

EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC



fivebyfive



UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Eastman
School of Music

100 YEARS | 1921-2021

PROGRAM

Postlude 2020

Sungmin Shin
(b. 1987)

Of and Between

Andrea Mazzariello
(b. 1978)

Dancing About Architecture

Kamala Sankaram
(b. 1978)

Procession and Burlesque

Jonathan Russell
(b. 1979)

Tamboreño

Miguel del Aguila
(b. 1957)

Persevering

Joe Jaxson
(b. 2000)

Gradually Overwhelming
Loneful Endeavors
Worth the Wait

World Premiere

Kristen Shiner McGuire, percussion
Danielle Colin, poet and visual artist

PROGRAM NOTES

Postlude 2020

Sungmin Shin

Postlude 2020 is a mournful goodbye to 2020 and a lament for all the lives that we lost to COVID. Written specifically for Zoom, *Postlude 2020* was premiered on fivebyfive's virtual series Composer Chats in March 2021. The piece is an intimate, quiet and healing reflection of those close to us yet separated. As each instrument takes its turn speaking, a narrative of remembrance unfolds inflecting emotions that greatly outweigh the number of the piece's notes. Below appears a poem written by Rochester poet Kitty Jospe in response to the March performance of the piece.

—*Sungmin Shin*

We listen to music's murmur mounting—it whispers,
soft as a strand of silk in sunlight: be still.

Perhaps you know the pluck and strum of harp,
quiet fingering of guitar, the word, tranquil—

Perhaps you've heard an oboe reed-press
a quietude that pierces, allows the spill

of all you forgot had been locked up inside.
Perhaps you listen more attentively, examine your will—

as volition and desire wind in a silver-stream
of flute, and you reflect on 2020, its woven twill

of violence, desperation and the insistent bandage
of hope, like sunlight sifted through needles. Be still-

you command your sorrows, you have carved deeply
enough. Let yin and yang, take their turns to fill

this emptiness inside.

The music cycles it all— invites you to be still.

—*Kitty Jospe*

PROGRAM NOTES

Of and Between

Andrea Mazzariello

I wrote *Of and Between* in response to Judith Schaechter's stained glass work entitled "The Battle of Carnival and Lent," after spending some time with it in Rochester, NY, at the Memorial Art Gallery. Among the things I find remarkable about Schaechter's piece is the way that it supports and rewards my curiosity about changing the scale of watching. I step back and see the whole, but the intricacy of detail then pulls me in, close to the glass. Then I want to see those details in context, so step back. Repeat from the beginning, but with growing awareness.

Of and Between imagines an analogous kind of hearing. We are on the surface of the music, but then broaden our listening gaze to the larger gesture. Or we are listening on a larger-scale level, but some color or surface move pulls us in. Back and forth, accumulating some sense of the whole picture, the whole claim.

I'm grateful to fivebyfive for commissioning this piece and for their advocacy of my music in general. I dedicate it to them with gratitude and in friendship.

—*Andrea Mazzariello*

Dancing About Architecture*

Kamala Sankaram

Dancing About Architecture was inspired by both the images and process of James Welling's photographic series entitled "Choreograph." In this sequence of photos, Welling depicts dancers collaged against the Brutalist buildings of Marcel Breuer. Welling's process for creating these photos was to use the red, green, and blue color channels to alter black and white photos, in essence manipulating the way the computer "sees" to build the composition. I decided to use a similar process in creating my piece. The juxtaposition of dancers against buildings made me think of the famous phrase "writing about music is like dancing about architecture." I began the piece by asking four different people with different vocal timbres to record themselves speaking this sentence. I took each audio recording and used the EQ in my DAW to separate out the high, mid, and low frequencies. I then used the computer to translate this audio into midi data, and the midi data into pitch and rhythm. This process was used to create all of the thematic melodic and rhythmic material found in the piece.

—*Kamala Sankaram*

Procession and Burlesque

Jonathan Russell

Procession and Burlesque was commissioned by fivebyfive as a response to Judith Schaechter's stunning stained glass work "The Battle of Carnival and Lent." Schaechter's work is so vital and fresh, so teeming with energy, passion, and intricate detail, that I was initially doubtful about what music could possibly add to it. The approach that finally clicked for me was to think

PROGRAM NOTES

about the inherent qualities of the two media; specifically, how visual art is temporally static, while music progresses through time. What music could add, then, was a narrative. If the artwork depicted a single snapshot, what might have led up to this moment – and what would come after? After an introduction that sets the mood, the “Procession” depicts the lead-up to the moment depicted in the stained glass, as the opposing sides of human nature – “carnival” and “lent” – warily approach one another. An ominous melody repeats again and again, getting more intense and insistent on each iteration, like a procession gradually getting closer and closer. Then a brief pause as the two sides size each other up...and then all hell breaks loose in the madcap “Burlesque,” a whirling frenzy of klezmer, surf rock, and manic carnival music. After building to a searing climax, the “introduction” music returns, and gradually winds down. We are left amidst the wreckage, devastatingly aware of the steep cost of the conflict.

—Jonathan Russell

Tamboreño*

Miguel del Aguila

Tamboreño (Like Drums) was written in 2020. The title, a made-up word related to Tambor, (Spanish for drum), illustrates the highly rhythmical nature of this piece which conveys a group of drummers first warming up and then improvising together on different Latin inspired rhythms. The piece contains no improvised sections; its goal is to give the impression of a spontaneous jam session among friends. As the work progresses the music becomes more intense and dramatic finally triggering a joyous, upbeat ending where music and musicians seem stuck on their own frenzy. Tamboreño describes imaginary events happening during the traditional ceremony of tempering the drums by the fire performed by the Candombe players of Uruguay before a performance. The video features fivebyfive, glimpses of fivebyfive's hometown of Rochester, NY, and all our friends who are cheering us on in this joyful, celebratory video.

—Miguel del Aguila

Persevering

Joe Jaxson

Inspired by recent events of 2020, *Persevering* by Joe Jaxson is a three movement work with a purpose to bring forth the attributes of perseverance, showcasing three common scenarios. This is an interpretation based on personal experience. The movements are titled: “Gradually Overwhelming”, “Loneful Endeavors”, and “Worth the Wait.” This work has been modified to be premiered by fivebyfive.

—Joe Jaxson

*Recorded in our homes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Audio and video: Marc Webster at Blue on Blue Recording Studio

MEET THE ARTISTS

fivebyfive

fivebyfive is an artist-led Rochester NY-based ensemble formed in 2015 with a mission to engage audiences in the collaborative spirit and creativity of today's chamber music. A not-for-profit organization since 2017, fivebyfive performs music of leading and emerging composers, advocates for creators who are underrepresented in the field, and collaborates with artists across the disciplines. Through its workshops and educational concerts, fivebyfive aims to spark young people's unlimited creative potential and inspire a deeper understanding of today's chamber music. With a commitment to accessibility, fivebyfive performs in a variety of settings, offering affordable or free programming and sensory-friendly events. The winner of the 2018 Eastman/ArtistShare New Artist Program and a New Music USA grant recipient for its commissioning project for new works inspired by the stained-glass artist Judith Schaechter, fivebyfive was awarded a second New Music USA project grant for a collaboration with the George Eastman Museum, commissioning new works inspired by photographer James Welling's collection "Choreograph." In 2020 fivebyfive was selected as one of 16 recipients for a Chamber Music America Commissioning Grant with composer/harpist Amy Nam. Recently the group was recognized by New Music USA with an Organizational Fund for the ensemble's "deep and consistent impact on their communities of artists and music lovers." The group has appeared on WXXI Classical 91.5's programs *Backstage Pass* and *Live from Hochstein*, featured on *Performance Rochester* and *Performance Upstate*, and has also appeared nationally on American Public Media's *Performance Today* program with host Fred Child. The group releases its debut album "Of and Between" this fall.

Laura Lentz (flute)
Marcy Bacon (clarinet)
Sungmin Shin (electric guitar)
Eric J. Polenik (bass)
Haeyeun Jeun (piano)
Marc Webster (audio engineer)

MEET THE COMPOSERS

Sungmin Shin

Korean American guitarist and composer **Sungmin Shin** maintains a vigorous schedule divided between performing and teaching in a wide variety of musical settings. As a musician, Dr. Shin finds a unique balance between his classical training and deep roots in popular guitar styles. This combination drives his curiosity to seek new modes of expression through performance, improvisation, and composition. Dr. Shin has been invited to perform, teach, and adjudicate at major international competitions, events, and festivals including the Guitar Foundation of America, Iserlohn Guitar Festival (Germany), Rochester International Jazz Festival, and more. A frequent collaborator with various musicians and ensembles, he is a member of the internationally acclaimed guitar ensemble Tantalus Quartet, the Rochester-based contemporary quintet fivebyfive and folk/jazz/rock group Lauren and the Good Souls. Dr. Shin is a devoted educator and shares his passion for music with students of all ages and levels. He is currently on faculty at The University at Buffalo (SUNY) where he directs the UB Guitar Ensemble and teaches acoustic, classical and electric guitars. Also, he is an adjunct professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology teaching guitar and history of popular music. Students of Dr. Shin have gained admission to top music schools in the US such as Berklee, Eastman, and many more at the undergraduate and graduate levels with scholarships. Dr. Shin is the director of the Penfield Guitar School and serves on the faculty of Guitar Workshop Plus in Toronto during the summers.

Andrea Mazzariello

Andrea Mazzariello (he/him) is a composer, performer, writer, and teacher. His musical practices include writing songs, making electronic music, and working in notated traditions. He writes about listening, musical media, and pedagogy, and teaches and mentors music-makers working in a wide variety of genres and approaches. His concert music, created through commissions by and collaborations with Sō Percussion, fivebyfive, Mobius Percussion, Jason Treuting, Eric Cha-Beach, David Degge, Matthew McCright, and many others, has been performed widely in North America and Europe. His collaborators in film, visual, and site-specific work include filmmakers Mark DeChiazza and Emily Carmichael, director Stephan Koplowitz, and artist Holly Streekstra. He performs his own music frequently, in instrumentations ranging from one-person-band to piano and voice. The McKnight Foundation, New Music USA, ASCAP, the Minnesota State Arts Board, and the Southeast Minnesota Arts Council have recognized and supported his work. New Amsterdam Records, SEAMUS, Proper Canary, and his own One More Revolution Records have recorded and released his music. The Operating System published his first book, *One More Revolution: A Love Song, on Vinyl*, in 2018. He currently teaches composition and music technology at Carleton

MEET THE COMPOSERS

College, and directs the composition program at the Sō Percussion Summer Institute. His ongoing collaborative work with young beatmakers, producers, and songwriters at The Key, a youth services organization in downtown Northfield, MN, has been supported by the Mellon Public Works grant at Carleton College as well as by Project Pericles.

Kamala Sankram

Praised as “strikingly original” (*NY Times*), **Kamala Sankaram** moves freely between the worlds of experimental music and contemporary opera. Recent commissions include works for the Glimmerglass Festival, Washington National Opera, Houston Grand Opera, the PROTOTYPE Festival, and Creative Time, among others. Kamala is known for her operas fusing Indian classical music with the operatic form, including *Thumbprint*, *A Rose, Monkey and Francine in the City of Tigers*, and the forthcoming *Jungle Book*. Also known for her work with emerging technologies, recent premieres include *Only You Will Recognize the Signal*, a serial space opera performed live over the internet, *Looking at You*, a techno-noir featuring live datamining of the audience and a chorus of 25 singing tablet computers, all decisions will be made by consensus, a short absurdist opera performed live over Zoom, and *The Parksville Murders*, the world’s first virtual reality opera. Kamala is the leader of *Bombay Rickey*, an operatic Bollywood surf ensemble. Awards, grants and residencies: Jonathan Larson Award, NEA ArtWorks, MAP Fund, Opera America, HERE Artist Residency Program, the MacDowell Colony, and the Watermill Center. Dr. Sankaram holds a PhD from the New School and is currently a member of the composition faculty at SUNY Purchase.

Jonathan Russell

Jonathan Russell creates music by turns tender and fierce, playful and profound, raw and refined, propulsive and still. In his work, he seeks to embody and express the full range of human experience in a way that speaks directly to people’s hearts, minds, and bodies. The extraordinary sound and spirit of the bass clarinet is a driving force behind much of Jonathan’s work. His numerous compositions for bass clarinet(s) include solo works, sonatas, concertos, duets, trios, quartets, chamber works, and large bass clarinet ensembles. He was a longtime member of the Edmund Welles bass clarinet quartet, is a current member of the Sqwonk bass clarinet duo, and is founder and leader of *Improbable Beasts*, a professional 15-member bass clarinet ensemble in the Boston area. Many of Jonathan’s most meaningful projects have involved collaborations with or responses to other artists. He has composed music to accompany street art, stained glass, wood-carving, dance, and film. As a performer, in addition to his extensive bass clarinet ensemble work, Jonathan also appears frequently as a bass clarinet soloist, and as a classical and klezmer

MEET THE COMPOSERS

clarinetist. A card-carrying music theory nerd, Jonathan's doctoral dissertation is a 400+ page harmonic analysis of the entire Rite of Spring. He lives in Cambridge, MA, with his wife and 5-year-old son.

Miguel del Aguila

Three-time Grammy nominated American composer **Miguel del Aguila** was born in Uruguay. In over 130 works that combine drama, driving rhythms and nostalgic nods to his South American roots, he has established himself among the most distinctive and highly regarded composers of his generation. His music, which enjoys over 200 performances yearly, has been hailed as "brilliant and witty" (New York Times), "sonically dazzling" (LATimes) and "expressive and dramatic" (American Record Guide). He is 2021 composer in residence with Danish Chamber Players/Ensemble Storström, after residencies with Orchestra of the Americas, New Mexico Symph, Fresh Ink, CTSummerfest, Talis, and Chautauqua. 2021 commissions include works for Cuarteto Latinoamericano, Eroica Trio and fivebyfive. He was honored with 3 Latin Grammy nominations, Kennedy Center Friedheim Award, New Music USA/Music Alive, Magnum Opus Award, Lancaster Symphony Composer of the Year, and Copland Foundation among others.

Joe Jaxson

With music described as "sophisticated, yet approachable," **Joe Jaxson** is an award-winning student composer at James Madison University studying for his B.M. in Composition. Joe pursues versatility in writing within numerous styles and genres ranging from Contemporary Classical to Popular Music to Cinematic Screen Scoring. His music challenges the familiar and predictability of the traditional western canon, providing something accessible, yet fresh and unique to all audiences.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Originally from Bridgeport, CT, **D. Colin** is a poet, actor, and visual artist living in Troy, NY. As a multidisciplinary artist, she aims to inspire, empower and educate through poetry, paint and performance and is passionate about cultivating space for stories, healing and community. She is the author of two poetry collections, *Dreaming in Kreyol* and *Said the Swing to the Hoop*. She is also a Cave Canem, VONA and New York State Writers Institute fellow with degrees in English and Africana Studies. Since 2016, D. Colin has been running *Poetic Vibe*, a weekly open mic voted best in the Capital Region in 2019. In 2019, D. Colin was honored as Resourceful Woman of the Year in the Arts by YWCA-GCR and one of The Collaborative's Creatives under 40.

Kristen Shiner McGuire, Associate Professor in Performance Practice, is the Coordinator of Percussion Studies and Program Director for Music Business at Nazareth College School of Music, where she has taught since 1984. Her awards include the 2021 Distinction in Teaching Award, the 2016 Monroe County School Music Association Richard Snook Award for outstanding contributions to music education and the 1998 Nazareth College Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award. The Nazareth College Percussion Ensemble has performed at state at National conventions and in schools across New York State. Kristen holds a Bachelor of Music degree with Highest Honors from the University of Illinois and a Master's degree in Percussion Performance and a Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music. From 1980-81, she was a marimba student of marimba virtuoso, Keiko Abe, at the Toho School of Music in Tokyo, Japan. Her other teachers include John Beck, Thomas Siwe, Jim Petercsak, Keith Copeland and Jamey Haddad.

Marc Webster is a composer and recording engineer. He studied at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. His performance experience covers a wide range of musical styles, including featured piano soloist with the Rogue Valley Symphony Orchestra, keyboardist for the rock band Uncommon Ground, pianist for the 52nd Street Jazz Sextet, organist for blues artists Chris Beard and Johnny Rawls, and choir director for the Aenon Baptist Church. As a composer his soundtrack for the movie "Fury" was awarded semi-finalist at the Moondance Film Festival. Recent commissions have included music for fivebyfive, Gibbs & Main String Quintet, and the Eastman Youth String Orchestra. Marc also owns and operates Blue on Blue Recording Studio.

PLAYFUL MUSIC SERIES

Upcoming events with fivebyfive

Celebrate the shared power of play and music

Play is an important part of all of our lives: the way we play is a formative part of growing up, and as adults we carry those experiences with us. While at times we can lose sight of the power of play, music, with its unique ability to inspire togetherness and engage people of all ages, brings us back.

Playful Music is a new project produced by fivebyfive in collaboration with The Strong National Museum of Play and The Monroe County Library System designed to inspire all through the power of play. It includes the commissioning of new musical works inspired by toys from the National Toy Hall of Fame and the presentation of four public performances along with uniquely engaging interactive activities.

The six composers (Sherri Chung, Mikhail Johnson, Olivia Kieffer, Emer Kinsella, Logan Rutledge, and Shannon Sea) have each chosen a toy as their inspiration, while the other toys have been selected for their potential for sensory friendly programs, developed in connection with AutismUp.

Saturday, November 6, 2021 @ Strong National Museum of Play

12:00pm - general audiences

1:00pm - sensory friendly program*

Free admission with museum entrance

(One Manhattan Square, Rochester NY 14607)

*all are welcome to attend; programs have been designed for audiences with special sensory, developmental, or physical needs.

Saturday November 13, 2021 @ Arnett Library Branch

12:00pm - 310 Arnett Boulevard, Rochester, NY 14619

Free admission

Saturday November 13, 2021 @ Central Library Branch

2:00pm - 115 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14604

Free admission

with guest guitarist Ken Luk

UPCOMING EVENTS AT EASTMAN

Monday, September 20, 2021
**Eastman School Symphony Orchestra
and Eastman Philharmonia**
Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre, 7:30 PM
Free admission

Saturday, September 25, 2021
FACULTY ARTIST SERIES
Eastman Virtuosi
Kilbourn Hall, 7:30 PM

Wednesday, September 29, 2021
FACULTY ARTIST SERIES
JCM Faculty
Kilbourn Hall, 7:30 PM

Friday, October 1, 2021
Collaborative Celebration:
Eastman School of Music & Garth Fagan Dance
Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre, 7:30 PM
Free admission

We acknowledge with respect the Seneca Nation, known as the “Great Hill People” and “Keepers of the Western Door” of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We take this opportunity to thank the people on whose ancestral lands the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester currently occupies in Rochester, New York.

Information about upcoming Eastman concerts and events can be found at:

www.rochester.edu/Eastman/calendar

 www.facebook.com/ConcertsAtEastman

Hatch Recital Hall fire exits are located at the right and left rear of the hall. In the event of an emergency, you will be notified by the stage manager. If notified, please move in a calm and orderly fashion to the nearest exit.

Please note: The use of unauthorized photographic and recording equipment is not allowed in this building. We reserve the right to ask anyone disrupting a performance to leave the hall.

Restrooms are located in the Wolk Atrium near the rear doors of Hatch Recital Hall. Fully-accessible restrooms are available on the first floor of the Eastman School. Our ushers will be happy to direct you to them.

Supporting the Eastman School of Music:

For Information on Eastman’s Centennial events and campaign, please visit

www.esm.rochester.edu/100