due for premiere in 2022.

Learn more about Natalie here: natalienicolas.com.au

Annie Nikunen

Annie Nikunen is a NYC-based composer, flutist, dancer, choreographer, sounds artist and radio broadcaster, whose work ranges from concert music and field recordings to dance and film. Her work explores connections between composition and choreography, always considering the physicality of sound in relation to movement and space. She utilizes and amalgamates elements of ballet, modern and contact improv in her practice. Choreography is a significant part of Nikunen's compositional process; she sees music performance/composing/dancing/choreographing as four sides of the same square. Some current commissions she is working on include a piece combining dance, choreography and flute for Periapsis Music and Dance, a group exhibition with Dordor Gallery, composing a solo work for cellist Jamie Clark, and reuniting with collaborator Camilla Caldwell on a piece for violin and electronics.

She is a founding member of NYC-based new music group BlackBox Ensemble, for which she is the flutist and Social Media/Marketing Manager. Nikunen has experienced both sides of music-dance collaborations, playing the part of composer, flutist, dancer and/or choreographer in spaces from Central Park to the Chelsea gallery.

Nikunen will be pursuing an MM in Composition at NYU starting this fall, and holds a BA in Music (composition/theory) from Barnard College, Columbia University, where she also studied flute performance in the Manhattan School of Music dual program with Tara O'Connor. At Columbia, she studied composition with Georg Friedrich Haas, Seth Cluett, Ellie Hisama and Mahir Cetiz. She was the recipient of the Charles S. Miller Award as well as the Boris & Eda Rappoport Prize, both for distinction in music composition, from Columbia's Music Department.

Learn more about Annie here: www.annienikunen.com

Christian Quiñones

Christian Quiñones (b.1996) is a Puerto Rican composer whose music explores concepts such as cultural identity and the intersection between vernacular music, electronic textures, rock, and Latin music. For 2020 he was selected for the Earshot Underwood Orchestra Readings with the American Composers Orchestra and as a fellow for the 2021 Bang on a Can Summer Festival where he was a recipient of the Elizabeth and Justus Schlichting commission. Christian is also thrilled to be a recipient of the 2020 Brooklyn Arts Council Inaugural Commission with Chromic Duo, the winner of the 2020 Bergamot String Quartet Commission project, and a fellow for the 2021 Red Note Music Festival.

His music has been performed and/or commissioned by members of Dal Niente, Loadbang, Onix Ensemble, Illinois Modern Ensemble (IME), Unheard-of Ensemble, Trio Sanromá, Victory Players, American Composers Orchestra, Cuban virtuoso René Izquierdo, Boston New Music Initiative Ensemble, Orquesta del Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico, and emerging talents such as Daniela Santos Colón.

He has also been a fellow in festivals and residencies such as the 2020 DePaul University Summer Residency, CCI Initiative, Longy Divergent Studio, and The Zodiac Festival in France where Christian was awarded the Distinguished Composer award. From 2018 to 2019 he was a composer-in-residence at Mt. Holyoke MIFA Festival where he was commissioned by the Victory Players and worked on outreach programs.

He obtained his BM in Music Composition at the Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico studying with Alfonso Fuentes. In 2019 Christian was a recipient of the Graduate College Master's Fellowship at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Next fall, Christian will begin his Ph.D. in music composition as a President's fellow at Princeton University.

Learn more about Christian here: www.christianquinonesmusic.com

Davide Tammaro

Davide Tammaro is an Italian composer based in New York City. His music is a blend of innovation and tradition, which draws from his Italian heritage and is often inspired by real life experiences and his obsession with literature. His composition, String Quartet No.1, won the 2019 Premio Musica Nova - International Composition Competition with Oscar winner, Ennio Morricone, as the President of the Jury. Davide's concert music has been performed in Europe and the USA by Quartetto Indaco, Ensemble +47, Pentarte

Ensemble, the North South Chamber Orchestra of New York and the KLK String Orchestra of Lviv (Ukraine). His works have been performed and/or selected as finalist at several international competitions and calls for scores such as the 2019 HighScore Festival in Pavia and the XIII International Composition Competition Citta' di Udine in Italy, the KLK Musica per Archi composition Competition 2020 in Ukraine and the STB Composition Competition 2020, in Austria, among others. In 2020 Davide contributed with his Toccata per Violoncello, to the new album of Italian cellist Cosimo Carovani: Ad Antiqua - released by Da Vinci Publishing. Davide studied Classical Guitar at the San Pietro a Majella Music Conservatory, in Naples, Italy and is a graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA.

Learn more about Davide here: www.davidetanmaro.com



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To learn more about Just a Theory and our mission, or to check out some of the pieces below, visit www.justatheorypress.com.



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