

ENSEMBLE FOR

E4TT

THESE TIMES



Blooming Flowers

Music by
Women
Composers

Ensemble for These Times

Nanette McGuinness, Soprano

Ilana Blumberg, Violin

Anne Lerner-Wright, Cello

Dale Tsang, Piano

Center for New Music

Saturday, January 25, 2020 | 7:30 p.m.

E4TT.org

Welcome to E4TT 's first concert of 2020! As befits a new decade and to set the perfect tone for bringing our past into the future, we'll begin the '20s with a concert of music by ten contemporary women composers. Among them are a number of pathbreakers, including Audrey Call (the only composer on the program not alive today), whose jazz-infused classical compositions were quite unusual for women of her generation. Today's concert features a new piano trio written for us by Chinese composer Weiwei Miao, whose music we originally encountered in our first Call for Scores in 2016, at which we received 275 scores by 200 composers.

We're thrilled to have guest violinist Ilana Blumberg and composer Weiwei Miao join us again at this concert.

We have a wonderful spring season in store for you, with a new recording of our 2018 commissions project, "Once/Memory/Night: Paul Celan," and two exciting programs: "Mothers & Daughters," our 2020 commissions concert with three premieres, by Elinor Armer, David Garner, and Brennan Stokes along with music by Anna Clyne, Chen Yi, and William Grant Still, on International Women's Day, March 8; and "Dreams of Distant Lands," works by or about creative artists who were oppressed or longed for their native lands, featuring Shostakovich's "From Jewish Folk Poetry" in Yiddish, plus music by Dallapiccola, Garner, and Chen and with a special guest appearance by pianist/composer Dalit Warshaw, playing her own music on June 12. We hope you'll join us.

Happy New Year and New Decade!

- Nanette, Dale, Anne, and David

Thank you to our 2019 and 2020 individual donors and foundations for supporting our twelfth season of relevant, timely, rare, contemporary music— such as today's concert of works by ten modern women composers.

Time Lord (\$1,000+)

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Contemporary (\$100-249)

Robert Berkowitz, in memory of Lajos Delej
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Donna Cooper
Jacqueline Divenyi
Margret Elson
Dennis Estis
Joyce Goodman
James and Carole McGuinness
Bruce Nalezny

Nancy Quinn
Cynthia Whitehead
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Allen Greene
Juliana Hall
Robert Korwin, in memory of Yala Korwin
Lawrence Kramer and Nancy Leonard
Daniel Lewis
Nicole Paiement and Brian Staufienbiel
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E4TT is honored to be fiscally sponsored by InterMusic SF, a non-profit organization dedicated to small-ensemble music in the San Francisco Bay Area.

List current as of January 15, 2020.



Pianist **DALE TSANG** earned her BM in piano performance from the University of Southern California, her MM from the University of Michigan and her DMA from Rice University. Nominated for the 1997 Van Cliburn competition, she took first prize in the 2001 Carmel Music Society Competition and was a semi-finalist in the 1999 Washington International Competition. Tsang performed at the Aspen Music Festival, the Holland Music Sessions and the Sarasota Music Festival. Tsang is a faculty member at Laney College and an active solo and chamber musician, both nationally and internationally.

Don't miss the second half
of our 12th Season

March 8, 2020
Mothers & Daughters
Noe Valley Ministry, SF

April 20, 2020
New Recording Release
"Once/Memory/Night: Paul Celan"

June 12, 2020
Dreams of Distant Lands
Old First Concerts, SF

E4TT Staff

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Nanette McGuinness, Co-Director
Stephanie Neumann, Marketing & Development
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Program

S - Soprano	V - Violin	C - Cello	P - Piano
Ellen Mandel (b. 1957)	I So Liked Spring (Charlotte Mew) ^{S/P} The Brave Man (Wallace Stevens) The Maples (Glyn Maxwell) Nobody wears a yellow flower (e. e. cummings)		9'
Chen Yi (b. 1953)	<i>Ji Dong Nuo</i> (2007) ^P		3'
Vivian Fung (b. 1972)	Keeping Time (2011) ^P		3'
Lori Laitman (b. 1955)	from <i>The Metropolitan Tower</i> ^{S/P} (1991-2, Sara Teasdale) The Metropolitan Tower A Winter Night The Strong House		7'
Weiwei Miao (b. 1985)	Blooming Flowers, Full Moon ^{V/C/P} WORLD PREMIERE		8'

Intermission

Ellen Taaffe Zwilich (b. 1942)	Lament (2000) ^{C/P}	7'
Jessica Rudman (b. 1982)	Times of Speaking and Silence (2006) ^{V/C/P}	7'
Victoria Bond (b. 1945)	Binary, Movement II (2005) ^P	4'
Aleksandra Vrebalov (b. 1972)	Passion Revisited (2005) ^{V/C/P}	10'
Audrey Call (1905-2001)	Witch of Harlem (1937) ^{V/P}	2'

About the Composers

Internationally acclaimed composer/conductor **VICTORIA BOND**'s compositions have been praised by the New York Times as "powerful, stylistically varied and technically demanding." Bond's opera *Clara* about Clara Schumann received its premiere and 11 performances at the Berlin Philharmonic Easter Festival in Germany, April, 2019. Bond has composed eight operas, six ballets, two piano concertos and numerous orchestral, chamber, choral and keyboard compositions. She has been commissioned by American Opera Projects, the Houston and Shanghai Symphony Orchestras, Cleveland and Indianapolis Chamber Orchestras, Michigan Philharmonic, Cassatt String Quartet, Young People's Chorus, American Ballet Theater, Pennsylvania Ballet and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. Bond holds a Doctorate in orchestral conducting from The Juilliard School. victoriabond.com

American violinist and composer **AUDREY CALL** (1905-2001) studied in France at the Paris Conservatory, performing as a soloist and orchestral player in Chicago and New York. After moving to California, she played on radio shows such as "Fibber McGee and Molly," and "Halls of Ivy," as well as for Hollywood sound tracks (among them "Around the World in 80 Days"). Unusually for her generation, she was one of only a handful of women composers who wrote for the violin in a jazz style.

A prolific composer who transcends cultural and musical boundaries, **CHEN YI** (b. 1953 in Guangzhou, China) is a Distinguished Professor at the Conservatory in the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and a recipient of Ives Living Award from the American Academy of Arts & Letters. Her music is published by Theodore Presser, performed and recorded worldwide. Degrees are from Beijing Central Conservatory of Music and Columbia University in NYC. Composition teachers were Wu Zu-qiang, Chou Wen-chung and Mario Davidovsky. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, and the American

Chamber Music Festival, the Marlboro Music Festival, the La Jolla Summerfest as a 'Rising Star', the Aspen Music Festival, and many others. She appears frequently throughout the Bay Area with the Marin, Silicon Valley, West Edge Opera, Berkeley, and California Symphonies, as well as with the Golden Gate String Quartet, eco ensemble, and Left Coast Chamber Ensemble.



Cellist **ANNE LERNER** completed her B.A. in Music at Northwestern University as a Cello Performance major after three years as a Spanish Literature major at Bryn Mawr College, earning a M.M. in cello performance at the San Francisco Conservatory, where she earned a Master of Music in Cello Performance. She has performed with numerous Bay Area orchestras and is a sought-after chamber musician and performer of contemporary music. A dedicated educator, Anne conducts two youth orchestras in the Marin Symphony Youth Program, is on the faculties of Dominican University and San Rafael High School and maintains a large private studio.



Photo by Russ Fischella

Soprano and E4TT co-founder and co-director **NANETTE MCGUINNESS** has performed in 11 languages on two continents in over 25 roles with the Silesian State (Czech Republic), Opera San Jose (Opera in the Schools), West Bay Opera, Pacific Repertory Opera, Trinity Lyric Opera, and Livermore Valley Opera, among others. Solo concert engagements include Mahler's Fourth Symphony, as well as *Shéhérezade* (Ravel), *Nuits d'été* (Berlioz), *Stabat Mater* (Rossini), Requiem (Fauré), Gloria (Vivaldi), *Lord Nelson Mass* (Haydn), *Vesperae Solennes* (Mozart), and Handel's *Messiah* and *Solomon*. Her CD of music by 19th and 20th century women composers, *Fabulous Femmes* (Centaur)—which was called "perfect for the song recital lover" by *Chamber Music Magazine*—features several premiere recordings.

intelligence, wit, lyricism, and irony to create a deep understanding of our times and the human condition.

E4TT toured to Madrid, Spain in 2017, performed at the 2016 Krakow Culture Festival (where the group has been invited to return in 2021), was sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Budapest in 2014 for a four-city tour in Hungary, and made its international debut in Berlin in 2012. E4TT has performed locally at the German Consulate General, SF Conservatory of Music, Old First Concerts, JCC Peninsula, Trinity Chamber Concerts, and Noontime Concerts, among other venues, and has commissioned two dozen works. E4TT's debut CD, *Surviving: Women's Words* (Centaur, 2016) won a Silver Medal in the 2016 Global Music Awards; two of the songs on the CD have also been nominated as finalists in the 2017 Global Peace Song Awards. Lesley Mitchell-Clarke in *The Whole Note* wrote "Now more than ever [...] the potent and timeless messages of survival, love, tolerance and forgiveness contained on this brilliant presentation need to resonate throughout the world."

"The Hungarians: From Rózsa to Justus" (Centaur, 2018) won a Gold Medal in the Global Music Awards. The recording features a rarely heard cello duo by Hollywood movie maven (and Hungarian émigré) Miklós Rózsa (*Spellbound*, *Ben-Hur*), along with works by three others of his compatriots who perished in the Holocaust, including the premiere recording of a work by the young Lajos Delej, and an end-of-the-era waltz song with text and music by György Justus. E4TT's next recording, *Once/Memory/Night: Paul Celan* will be released in spring 2020.

About the Performers



Violinist **ILANA BLUMBERG** has appeared across the United States and internationally, in solo appearances with the San Francisco Symphony, the Albany Symphony (NY), Symphony Napa Valley, and the Merced Symphony, as well as performances at the prestigious Santa Fe

Academy of Arts & Letters, also a Distinguished Visiting Professor in China. presser.com/chen-yi

JUNO Award-winning composer **VIVIAN FUNG** combines idiosyncratic textures and styles into large-scale works, reflecting her multicultural background. Fung's 2019–20 season includes performances of *Birdsong* by Midori, a new concerto for trumpeter Mary Elizabeth Bowden and the Erie Philharmonic, *Dust Devils* by The Philadelphia Orchestra and Baltimore Symphony, *Aqua* by the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, *Earworms* with the Vancouver Symphony, and *Pizzicato* with the Fort Worth Symphony. Fung mentors composers at the American Composers Forum, San Francisco Contemporary Chamber Players, London Symphony, and Cabrillo Festival. Born in Canada, she received her doctorate from Juilliard. Fung lives in California and is on the faculty of Santa Clara University. vivianfung.ca

Described by *Fanfare Magazine* as "one of the most talented and intriguing of living composers," **LORI LAITMAN** has composed multiple operas and choral works, and hundreds of songs, setting texts by classical and contemporary poets (including those who perished in the Holocaust). Her opera *The Scarlet Letter* was named a Critic's Choice by *Opera News* and one of the top 5 CDs of 2018 by *Fanfare Magazine*. Prestigious commissions include from the BBC, Opera America, Opera Colorado, The Baltimore Symphony and Grant Park Music Festival. Laitman graduated *magna cum laude* from Yale College and received her MM from The Yale School of Music. For more information, please visit www.artsongs.com.

Composer **ELLEN MANDEL** has written many art songs to texts by E.E. Cummings, Seamus Heaney, WB Yeats, Thomas Hardy, Charlotte Mew, and others. Performances: E4TT at the SFCM, Tribeca New Music Festival, St Mark's Church, Klavierhaus, and Century Center (NYC), Sirena Poetry Festival (PA), In-Series (Wash DC), Florio Street Concerts (CA), New Gallery Concerts (Boston), across the USA, and in Ireland, Scotland, England, and Germany. Mandel has also written music for over eighty plays, receiving a

Scenie Award and many Best Music nominations. *The New York Times* writes, "Mandel's songs are ardent and spiky...refreshingly organic." ellenmandel.com

WEIWEI MIAO is an associate professor from Shanghai Conservatory of Music. She completed her Master of Music degree in Scoring for Film and Multimedia at New York University. Her orchestral work *Inksplash* was premiered at Symphony Space in New York in 2015. As part of the 2016-2017 National Center for Performing Arts Young Composers Program, the orchestral piece *Three Poems* was performed by Chinese philharmonic in 2017 and got the third prize. Supported by China National Art Fund, the orchestral piece *Spirit of Jade* will be premiered in 2020. The documentary movie *Still Human* and the short movie *New York, I Love You* she scored for have attended NYU and Lincoln Center film festival. The art song *The Road Not Taken* was performed in San Francisco in 2018. In addition, as a member of Shanghai Composition Theory Innovation Team, she also got the support from the funding for the projects of China's "Double First Class" University Construction and Shanghai High-level Local University Construction.

The music of **JESSICA RUDMAN** inspires empathy for contemporary social issues through myth, magic, and sci-fi. Described as a "new music ninja" (Hartford Advocate), she blends lyrical melodies and dramatic narratives with sensual harmony and vibrant color to draw the audience into the worlds she creates. Her works have been performed by the Arditti Quartet, the International Contemporary Ensemble, Hartford Opera Theater, and others. Honors include winning the Riot Ensemble's Commissioning Competition, the NewMusic@ECU Orchestra Composition Competition, and a 2019 Connecticut Artist Fellowship. Rudman holds degrees from the University of Virginia, The Hartt School, and the CUNY Graduate Center. www.jessicarudman.com

Serbian-American composer **ALEKSANDRA VREBALOV** has composed over 80 works ranging from concert music to opera and

dance, with commissions or performances by the Kronos Quartet, Serbian National Theater, Carnegie Hall, Belgrade Philharmonic, and Rambert Dance. A fellow of MacDowell Colony, Rockefeller Bellagio Center, Djerassi, American Opera Projects, The Hermitage, and Tanglewood, Vrebalov is the recipient of The Hoefer Prize, Harvard Fromm Commission, The American Academy of Arts and Letters Charles Ives Fellowship, Barlow Endowment Commission, and MAP Fund grant. Her recent work "My Desert, My Rose," co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall, is part of Kronos Quartet's "50 For The Future."

At a time when the musical offerings of the world are more varied than ever before, few composers have emerged with the unique personality of **ELLEN TAAFE ZWILICH**. Her music is widely known because it is performed, recorded, broadcast, and – above all – listened to and liked by all sorts of audiences the world over. Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians (8th edition) states: "There are not many composers in the modern world who possess the lucky combination of writing music of substance and at the same time exercising an immediate appeal to mixed audiences. Zwilich offers this happy combination of purely technical excellence and a distinct power of communication." zwilich.com

About Ensemble for These Times

Awarded second place for Chamber Music Performance in 2018/19 by The American Prize and Finalists for the Ernest Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music, E4TT consists of award-winning soprano and co-director Nanette McGuinness, Van Cliburn competitor pianist Dale Tsang, cellist Anne Lerner-Wright, and co-director and 2015 American Prize in Composition winner David Garner. The group focuses on 20th and 21st century music that is relevant, engaging, original and compelling—music that resonates with today and speaks to tomorrow, that harnesses the power of artistic beauty,



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