

The Ph.D./D.M.A. Programs in Music

November 16, 2016, 7:30 p.m.

Baisley Powell Elebash Recital Hall



GC Composers Concert No. 1

Returning

Peter Kramer

- I. Incipit I*
- II. Con moto I*
- III. Chimera I*
- IV. Murmurations I-II, Flight, Canticle*
- V. Returning*
- VI. Murmuration III*
- VII. Con moto II*
- VIII. Incipit II/III, Chimera II*
- IX. Circulatio*

Seohee Min, Violin
Irfan Tengku, Piano

Sensorielles

Jean-Patrick Besingrand

Brian Gilling, piano

Bell Fields

Nicolas Namoradze

Kati Vilim, digital animation
Nicolas Namoradze, electronics

Song Without Words, No. 1

Joseph Prestamo

Joseph Prestamo, piano

Trace

Drake Andersen

Manon Hutton-DeWys and Drake Andersen, pianos
Kyle Gerry, dance and choreography

Please switch off your cell phones and refrain from taking flash pictures.

Program Notes and Bios:

Returning:

Returning was written for the violinist Seohee Min during the Spring and Summer of 2016. – Peter Kramer

Peter Kramer was born in Portland, Oregon (b.1989) where he studied composition, piano and violin with Dr. Marshall Tuttle at Mount Hood Community College. He has recently graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory (2014) with a double major in Composition and Harpsichord Performance, and is currently pursuing his PhD in Composition at the CUNY Graduate Center, studying with Jason Eckardt. His principal teachers also include Dr. Lewis Nielson and Webb William Wiggins. Peter's music focuses on "musical parasites" i.e. residual and musical anomalies/artifacts resulting from performance paired with the resonant sound-world of 16th and 17th century music, particularly keyboard and choral repertoires, as well as the sound world of American folk and blues traditions.

For more information, please visit: www.peterkramermusic.wordpress.com.

Violinist **Seohee Min** enjoys performing a wide selection of repertoire, from early music to classical to contemporary. An honoree of numerous competitions, she has given solo concerto performances throughout the country. As an avid chamber musician, she has collaborated and worked with various musicians, including the Grammy Award-winning Takács Quartet and Ying Quartet. As a pioneer of contemporary works, Seohee recently performed on the 2016 NY Philharmonic Biennial Series, as part of the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble. Seohee is currently pursuing her Master's at the Juilliard School. She has received her BM and BA in Violin Performance and Business, a certificate in Arts Leadership Program and a Performer's Certificate from University of Rochester/Eastman School of Music. She is currently a student of Catherine Cho and Lewis Kaplan, and has previously studied with Renée Jolles, Oleh Krysa and James Buswell.

Tengku Irfan, 18-year-old Malaysian, began piano lessons at seven and debuted at 11 performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto WoO4 *and* improvising his own cadenzas with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Claus Peter Flor. Irfan has performed as soloist with orchestras worldwide under conductors Neeme Järvi, Kristjan Järvi, Robert Spano, George Stelluto, Nikolai Alexeev, Larry Rachleff, Jeffrey Milarsky, Sydney Hodkinson, among others. The *New York Times* described his playing as "eminently cultured" and possessing "sheer incisiveness and power."

Sensorielles:

Sensorielles is a reflection of our perception of elements and time. The piece is constructed around one minimalist element: a sole, stifled note that is barely audible. This element can be felt at three levels: body, soul, and spirit. There are diverse reactions to the element. This includes a rational response, tangible and close, as well as a distant response made of an abstract gust of melancholic air. The third movement of the piece, representing the spirit, strives to reconcile these varying reactions following a dialogue that's more like an emotional struggle. – Jean-Patrick Besingrand

A native of Bordeaux, **Jean-Patrick Besingrand** has been described as an “audacious composer” whose music “takes the listener on a fascinating and rewarding journey” (Anne LeBaron). His music plays on tone colors and explores different conceptions of temporality. The incorporation of natural elements such as air sound is also at the center of his interests.

Jean-Patrick has participated in several festivals and masterclasses, including Musica Festival, Shanghai New Music Week Festival, Thailand International Composition Festival, Viola’s 2014 at the Paris Conservatory, and l’Odysée des Arts Sonnants in Bordeaux. He has received recognition from the Lin Yao Ji International Competition, the Molinari Quartet Sixth International Composition Competition, the Robert Avalon International Competition, the American Prize, among others. Most recently, his saxophone quartet won the first prize of the Composition Competition for Saxophone Quartet organized by SaxOpen and the Festival Musica. The Robert Starer Award commemorated his harp concerto *Sur les ailes du temps* in May 2016.

His music has been performed by the Carnegie Mellon Philharmonic, the Mivos Quartet, the Molinari Quartet, the Del Sol Quartet, the Carnegie Mellon Contemporary Ensemble, the Ensemble MISE-EN, the Ensemble Offspring, C4, the Círculo Trio, the Singularity saxophone quartet, the Aurae Duo, and by the soloists Thomas Piercy, Vilian Ivantchev, Yumi Suehiro, Elsa Seger, Andrew White, and Martha Cargo.

Jean-Patrick holds a Master degree from the University of Bordeaux, and graduated from the Bordeaux Conservatory where he studied notably with Jean-Louis Agobet in composition. He also holds an Advanced Certificate in Composition from Carnegie Mellon University where he studied with Leonardo Balada. Currently Jean-Patrick is a PhD student in composition at CUNY under Professor Jason Eckardt while working on his doctoral thesis in Musicology at the Sorbonne in Paris.

For more information, please visit: www.jeanpatrickbesingrand.com.

Pianist-conductor **Brian Gilling** has distinguished himself as an exceptionally versatile musician and collaborator. A Boston native, with strong ties to Pittsburgh, he recently relocated to New York City and is pursuing a career as a freelance musician. Brian is a founding member of the award-winning Lila Quartet. Founded in 2015, Lila has performed extensively across the northeast. Their recording of Messiaen’s *Quartet for the End of Time* is due out in late 2016. Brian performs frequently with baritone Joel Goodloe, exploring both romantic and contemporary German art song. He has played concerti under the batons of Dan Wen Wei and Dimitri Papadimitriou.

Brian is a passionate advocate for new music. He is currently serving as pianist and resident conductor for NAT28, a Pittsburgh-based new music ensemble, whose current season will feature programs of Steve Reich, Federico Garcia de Castro, and a concert of new works by local composers. From the podium and at the piano, he has premiered numerous works by composers like Jean-Patrick Besingrand, Erberk Eryilmaz, and many more. In 2015 at Pittsburgh Opera, Brian conducted the world premiere of *Echo*, a one-act opera by composer Davis Good. He has served as assistant conductor for a number of opera productions: Britten’s *Albert Herring*, Chabrier’s *L’Etoile*, and most recently, Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* with Undercroft Opera.

Also a passionate educator, Brian is on the piano faculty of Soyulla Artists, and also maintains a private teaching studio. In addition to piano, he has taught conducting, music theory, solfege, group piano lessons, and more. He holds bachelors and masters degrees from Carnegie Mellon University’s School of Music. His principal teachers were Sergey Schepkin and Daniel Curtis; additional studies with Robert Page, Brian Garman, and Enrique Graf.

For more information, please visit: www.briangilling.com.

Bell Fields:

Bell Fields is a reflection on the process of meditation, creating an immersive audiovisual experience born out of the sound of a singing bowl. The senses of sight and hearing are intertwined in an evolving stream of consciousness. Pitches, pulsations, textures, shapes, and colors create symbiotic interferences ranging from the gently nuanced to the starkly passionate, evoking the diverse mental processes of solitary contemplation. – Nicolas Namoradze

24-year-old pianist and composer **Nicolas Namoradze**, whose performances have been hailed by critics as “sparkling... sensitive and coloristic” (New York Times) and “simply gorgeous” (Wall Street Journal), has given recitals at prestigious venues in several countries around the world. His compositions have been commissioned and performed by leading artists and festivals in the United States.

This past season Nicolas was a featured composer at New York’s Chelsea Music Festival for a second year in a row, with premieres of his “Partita” for Keyboard Ensemble and the “Gravity Concertino” for Double Bass and String Ensemble. Other recent premieres include “Major Scales” at the Bravo! Vail Festival, “Notturmo” for Piano and Orchestra and “Theme and Variations” for Violin and Piano (commissioned and performed by Tessa Lark) at The Juilliard School, the electronic works “Spiele im Spiegel” and “Overtunes” and the electroacoustic “An Unlikely Friendship” at the The Graduate Center. He was recently awarded Budapest’s “Fidelio Fortissimo” prize for young composers. This season Nicolas also composed and produced the music for *Walking Painting*, a film by Fabienne Verdier.

After completing his undergraduate studies in Budapest, Vienna and Florence, Nicolas moved to New York for his Master’s at Juilliard. He now pursues his Doctorate at The Graduate Center under the tutelage of Emanuel Ax and Yoheved Kaplinsky, holding the Graduate Center Fellowship, and serves on the faculty of Queens College.

For more information, please visit: www.nicolasnamoradze.com.

Kati Vilim received her MFA from University of Fine Arts, Budapest, Hungary and Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ. In her work she is investigating the visual language as an abstract system, creating new content based on combination of algorithm, color theory and structures composed of ratio and rhythm. Her media range from traditional techniques as oil painting, printmaking to electric light installation and digital animation. Her work has been shown at galleries and art institutions in the United States and Europe.

For more information, please visit: www.kativilim.com.

Song Without Words, No. 1:

Felix Mendelssohn wrote eight books of short piano pieces entitled *Lieder Ohne Worte* (Songs Without Words). These modest little piano pieces enchanted me as a child. Without any context to understand the title, I always imagined that the songs had not been given words because the pieces carried a special meaning that couldn’t be put into words. The piano was my first love, and I return to it often when I am at a loss for words. So, taking a cue from Mendelssohn, I have written my first *Song Without Words*. It was begun on November 9, 2016. – Joseph Prestamo

Joseph Prestamo is an award-winning composer, pianist, and teacher living in New York. He is currently in the fourth year of his doctoral studies at The Graduate Center, CUNY, pursuing a PhD in Composition. He holds an M.Mus from the University of Michigan, and a B.Mus Queens College, CUNY. He is also the director of the GC Composers, and serves as an Adjunct Lecturer at Queens College.

For more information, please visit: www.josephprestamo.com.

Trace:

Trace employs an interactive virtual score software system that I developed in collaboration with Manon especially for this performance. The software presents the performer with notated musical material that serves as a basis for improvisation. It is also responsive, balancing the duration of the performer's improvised phrases with silences and the rest of the musical texture in real time. The choreography enacts a parallel but largely independent process, resulting in a many-voiced texture.
– Drake Andersen.

Drake Andersen is a composer whose work encompasses acoustic and electroacoustic music for diverse performing forces of all sizes and categories, collaborative projects for dance and theater, site-specific installations and interactive electronic environments. Through the use of technology, including interactive software and new musical interfaces, his creative work engages literature, mathematics and the physical world. His compositions have been performed at venues throughout the United States and Europe, including Symphony Space, the Park Avenue Armory, New World Symphony Center, Teaterhuset Avant Garden (Trondheim), Dixon Place and the Irondale Center. Andersen has performed on flute and live electronics throughout the United States and Latin America.

Drake Andersen is the founder of Creative Interaction. He is frequently engaged as a sound designer for theater and dance, an electronic music specialist for contemporary music ensembles and an improviser with live electronics. He is currently a student in the Ph.D. program in Music Composition at The Graduate Center, CUNY. He also teaches a course in Music Technology at Ballet Tech, the New York City Public School for Dance.

Andersen's principal composition teachers include Nils Vigeland, Joel Chadabe and Marjorie Merryman. He has also studied flute with Robert Dick. Andersen holds degrees from Macalester College and the Manhattan School of Music.

For more information, please visit: www.drakeandersen.com.

American pianist **Manon Hutton-DeWys** has long been earning praise and recognition for her performances of classical and modern music. In *Musical America*, Christian Carey wrote: "Hutton-DeWys did an admirable job creating legato lyricism in a solo line that resides amidst a tremendously active accompaniment. Her sensitive dynamic shadings and subtle use of rubato demonstrated an artist possessing a great deal of promise." Hutton-DeWys has performed in some of classical music's best-known venues, including Weill and Zankel Halls at Carnegie Hall, and the Salle Cortot at the École Normale de Musique in Paris. She has also recently appeared at Symphony Space, Bargemusic, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Steinway Hall, the Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts at Bard College, Northeastern and Tufts Universities, and The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space, home to radio station WNYC.

Hutton-DeWys holds degrees from Mannes College of Music, Bard College, and Simon's Rock College of Bard. Currently, she is a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the City University of New York's Graduate Center. Her research focuses on early twentieth-century American

music. A native of New York's beautiful Hudson River Valley, Hutton-DeWys currently works as a teacher and freelance pianist in New York City. She is on the piano faculty of Lehman College and Greenwich House Music School and formerly served on the Executive Board of the Piano Teachers' Congress of New York.

For more information, please visit: www.manonhuttondewys.com.

Kyle Gerry began studying dance at Columbia University, from which he graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in Economics and Political Science. He continued to study dance on scholarship at the Merce Cunningham Studio. He also dances with Rosario and Jessica Gaynor Dance. He has performed with Kazuko Hirabayashi Dance Theater, as a guest with the Merce Cunningham Repertory Understudy Group, and in works by Laura Peterson, Christiana Axelsen and Colleen Thomas. He originated the role of Mr. Ramsay in Stephanie Lane's "Lighthouse Triptych."

The GC Composers

The GC Composers is an organization dedicated to supporting the work of doctoral candidates in Music Composition at The Graduate Center, CUNY. Founded and maintained by composers in the program, the GC Composers presents regular concerts of new works and invites collaborations with performers and ensembles, both from within CUNY and from New York's vibrant new music communities. The goal of the organization is to build bridges between composers, performers and audiences, while creating an environment where musicians can freely experiment, create, and collaborate.

Our past collaborations have included residencies by Contemporaneous, Either/Or, C4: The Choral Composer Conductor Collective, Mise-En, The Curiosity Cabinet, and many others. For more information, please visit: www.gc-composers.org.