

MUSIG BY WOMEN COMPOSERS

ENSEMBLE FOR THESE TIMES

Nanette McGuinness, Soprano Ilana Blumberg, Violin Solanch Sosa, Violin Abigail Monroe, Cello Margaret Halbig, Piano Karen Rosenak, Piano

E4TT.org

Center for New Music
Saturday, January 30, 2021 | 7:30 p.m.

Welcome to E4TT's first (virtual) concert in 2021! To set the right tone, we're starting the new year with the next edition of our women composers' series via another program of 21st century women composers—and our most diverse program to date—plus a piece by remarkable Grażyna Bacewicz (the only historical composer on the program). We're thrilled to have guest violinist Ilana Blumberg join us again, as well as guests violinist Solanch Sosa and cellist Abigail Monroe for the first time, and to have a virtual pre-concert talk with beloved Bay Area icon Elinor Armer and a video by emerging composer Jessie Montgomery about her piece on tonight's program.

We'd also like to invite you to follow our 2021 **#MeetTheArtist Monday** interview series on social media, featuring monthly interviews spotlighting BIPOC creative artists. We began the series in January with world-famous Bay Area composer/performer **Pamela Z.** Tune in on Monday, February 1 to see who will be featured next!

Due to technical difficulties, "Heartbreaker" by Missy Mazzoli will not be performed on tonight's concert, but will be presented in a future broadcast later this season.

As we were preparing this concert, we were deeply saddened and dismayed to find out that Claudia Montero (1962-2021) had passed away on January 16. We perform her trio and this program in tribute to her memory and her music.

As 2021 begins, our third recording, "Once/Memory/Night: Paul Celan," (released digitally on June 30, 2020, in honor of the centennial of the birth of this seminal poet) has just won a Silver Medal in the Global Music Awards. Celan's poems speak to his personal experiences of loss, disempowerment, imprisonment, and survival under a brutal regime, and his oeuvre has continued to be relevant during these most tumultuous times. As we move into 2021, we fervently hope that we're seeing a light at the end of the tunnel for the pandemic. Further, when this program went to "press," we were watching the dramatic attempted insurrection in Washington: by the time this concert takes place, we also hope that society will have moved towards putting substantive reforms in place and will have shored up our threatened halls of democracy.

We hope you'll join us for the online chat on YouTube tonight as well.

Happy New Year, thank you for joining us online, stay safe, and be well!

PROGRAM

S - Nanette McGuinness, Soprano
 C - Abigail Monroe, Cello
 KR - Karen Rosenak, Piano
 F - Margaret Halbig, Piano
 SS - Solanch Sosa, Violin

Elinor Armer (b. 1939)	Child Your Eyes (Rella Lossy) Song for a Daughter (Ursula Le Guin)	6
Jessie Montgomery (b. 1981)	Rhapsody (2014) V	7′
Tania León (b. 1943)	Tumbao (2005) P	3′
Caroline Shaw (b. 1982)	In manus tuas (2009) ^C	10′
Grażyna Bacewicz (1909-1969)	Mazovian Dance (1951) ^C /P	3′
Jennifer Higdon (b. 1962)	Echo Dash (2013) V	2′
Vivian Fung (b. 1972) Marti Epstein (b. 1958)	Primitive Dances and Folksong (2011) P from "American Etudes": #12 (1991-2005) P	2′ 4′
Anna Clyne (b. 1980)	Rest These Hands (2014) ^S / V from The Violin (text by Colleen Clyne)	9′
Claudia Montero (1962-2021)	Buenos Aires en Tres (2016) SS / C / P	10′

[&]quot;Child, Your Eyes" from 'Audible Dawn' by Rella Lossy, copyright © 1975. Used by permission of Frank Lossy. "SONG FOR A DAUGHTER" by Ursula K. Le Guin. Used by permission of Curtis Brown, Ltd. Copyright © 2012 All rights reserved.

TEXTS

Child, Your Eyes (by Rella Lossy)

Child, your eyes astonish me
More now than on your first born night.
Like a tooth rooted in urgency
You bolt into my sight;
Your head bangs like a door,
Knocks at my breast,
Then you're back to the dig, uncovering shores
Of secret rivers, boundaries that will not rest.
Who told you to bury your feet in the sand?
Ancestral whispers leave a nameless mark,
My arms open to their command,
And you come running to embrace the dark.
I mother you with the blind past that mothered me;
We wade in ancient waters that we cannot see.

Song for a Daughter (by Ursula K. Le Guin)

Mother of my granddaughter, listen to my song: A mother can't do right, a daughter can't be wrong.

I have no claim whatever on amnesty from you; nor will she forgive you for anything you do.

So are we knit together by force of opposites the daughter that unravels the skein the mother knits

One must be divided so that one be whole, and this is the duplicity alleged of woman's soul. To be that heavy mother who weighs in every thing is to be the daughter whose footstep is the Spring.

Granddaughter of my mother, listen to my song: Nothing you do will ever be right, nothing you do is wrong.

Rest These Hands (by Colleen Clyne)

I rest these hands
World weary
Misunderstood
I rest these hands
Toiled weary
Long before they should.
These hands
Palmed to palmed
With wonder
Surrendered

ABOUT THE COMPOSERS



Born in Oakland and raised in Davis, composer **ELINOR ARMER** has spent her life on the West Coast, where she has taught piano, theory, composition, and music history at every level, in schools and universities, at her home in Berkeley as well as in master classes in the U.S. and abroad. For the last fifty years she has been

affiliated with the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where in 1985 she established the composition department, and where she continues to teach composition. Since 2014, the Conservatory has awarded the Elinor Armer Scholarship in Composition to qualifying women applicants. Armer's music is widely performed worldwide and published by Subito Music Corporation. Among her best-known works is "Uses of Music in Uttermost Parts" a fantasy series created over a ten-year period with writer Ursula K. Le Guin.



P.C. Jiyang Chen

JESSIE MONTGOMERY is an acclaimed composer, violinist, and educator. The recipient of the Leonard Bernstein Award from the ASCAP Foundation, her works are performed frequently around the world. Her music interweaves classical music with elements of vernacular music, improvisation, language, and social justice, placing her squarely as one of the most

relevant interpreters of 21st-century American sound and experience. Her profoundly felt works have been described as "turbulent, wildly colorful and exploding with life" (The Washington Post). Since 1999, Jessie has been affiliated with The Sphinx Organization, which supports young African-American and Latinx string players. She currently serves as composer-in-residence for the Sphinx Virtuosi, the Organization's professional touring ensemble. She holds degrees from the Juilliard School and New York University and is currently a Graduate Fellow in Music Composition at Princeton University.



TANIA LEÓN, born in Cuba, a vital personality on today's music scene, is a highly regarded composer and conductor recognized for her accomplishments as an educator and advisor to arts organizations. She has been the subject of profiles on ABC, CBS, CNN, PBS, Univision (including their noted series "Orgullo")

Hispano" which celebrates living American Latinx whose contributions in society have been invaluable), Telemundo and independent films. Current appointments include Member of the Board of Directors, The MacDowell Colony; Vice President of the Music Division, American Academy of Arts and Letters; Founder & Artistic Director, Composers Now; and, most recently, Member of the Board of Directors, New York Philharmonic.



CAROLINE SHAW is a New York-based vocalist, violinist, composer, and producer who performs in solo and collaborative projects. She was the youngest recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 2013 for Partita for 8 Voices, written for the Grammy-winning Roomful

of Teeth, of which she is a member. Recent commissions include new works for Renée Fleming with Inon Barnatan, Dawn Upshaw with Sō Percussion and Gil Kalish, Seattle Symphony, Anne Sofie von Otter with Philharmonia Baroque, the LA Philharmonic, Juilliard 415, the Orchestra of St. Luke's with John Lithgow, the Dover Quartet, TENET, The Crossing, the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia, the Calidore Quartet, Brooklyn Rider, the Baltimore Symphony, and Roomful of Teeth. Shaw has studied at Rice, Yale, and Princeton, currently teaches at NYU, and is a Creative Associate at the Juilliard School.



GRAŻYNA BACEWICZ is considered one of Poland's great musical treasures. A child prodigy, she studied violin, piano, and composition in Warsaw and Paris. Bacewicz's compositional career became her primary preoccupation after a stellar career as a violinist and teacher. While her compositional output is primarily string based, she has a

rich oeuvre of work, including a ballet (*Desire*, 1967-69) based on a play by Picasso. She was one of the founders of the Warsaw Autumn Festival, became the first woman vice-president of the Union of Polish Composers, and was a professor of composition at the Warsaw Music University).



One of America's most acclaimed and most frequently performed living composers, **JENNIFER HIGDON** received the 2010 Pulitzer Prize in Music for her Violin Concerto, a 2010 Grammy for her Percussion Concerto and a 2018 Grammy for her Viola Concerto, and a 2020 Grammy for her Harp Concerto. Most recently, Higdon

received the Nemmers Prize from Northwestern University, given to contemporary classical composers of exceptional achievement who have significantly influenced the field of composition. Higdon enjoys several hundred performances a year of her works, which have been recorded on more than sixty CDs, and her Percussion Concerto recording was recently inducted into the Library of Congress National Recording Registry. Higdon's first opera, *Cold Mountain*, won the International Opera Award for Best World Premiere; she holds the Rock Chair in Composition at The Curtis Institute of Music.



P.C. Geneviève Caron

JUNO Award-winning composer VIVIAN FUNG combines idiosyncratic textures and styles into largescale 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.



P.C. Christina Kernohan

Composer and 2020 Guggenheim fellow MARTI EPSTEIN has seen her music performed by the San Francisco Symphony, Trinity Wall Street's Time's Arrow Festival, the Boston Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players in Leipzig, Germany, the

Radio Symphony Orchestra of Frankfurt, the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Boston, Ensemble Modern, and members of the Boston Symphony. She has completed commissions for the Fromm Foundation, The Munich Biennale, the Iowa Brass Quintet, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, Longy School of Music, the Ludovico Ensemble, Guerilla Opera, the Radius Ensemble, Tanglewood Music Center, Boston Opera Collaborative, and the Callithumpian Consort. She has been a recipient of a Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant, has twice been a fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center, and has been in residence at the MacDowell Colony.



London-born ANNA CLYNE is a Grammy-nominated composer of acoustic and electro-acoustic music. Described as a "composer of uncommon gifts and unusual methods" in a New York Times profile and as "dazzlingly inventive" by Time Out New York, Clyne's work often includes collaborations with cutting-edge choreographers, visual artists, filmmakers, and musicians. Clyne served as composer-in-residence for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, L'Orchestre national d'Île-de-France, and Berkeley Symphony. She is currently the Scottish Chamber Orchestra's Associate Composer through the 2021-2022 season and a mentor composer for Orchestra of St Luke's DeGaetano Composer Institute. Clyne's music is represented on the AVIE Records, Cantaloupe Music, Cedille, MajorWho Media, New Amsterdam, Resound, Tzadik, and VIA labels. Both Prince of Clouds and Night Ferry were nominated for 2015 GRAMMY Awards. Her music is published exclusively by Boosey & Hawkes.



Acclaimed Argentinean composer **CLAUDIA MONTERO** has won two Latin Grammy Awards. Performed worldwide, her works have been premiered by the Orquesta de Cámara de Buenos Aires, Crescendo Orchestra, the *Orquesta* de Cámara de Jeréz, the Orquestra Pau Casals, the Sinfonietta Paris,

the Turin Philharmonic, the Taipei University Symphony Orchestra, the Sinfonierorchester Kusel, the Baltic Neopolis Orchestra, Orquesta Nacional de Tango de Buenos Aires, and the orchestras of Salta, Tucumán, Rosario and Neuquen University in Argentina. Collaborations include ensembles and musicians such as the Maganos Quintet, the American String Quartet, the Almus Quartet, the Kamer Quartet, the Barrenechea Dúo, the Billroth String Quartet, Il Concerto Accademico, Quatre U, Trío Luminar, Trío Brouwer, harpist Floraleda Sacci and guitarists José Luis Ruíz del Puerto, Wolfgang Weigel and Isabel Siewers. She is on faculty with the Generalitat Valenciana.

ABOUT ENSEMBLE FOR THESE TIMES

Awarded second place in 2019 for Chamber Music Performance by The American Prize and 2019 Finalists for the Ernest Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music, E4TT consists of award-winning soprano and Artistic Executive Director Nanette McGuinness, cellist Anne Lerner, season guest pianist Margaret Halbig, and Artistic Advisor and 2015 American Prize-winning composer 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, intelligence, wit, lyricism, and irony to create a deep understanding of our times and the human condition. E4TT performed at the 2016 Krakow Culture Festival, at the Conservatorio Teresa Berganza in Madrid in 2017, 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. E4TT has performed locally at the German Consulate General, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Old First Concerts, JCC Peninsula, Trinity Chamber Concerts, and Noontime Concerts, among other venues, and has commissioned 25 works and two arrangements.

E4TT's critically acclaimed debut CD, Surviving: Women's Words (Centaur, 2016) won a Silver Medal in the 2016 Global Music Award and was reviewed as "fascinating," "passionate," "deeply moving" and "compelling." Lesley Mitchell Clarke (The Whole Note) wrote, "Now more than ever, as the U.S. experiences a déjà vu of hatred and is poised on the brink of societal unravelling, the potent and timeless messages of survival, love, tolerance and forgiveness contained on this brilliant presentation need to resonate throughout the world." The group's second CD, The Hungarians: From Rózsa to Justus (Centaur, 2018) won a Gold Medal in the 2018 Global Music Awards. E4TT released its third CD, Once/Memory/Night: Paul Celan, in June 2020; the recording won a Silver Medal in the Global Music Awards and was chosen as the Center for New Music's Album of the Week for the week of July 17. In choosing it, curator Kurt Rohde wrote, "The members of Ensemble For These Times are longstanding, expert champions of forgotten work by those nearly lost to history, as well as bringing up new voices who have meaningful new work to share. Their newest recording is further evidence of this mission." Jason Victor Serenus (SFCV.org) described it as "skillful," "moving," "chilling," and "effective."

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 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.



Season guest pianist **MARGARET HALBIG** is in high demand as a collaborative artist in both the instrumental and vocal fields. On staff at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music since 2011, she regularly performs recitals, masterclasses, and lessons and has collaborated with many of esteemed Bay Area musicians including mezzo-soprano Frederica Von Stade, San Francisco Symphony Principal

Trombonist Timothy Higgins, and SF Symphony's principal tubist Jeffrey Anderson. An advocate of new and contemporary music, Halbig is the pianist for Ninth Planet, a San Francisco-based new music collective and a member of the wind-and-piano sextet Frequency 49. Halbig was a Collaborative Teaching fellow at Interlochen Arts in 2017 and 2018 in both collaborative and solo piano and has been the pianist for Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco since 2014.



P.C. Russ Fischella

Soprano and E4TT co-founder and Executive Artistic 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

Shéhérézade (Ravel), Nuits d'étés (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.



ABIGAIL MONROE is a New Mexico based performer and educator. She holds a Bachelor's degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in cello performance under the instruction of Jennifer Culp. She has appeared as a soloist, chamber musician, and large ensemble musician in venues across the United States. As a San Francisco resident, Abigail performs frequently throughout the Bay Area as both

a classical cellist. She has served as both Principal cellist of the SFCM Orchestra, as well as the Miami Summer Music Festival Symphony Orchestra. As the winner of the Jackie McGehee Young Artists Competition in 2019, Abigail was also featured as cello soloist performing Elgar's Cello Concerto with the New Mexico Philharmonic.



Pianist KAREN ROSENAK recently retired from full-time teaching at UC Berkeley where she taught musicianship from 1990 until 2014. She also maintained a career as pianist and founding member with Bay Area new music ensembles, Earplay and Empyrean, and performed for a number of years with other new (and "old") music groups, including: Haydn's fortepiano concerto with New Esterhazy Quartet in

2017; the San Francisco premiere in 2017 of Kurt Rohde's opera, Never Was a Knight with Left Coast Chamber Ensemble; and West Edge Opera's Snapshot events in 2017 and 2018. She currently serves part time as coordinator of piano instruction at UC Berkeley.



SOLANCH SOSA began her career at age seven in Cienfuegos, Cuba studying violin with Emilia Bondarenko at the Conservatory for the Arts. Early on, she won the National Strings Concerto Competition in Cuba, and performed with the National Symphony Orchestra and the Philharmonic Orchestra of Venezuela with Gustavo Dudamel. She has performed with the Seattle Symphony, the Philadelphia

Orchestra, and New World Symphony. Solanch has performed with Christopher O'Reilly, YoYo Ma, Esperanza Spalding and Sammy Nestico, and worked under Michael Tilson Thomas, Dr. William LaRue, Thomas Sleeper, Jeffrey Grogan, and Giancarlos Guerrero. Solanch currently attends the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, studying with lan Swensen and was granted the Peter and Jacqueline Hoefer Scholarship.

SPRING 2021

We have a wonderful spring season in store for you!

Saturday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m.

The Cassandra Project, our exciting commissions concert, with four new works by rising star Hannah Lash, Call-for-Scores composer Jessica Rudman to a new text by Kendra Preston Leonard, emerging Bay Area composer Valerie Liu, and E4TT co-founder David Garner.

Saturday, June 12 at 7:30 p.m.

The finale to E4TT's multi-year "Emigres & Exiles in Hollywood" series, which, due to COVID, we will bring to the 2022 Krakow Culture Festival for a return appearance in 2022 rather than 2021.

E4TT Staff

Nanette McGuinness, Artistic Executive Director Stephanie Neumann, Special Projects Assistant Brennan Stokes, Design & Marketing Assistant Jenny Ma, Intern

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Thank you to our 2020 individual donors and foundations for supporting us in performing relevant, timely, rare, contemporary music—such as today's concert.

Time Lord (\$1,000+)

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Contemporary (\$100-249)

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E4TT is honored to be fiscally sponsored by <u>InterMusic SF</u>, a non-profit organization dedicated to small-ensemble music in the San Francisco Bay Area.

List current as of January 15, 2021.

COMINGSOON



CASSANDRA

PROJECT

4, 17, 2021