



POWERFUL VOICES

LIVE PERFORMANCE

7:00PM MAY 11TH, 2021

MURRAY AND MICHELE ALLEN RECITAL HALL
HOLTSCHNEIDER PERFORMANCE CENTER
DEPAUL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

www.PICOSAMUSIC.COM

GUEST ARTISTS

MICHAEL LEWANSKI, CONDUCTOR

JOCELYN ZELASKO, VOICE

YOUMING CHEN, VIOLA

ESTHER NYBERG, PIANO

PICOSA ARTISTS

JENNIE OH BROWN, FLUTE

ANDREA R. DIORIO, CLARINET

ELIZABETH BRAUSA BRATHWAITE, VIOLIN

PAULA KOSOWER, CELLO

KUANG-HAO HUANG, PIANO

JONATHON KIRK, COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

LIVESTREAM BY

APHORISM STUDIOS



THIS PROGRAM IS PARTIALLY SUPPORTED
BY A GRANT FROM THE ILLINOIS ARTS
COUNCIL AGENCY.

PROGRAM

Florence Price | *We Have Tomorrow* (soprano/piano)

Valerie Coleman | *Portraits of Langston* (flute/clarinet/piano)

I. Prelude: Helen Keller

II. Danse Africaine

III. Le Grand Duc Mambo

IV. Silver Rain

V. Parisian Cabaret

VI. Harlem's Summer Night

Stacy Garrop | *My Dearest Ruth* (soprano/clarinet/violin/cello/piano)

pause

Stephen Albert | *To Wake the Dead* (sop/fl/clar/violin/viola/pno)

I. How It Ends...

II. River Run

III. Pray Your Prayers

IV. Instruments

V. Forget...remember

VI. Sod's Brood, Mr. Finn

VII. Passing Out

**Text for all pieces are in the program notes!

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

JENNIE OH BROWN, FLUTE

Jennie Oh Brown is Artistic and Executive Director of Picoso. Brown is also Artistic and Executive Director of Ear Taxi Festival, which will take place from September 15th - October 4th in venues throughout Chicago. As an Innova Recording Artist, her albums *Giantess*, *Vox*, and *Looking Back: Music of Joseph Schwantner* were all met with critical praise. She is the founder, director and faculty member of Credo Flute and launched the New Music Chicago Presents... monthly noon-time concert series at the Chicago Cultural Center featuring music written since 2000 by living composers. She is the coordinator of the National Flute Association's Convention Performers Competition which features winning compositions of the Newly Published Music Competition. She serves on the faculties of Wheaton College and Elmhurst University and on the board of Chamber Music America. JennieBrownFlute.com

ANDREA R. DIORIO, CLARINET

Picoso Director of Operations Andrea R. DiOrio is among Chicago's most highly sought after clarinetists. DiOrio has performed in over fifteen operas with the Lyric Opera Orchestra. Additionally, she has performed with numerous local orchestras including the Grant Park, Elgin, Quad Cities, Illinois Philharmonic, and South Bend Symphony Orchestras. As a chamber musician, DiOrio is a former member of the MAVERICK Ensemble, where she was Artistic Administrator, clarinetist, and participated in dozens of world premieres. DiOrio currently teaches at North Central College, Elmhurst College, Benedictine University, and is Director of Illinois Summer Youth Music Pre-College Clarinet Session at the University of Illinois. DiOrio is a graduate of Northwestern University and the University of Illinois. She lives with her husband Tony, baby girl Penelope, and doggie Sousa and has an avid interest in swing dancing, quilting, and all things crafty. www.AndreaDiOrio.com

ELIZABETH BRAUSA BRATHWAITE, VIOLIN

Elizabeth Brausa Brathwaite is a highly acclaimed and versatile violinist with wide-ranging experience as a recitalist, chamber musician, and orchestral player throughout the United States. She has performed with many orchestras including the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra, Kansas City Symphony, Annapolis Symphony, Harrisburg Symphony, American Ballet Theatre, Minnesota Orchestra, San Francisco Ballet, Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Sinfonietta and the Joffrey Ballet. She has also played with the Minnesota Opera, Da Corneto Opera, and Chicago Opera Theater. Elizabeth currently resides in Chicago where she enjoys an active freelance career. Elizabeth received her Bachelor of Music Degree from the Peabody Conservatory and her Master's of Music from the University of Minnesota.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

PAULA KOSOWER, CELLO

Paula Kosower is an active performer and teacher currently residing in Evanston. She has performed concerts with Fulcrum Point new Music Project, with the Chicago Chamber Musicians, for the Chicago Philharmonic Chamber Music Series, and for faculty concerts at North Park University and Northeastern University. She frequently serves as a substitute player in the cello sections of the Chicago Symphony, the Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Kosower teaches applies lessons, cello pedagogy and orchestra repertoire and is an adjunct faculty member at several universities including Northwestern, DePaul, North Park University and Northeastern Illinois University. She teaches private cello lessons for pre-college students at the Northwestern University Music Academy. She received her B.M. and M.M. degree at Indiana University where she was a scholarship student and a graduate assistant of Janos Starker. She received her D.M. degree at Northwestern University where she studied with Hans Jorgen-Jensen.

KUANG-HAO HUANG, PIANO

Pianist Kuang-Hao Huang is most often heard as a collaborator, performing recitals and radio broadcasts with Chicago's finest musicians, from instrumentalists of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to singers with the Lyric Opera. An advocate of new music, Mr. Huang is a member of Fulcrum Point New Music Project and has given numerous premieres, including solo works by Louis Andriessen and Chen Yi at Weill Hall as part of Carnegie Hall's Millennium Piano Book Project. Mr. Huang serves on the faculties of the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University and Concordia University-Chicago. Mr. Huang can be heard in recordings on the Cedille and Naxos labels. For more information, go to www.khpiano.net.

JONATHON KIRK, COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

Jonathon Kirk is a composer, artist, and teacher who frequently works with a variety of sources including natural sound materials, sound installation, algorithmic music, and digital media. His work has been performed internationally by numerous ensembles including the Spektral Quartet, Ensemble Dal Niente, Fonema Consort, Duo XXI, and members of Champ D'Action, Ensemble Modern, and Alarm Will Sound. His multimedia work has been exhibited at festivals and museums including the Tate Modern in London, the London and Melbourne International Animation Festivals, the Los Angeles Short Film Festival, Festival Internazionale di Musica Elettroacustica in Rome, and Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie (ZKM) in Karlsruhe, Germany to name a few. He has held residencies at the Logos Foundation in Gent, Belgium (2000-01), and the Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona (2009). Kirk is an Associate Professor of Music at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois and is a member, with Lee Weisert of the Portable Acoustic Modification Laboratory. He studied at Augustana College, the Eastman School of Music, Brown University, and received his doctorate in music composition from Northwestern University. He lives with his wife, Joann and children, Elaeth, Matthias, and Sara in Forest Park, Illinois. www.jjksound.com

GUEST ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

MICHAEL LEWANSKI, CONDUCTOR

Conductor, educator, and writer Michael Lewanski is a champion of new and old music. His work seeks to create engaged connections between audiences, musicians, and the music that is part of their culture, society, and history. Based in Chicago, he is conductor of Ensemble Dal Niente and Associate Professor of instrumental ensembles at the DePaul University School of Music. He was recently named Curatorial Director of Ear Taxi 2020, a festival of 21st century Chicago music. His wide-ranging guest-conducting has included work with Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Chicago Symphony Orchestra's MusicNOW Series, the Toledo Symphony, the National Symphony Orchestra of Turkmenistan, Ensamble CEPROMUSIC (Centro de Experimentación y Producción de Música Contemporánea, Mexico City), and Mocrep, among many others. He was resident conductor of the SoundSCAPE Festival in Italy in 2017 and 2019. Michael has an extensive discography as both conductor and producer with Ensemble Dal Niente, Spektral Quartet, Third Coast Percussion, DePaul's Ensemble 20+, and others.

A native of Savannah, Georgia, he studied piano and violin in his youth; he made his conducting debut at age 13, leading his own composition. At 16, he was the youngest-ever student in the legendary Ilya Musin's class at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. He attended Yale University; he subsequently studied with Cliff Colnot and Lucas Vis.

JOCELYN ZELASKO, VOICE

Metro-Detroit based soprano, Jocelyn Zelasko, is a versatile musician who is celebrated as an insightful performer with a captivating stage presence. She is the vocalist for Detroit's premiere ensemble, New Music Detroit, and a founding member of ensembles Juxtatonal and Whoopknox. Her career began in the classical realm, but a passion for making complex vocal music accessible to audiences led her to pursue new music. She has performed with Grammy award-winning ensemble Eighth Blackbird, Eastman Broadband Ensemble, Matt Ulery Trio, and the Windsor Symphony Orchestra. She has also sung with many outstanding performers including Tony Arnold, Vicky Chow, Yvonne Lam, and Matthew Duvall. As an advocate for the creation of new works, Zelasko has commissioned 15 composers including Angélica Negrón, Vid Smooke, Michelle McQuade Dewhirst, and Jorge Sosa. She also originated the title role of 100-year old photographer, Pat Sturn, in the new mixed-media chamber opera, Pat & Emilia (Smallman/Gervais with Sievers-Hunt) which toured extensively in Canada and the Great Lakes region. Zelasko received bachelor's degrees in vocal performance and economics from Oakland University and a master's degree in music from the University of Iowa. In addition to her work as a performer, Zelasko writes articles on embracing new music, participates in panel discussions on diversity, maintains a thriving private voice studio, and enjoys surfing, golfing, and squishing her kittens and husband.

GUEST ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

YOUMING CHEN, VIOLA

Taiwanese born violist Youming Chen was appointed by Music Director Riccardo Muti to join the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in its 125th season. Dr. Chen served as Associate Principal Viola of the Kansas City Symphony, and was a member of the Grant Park Music Festival. He has previously participated in Pacific Music Festival, Aspen Music Festival, Prussia Cove, and Music@Menlo. His principal teachers include Paul Neubauer, Hsin-Yun Huang, Yizhak Schotten, Victoria Chiang, and Alan de Veritch. In Taiwan, he was trained by Jia-Rong Lin, Ben Lin, and Huey-Lan Yang. He received his Bachelor of Music from University of Michigan, Master of Music from Juilliard School, and Doctor of Musical Arts from University of Missouri-Kansas City.

ESTHER NYBERG, PIANO

Esther Nyberg currently enjoys an active career of performance and teaching. A winner of numerous scholarships and awards, Ms. Nyberg has performed in venues in the United States and Europe, including Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall, the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, Chicago's Symphony Center, Preston Bradley Hall of the Chicago Cultural Center, The Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Cremona's Museo del Violino, and Salzburg's Wiener Saal. As concerto soloist, she has appeared with the Skokie Valley Symphony, the Chicago College of Performing Arts Symphony, and Portugal's Orquestra de Camara de Cascais e Oeiras. She has participated in several summer music programs, including the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria, where she received the Outstanding Lieder Collaborative Pianist Award. She has also performed in solo and collaborative masterclasses conducted by Martin Katz, Ingrid Fliter, Peter Frankl, Bruno Canino, and Boris Berman, among others.

Ms. Nyberg holds a Bachelor of Music degree from The Catholic University of America and a Master of Music degree from Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts, where she received a Performance Diploma studying under scholarship with Ludmila Lazar. Beginning Fall of 2021, she will pursue a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance, Pedagogy, and Literature at James Madison University in Virginia under the guidance of Gabriel Dobner.

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www.PicosoMusic.com
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STAFF

Gianna Capobianco
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PICOSA MISSION STATEMENT

*Picosa is a Chicago-based ensemble of flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, and composer-in-residence presenting compelling performances that reimagine the traditional classical music concert. Picosa concerts explore the human experience through music and narrative, and invite audience members to connect to the conversation with the question: **What's your story...?***

MUSIC SHARES

Picosa programs an eclectic body of work that includes a commitment to our community of Chicago-based composers. Through music, narrative, and ongoing conversations, we invite our audiences into shared experiences together with the musicians.

MUSIC UPLIFTS

We embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion as the honest and transformative path to great art and repertoire. Picosa believes that music's enduring power is its innate ability to engage all of us -- performers, composers, audience -- in reflecting and conversing about our experiences, our values, and our aspirations.

MUSIC EQUIPS

Picosa believes in equipping and encouraging the rising generation of musicians through school outreach programs, guest workshops, and its residencies at North Central College and Elmhurst University.

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