



Connecticut Summerfest

Contemporary Music Festival

2022 Season
Concert Program Booklet
June 9th–15th, 2022

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 2022 Season:

Ensembles-in-Residence

Del Sol Quartet
Haven Trio
NorthStar Duo

Composition Faculty

Robert Carl | The Hartt School, University of Hartford
Du Yun | Peabody Institute, Johns Hopkins University
Gilda Lyons | The Hartt School, University of Hartford
Evan Williams | Berklee College of Music

Festival Composers

Kay Cypret
Evan Fontaine
Matthew Lam
Janay Maisano
Jeremy Makkonen
Dale Osterman
Sylvia Niemann
Cole Reyes
Kento Stratford

A Note from the Directors

Thank you for joining us for Connecticut Summerfest's seventh season! We are thrilled to see everyone in person at our concert series for the first time since 2019; we are so grateful that you are here.

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 2022 season, Connecticut Summerfest will have engaged 19 composition faculty, presented 15 chamber music ensembles, and premiered over 62 new works. In 2021, we garnered 692 concert series views, which, with your support, will grow *and* include our in-person audience this season. Additionally, Connecticut Summerfest received 106 applications to its 2022 Composition Program. Nine composers from this pool were selected as our extraordinary 2022 festival composers whose 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.

While the arts were heavily impacted by COVID-19, now more than ever, we believe they have the power to uplift and inspire. Your support of Connecticut Summerfest makes a 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 seven-year musical journey. And now, please enjoy the music!

Sincerely,



Aaron N. Price
Artistic Director



Gala Flagello
Festival Director

Artist Residency Showcase

Haven Trio

Friday, June 10, 2022 | 8:00 PM | Berkman Recital Hall

Lindsay Kesselman, soprano
Kimberly Cole Luevano, clarinet
Midori Koga, piano

Hardwired for Optimism (2021) Roshanne Etezady (b. 1973)
In Montsouris Park Caroline Pettit Pinet (text)
Hardwired for Optimism

Home is Minor Sixths Ivette Herryman Rodriguez
(The Passing Seagull) (2022) (b. 1982)

To My Own Heart (2021) Amy Beth Kirsten (b. 1972)
(who refuses to come home Estefania Mitre (text)
from Brooklyn)

Three Portraits (2015) Kieren MacMillan (b. 1969)
Speech From A Novella Dana Gioia (text)
Photograph of My Mother As A Young Girl
The Country Wife

Hardwired for Optimism (2021) Roshanne Etezady (b. 1973)
Six Women Laughing Caroline Pettit Pinet (text)
Right/Rite of Spring

Shell and Wing (2019) David Biedenbender (b. 1984)
Shell Robert Fanning (text)
Wing

About Haven Trio

Well-established solo artists soprano Lindsay Kesselman, clarinetist Kimberly Cole Luevano, and pianist Midori Koga joined as HAVEN in 2011 around performances of Abbie Betinis' hauntingly beautiful song cycle *Nattsanger*. The group released its first album, *Bright Angel*, on Fleur de Son, Ltd. in 2013 to critical acclaim: "...amazingly performed works...performances are exquisite as it their ensemble chemistry." (Sequenza 21) The trio subsequently released *Atonement* in 2015 and *TWINGE* in 2019.

Now in its 10th season as a trio, HAVEN is a 2021 recipient of both a Barlow Endowment for Music Composition award with composer David Biedenbender, and also a 2021 Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Grant with composer Ivette Herryman Rodriguez. This season, HAVEN will premiere a new piece, *Hardwired for Optimism* by Roshanne Etezady and also new arrangements of David Biedenbender's *Shell and Wing* and Amy Beth Kirsten's *to my own heart* in several performances across the United States.

In 2016-17 HAVEN premiered and toured Jon Magnussen's *TWINGE*, made possible by a 2015 Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Grant. This work is based on Pulitzer Prize winner Barry Bearak's "The Day the Sea Came," the Nov. 27, 2005 New York Times Magazine cover story which tells the story of six who survived the 2004 tsunami which devastated much of Indonesia. HAVEN also received a 2015 Ontario Arts Council grant to partner with composer Kieren MacMillan and poet Dana Gioia for the premiere of *Three Portraits*, which premiered in Toronto.

HAVEN has ongoing relationships with such composers as Kieren MacMillan, Evan Chambers, Abbie Betinis, Lee Kesselman, and Roshanne Etezady and loves to give new works a life beyond their premiere. The group regularly tours across North America, and believes in the exploration of multi-dimensional performances in which the audience is fully embraced and invited into the heart of the experience.

Whether it is within a living room, an art gallery, or a concert hall, HAVEN seeks to invite audiences to engage with the intimate and powerful world of contemporary music-making so that all might emerge open to new possibilities, connected to each other, and transformed for the wider world. More information can be found at www.haventrio.com

Artist Residency Showcase

Del Sol Quartet

Saturday, June 11, 2022 | 8:00 PM | Berkman Recital Hall

Sam Weiser, violin
Benjamin Kreith, violin
Charlton Lee, viola
Kathryn Bates, cello

Spasm

Vijay Iyer (b.1971)

A Song About Unity

Andrew Rodriguez (b. 1989)

Tattooed in Snow

Du Yun (b. 1977)

Intermission

A Dust in Time

Huang Ruo (b. 1976)

About Del Sol Quartet

Fascinated by the feedback loop between social change, technology, and artistic innovation, the San Francisco-based Del Sol Quartet is a leading force in 21st-century chamber music. They believe that live music can, and should, happen anywhere – whether introducing Ben Johnston's microtonal Americana at the Library of Congress or in a canyon cave, taking Aeryn Santillan's gun-violence memorial to the streets of the Mission District, or collaborating with Huang Ruo and the anonymous Chinese poets who carved their words into the walls of the Angel Island Immigration Station.

Since 1992, Del Sol has commissioned or premiered thousands of works by composers including Terry Riley, Gabriela Lena Frank, Tania León, Frederic Rzewski, Vijay Iyer, Mason Bates, Michael Harrison, Huang Ruo, Pamela Z, Chinary Ung, Chen Yi, Erberk Eryilmaz, Theresa Wong, Reza Vali, and Kui Dong. The quartet regularly works with composers through workshops, universities, as well as Del Sol commissioning and incubator programs. They especially value their ongoing relationship with the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music in Boonville, CA.

Del Sol's eleventh album "A Dust in Time" debuted at #3 on Billboard in October 2021. Called "excavations of beauty from the elemental" (NY Times), this hour-long meditation was released in the form of a coloring book. Their previous album "Kooch-e Khamân" (February 2021) features 7 new works by young Iranian composers and charted #5 on Billboard. In the 2021-2022 season, Del Sol continues its Joy Project, performing outdoor pop-ups around the Bay Area of music written to inspire joy. They also are producing two large projects: "The Angel Island Project," an immigration-themed oratorio by Chinese American composer Huang Ruo, and "Between Worlds of Sound," a collaboration with North Indian musicians Alam Khan & Arjun Verma. In 2021, the quartet were featured artists at the Venice Biennale's Arts Letter and Numbers Pavilion. They are current artists on the ImmerSphere roster, a groundbreaking platform that produces performances in augmented reality.

Artist Residency Showcase

NorthStar Duo

Sunday, June 12, 2022 | 4:00 PM | Berkman Recital Hall

Adrienne Baker, flute
Seychelle Dunn-Corbin, saxophone

I Tiptoe On The Heights	Elle Leigh Harris (b. 1988)
Invisible Rivers	Melika Fitzhugh (b. 1972)
I Remember	Nicole DeMaio (b. 1991)
Reverse Metamorphosis	Missy Alvarez (b.1999)
The Sky is Green	Eliza Gelinias (b. 1997)

Break

Save One Life, You Save The World Entire	Aaron Jay Myers (b.1979)
Spiritual for Wind Duo Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Wade In The Water We Shall Not Be Moved Deep River Ev'ry Time I Feel The Spirit	arr. Anthony R. Green (b.1984)
My Cherie Amor	arr. Adrienne Baker (b.1981)
Opal's Boogie	Adrienne Baker

About NorthStar Duo

Saxophonist Seychelle Dunn-Corbin and Flutist Adrienne Baker came together in February 2016, both passionate about works for winds and their accessibility to audiences and musicians alike. Through research, transcription and commission, they have exposed audiences to America's diverse legacy, whether it be cutting new contemporary music, championing the works by women or works by people of color.

Since their beginnings in the Greater Boston Area, NorthStar Duo has worked to expand the repertoire of their unorthodox instrumentation, showcasing the artistic and expressive capabilities of woodwind instruments. NorthStar Duo has given concerts in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York in addition to the Boston Sculptors Gallery, The Boston Copley Library in the Courtyard, as well as the group's alma mater Longy School of Music. Through commission and call for scores, they have premiered works written specifically for them and their instrumentation, including Spirituals for Wind Duo by Anthony R. Green, Save One Life, You Save the World Entire by Aaron Jay Myers, and The Sky Is Green by Eliza Gelinias.

Believing in community and holding space, this past year saw the first year of their podcast "NorthStar Duo and Keeping Score", a monthly podcast where they discuss current and historical contributions of musicians of color to the western canon of historic and traditional performance. Guests have included educator and administrator Jammie Phillips, Grammy Nominated flutist Kim Scott, and Educator and entrepreneur Alissa Gittens.

Future projects will include more commissions for their unorthodox, yet groovy, pairing as they continue to explore the full breadth of possibilities for their instruments. To learn more about NorthStar Duo, or to work with us, please contact us at northstarduo@gmail.com.

New Works Concert

Evening of Premieres

Tuesday, June 14, 2022 | 8:00 PM | Berkman Recital Hall

All the pieces on this evening's program were composed specifically for Connecticut Summerfest 2022! Festival composers have collaborated with NorthStar Duo, Del Sol Quartet, and Haven Trio in preparation for these exciting premieres.

NorthStar Duo

Nocturnal Sketches

Kay Cypret

Burrowing Owl
Snowy Owl
Owl of Athena

Seasons in the Garden

Janay Maisano

Triptych

Jeremy Makkonen

Del Sol Quartet

In Extremis

Matthew Lam

Meditations

Dale Osterman

Woven Linens and Tattered Wool

Cole Reyes

Haven Trio

Owl

Evan Fontaine

The Spirits and Their Fruit

Sylvia Niemann

Songs from the Attic

Kento Stratford

When I was one-and-twenty
J'avais manquée le train
Like a Battleship
My father is tired

2022 Festival Composers

Kay Cypret is a modern composer. She received her B.A. degree in Music Performance (Euphonium) at Missouri Southern State University and her M.M. degree in Music Composition and Orchestral Conducting from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Kay is currently pursuing a D.A. in Music Composition at the University of Northern Colorado. She has composed numerous pieces for chamber and large ensembles. Kay has written works for the Bearhoven, Missouri New Music Initiative, Stacey Barelos, Golden Spectra, Flutist Camden Sidenstricker, Clarinetist Dr. Cheryl Cifelli, 1000 Words; Music and Poetry inspired by Photo Spiva, the University of Missouri Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble, and various orchestras.

Evan Fontaine is a senior at the IU Jacobs School of Music, where he studies composition and visual media scoring. His music draws inspiration from a vast range of styles, namely jazz, folk, and electronic music. He often blurs the boundaries between these styles with non-sequiturs and collage techniques to craft a kaleidoscope of colors, tones, and patterns. He also enjoys exploring irony and satire in his work, as well as the timbral and harmonic possibilities of unusual instrument combinations. These fundamental aesthetic values culminate in a sound that can only be described as whimsical, groovy, absurd, and tastefully scatterbrained.

Matthew Lam is an active composer and an enthusiast of contemporary music style. His works were featured in various festivals and events, most notably including soundSCAPE Festival, Toolbox International Creative Academy, and Music from the Heart concerts held by Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra. His works were played and read by various groups, including the Mivos Quartet, Mise-en Ensemble, Cong Quartet, Stellar Trio, Chung Chi Wind Orchestra, and the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra. Lam earned his bachelor's degree from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is now pursuing his master's studies in composition at Bowling Green State University.

Janay Maisano is a young composer who recently graduated from the University of Redlands with a Bachelors in Music Composition. She enjoys making all kinds of music and especially enjoys writing scores to enhance other forms of media. Janay is

also passionate about video games and books that more often than not inspire her work.

Jeremy Makkonen (b. January 28, 1998) is a Michigan based composer and flutist. Makkonen's music explores elements of the mystical, the macabre, and the surreal to create an evocative and engaging musical language.

Makkonen has recently collaborated with and has had his music performed and read by the musicians of HUB New Music, the Khemia Ensemble, and the percussionist Simone Beneventi, and has attended the highSCORE Festival and the Composers Retreat with Dr. Chen Yi.

Makkonen has Bachelor's in Music degrees in Composition and in Flute Performance, and is currently pursuing master's degrees in Composition, Flute Performance, and Music Theory.

Dale Osterman is a composer from Connecticut interested in creating unique sound worlds and exploring the meaning-making potential of music. As a performer, Dale can be found performing around Northwestern Connecticut as a freelancer as well as in the Torrington Symphony Orchestra as first chair cellist. Dale holds a degree in music production from WCSU and a Master's in composition from the Hartt school. His current realm of interest is recorded sound, and he hopes to begin exploring the album, streaming, and online video formats in the near future. More info about Dale's work can be found at daleosterman.com.

Sylvia Niemann is delighted to join Connecticut Summerfest for her first festival as a composer. She collaborated with Momenta Quartet, Hub New Music, Fifth House Ensemble, Yarn | Wire, members of the Binghamton Philharmonic Orchestra, MM in Opera and PhD in Creative Writing students, and the Binghamton University Art Museum. Sylvia studied composition with Daniel Thomas Davis for two years as an undergraduate and one year as a master's student. She participated in Binghamton University's vocal performance program for three years. Sylvia dances in styles including Horton, Luigi Jazz, Flamenco, and West African. She plays piano and violin.

Cole Reyes (b. 1998) is a Brooklyn-based composer and conductor originally from the Chicagoland Area. His music is influenced by a modern expression of tonality and post-minimalism and seeks to

create a rich sonic atmosphere for a wide audience. He has collaborated with artists such as the JACK Quartet, Transient Canvas, the Rhythm Method Quartet, Juventas New Music Ensemble, Inversion Da Capo, and Dashon Burton. He holds a Master's Degree from New York University in Concert Music Composition where he studied with Robert Honstein, Michael Gordon, and Julia Wolfe.

Based in Toronto, Canada, **Kento Stratford** is actively engaged in work as a composer, pianist, organist, and music educator. Kento's works have been commissioned and performed throughout North America by a wide variety of ensembles and artists, including most recently, the Amadeus Choir of Greater Toronto, Thorwald Jorgensen, Jamie Jordan, and the Odin String Quartet. In addition to being active as an educator in piano and composition, Kento currently serves as music director and organist at Graceview Presbyterian Church in Etobicoke, Ontario.

Festival Staff

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Just a Theory Press

Just a Theory Press is proud to partner with Connecticut Summerfest to continue our support of composers everywhere!

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



Our 2022 Season has been made possible in part by grant support from the following organizations:

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