



Composers Now 2021 Virtual Festival

- Opening Event -

Saturday, January 30, 2021 - 7:00 PM EST

Tania León founder, artistic director



Joan Tower

2021 Composers Now Visionary Award



Paloma Alonso

2021 Composers Now First Commission Award



Donal Fox



inti figgis-vizueta



Anthony Cheung



Pamela Z



Alba Potes



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Welcome Remarks

Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman (1986)

Joan Tower (b. 1938)

recipient, 2021 Composers Now Visionary Award

Performance Footage: August 2012 at BBC Proms

Marin Alsop, conductor

São Paulo Symphony Orchestra

The Fanfare's most recent accolade was its pairing with Aaron Copland's Fanfare for the Common Man as part of the 2021 Presidential and Vice-Presidential Inauguration Playlist.

2020 (2021)

- world premiere -

Paloma Alonso (b. 2007)

recipient, 2021 Composers Now First Commission Award

Award made possible through the generosity of Michael Minard and Phyllis Ross

Darian Donovan Thomas, violin

Shayna Dunkelman, percussion

Angélica Negrón, composer mentor

Form the Fabric (2020)

inti figgis-vizueta (b. 1993)

Performance Footage: December 2020 ON BEING, a digital concert Livestream

Ninth Planet New Music

Jessie Nucho, flute; Sophie Huet, clarinet; Brendan Lai-Tong, trombone;

Mckenzie Langefeld, percussion; Giacomo Fiore, electric guitar; Margaret Halbig, piano;

Mia Nardi Huffman, violin; inti figgis-vizueta, nodding



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Tres Piezas Breves (1990-97)

Cantabile

Calmato – Agitato

Energico

Alba Potes (b. 1954)

Performance Footage: September 2018 at Temple University

Charles Abramovic, piano

Character Studies (2016)

Anthony Cheung (b. 1982)

Performance Footage: 2020 New Music Miami ISCM Festival

Miranda Cuckson, violin

Other Rooms (2018)

Pamela Z (b. 1956)

Performance Footage: 2020 New Music Miami ISCM Festival

The Time is Now, Now's the Time (2017)

Donal Fox (b. 1952)

Performance Footage: November 2017 at Corning Museum of Glass Auditorium

Inventions Trio

Donal Fox piano, composer, arranger

John Lockwood, double bass

Kush Abadey, drums

About the Artists

Joan Tower is widely regarded as one of the most important American composers living today. During a career spanning more than fifty years, she has made lasting contributions to musical life in the United States as composer, performer, conductor, and educator. Her works have been commissioned by major ensembles, soloists, and orchestras including: the Emerson, Tokyo, and Muir Quartets; soloists Evelyn Glennie, Carol Wincenc, David Shifrin, Paul Neubauer, and John Browning; and the orchestras of Chicago, New York, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Nashville, Albany NY, and Washington DC, among others. Recent awards include: 2020 Chamber Music America Richard J. Bogolmony National Service Award; Musical America's 2020 Composer of the Year; and the 2019 Gold Baton Award from the League of American Composers. Tower is the first composer chosen for a Ford Made in America consortium commission of sixty-five orchestras. From 1969 to 1984, she was pianist and founding member of the Naumburg Award-winning Da Capo Chamber Players. Tower's tremendously popular six Fanfares for the Uncommon Woman have been played by over 600 different ensembles. She is currently Asher Edelman Professor of Music at Bard College, where she has taught since 1972.

Paloma Alonso is a New York City native. She is 13 years old and attends the Léman Manhattan Preparatory School. Her parents, both classical concert pianists, were her first piano teachers. Alonso cites her Cuban father and Albanian mother as major inspirations for introducing her to music of all styles and genres. She began studying cello six years ago with Juilliard-trained teacher Yves Dharamraj and also pursues her passion for dance at the school of New York Theatre Ballet where she has trained rigorously since the age of four. Alonso joined the New York Philharmonic Young Composers Program in 2017. She commented that "This wonderful program opened a whole new world of expression to me. Composing is another tool that allows me to be expressive in a beautiful and artistic way". In December 2019, on a Young People's Concert, the Philharmonic performed Alonso's Sweating Bullets under the baton of its Music Director Jaap van Zweden. The orchestral work was scheduled to be performed by the Philharmonic again in April of 2020 but, was unfortunately cancelled due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Darian Donovan Thomas, a composer, multi-instrumentalist, and interdisciplinary artist, was born in San Antonio, Texas and is currently based in Brooklyn, New York. He is interested in combining genres and mediums into a singular vocabulary that can express ideas about intersectionality (of medium and identity). Necessarily, Thomas is interested in redacting all barriers to entry that have existed at the gates of any genre - this vocabulary of multiplicity will be intersectional, and therefore all-inclusive. Currently, he is writing a piece for piano and orchestra for Adam Tender and the Youth Orchestras of San Antonio (YOSA) with prior commissions to Bang on a Can's summer festival Banglewood, percussionists at Bard College Conservatory, and Sam Houston State University, among others. Thomas has performed with Moses Sumney on the Late Show with Stephen Colbert, in a Tiny Desk concert with critically acclaimed dreambow band Balun, toured internationally to Iceland with Apartment Sessions, recorded with the Katie Martucci Band, performs with MEDIAQUEER, Mordechai, String Orchestra of Brooklyn, Prompts Collective, as well as his solo set for venues around NYC. He received his undergraduate degree in Music Composition from The University of the Incarnate Word.
www.darianthomas.myportfolio.com

Shayna Dunkelman is a musician and percussionist based in Brooklyn, New York, known for her unique techniques and use of electronics to access a sonic pallet not found in acoustic percussion. In addition to solo performances, Dunkelman tours with the Puerto Rican band Balún, multi-instrumentalist Emily Wells, electroacoustic duo Peptalk, Pakistani singer and author Ali Sethi, and her percussion duo Nomon with her sister Nava Dunkelman. She appeared as soloist in Du Yun's Pulitzer Award-Winning and Grammy-nominated work, alongside Sethi and vocalist Helga Davis, with an extensive schedule that included Ultima Festival (Oslo), Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and Southbank Centre (London), to date. Active in the alternative music scene as a member of the band Xiu Xiu, she toured the world for six years and has recorded, and she has performed with pioneers of avant-garde experimental musicians such as Yuka C. Honda, John Zorn, Yoko Ono, Thurston Moore, and Zeena Parkins. As a composer, Dunkelman collaborated with choreographer Amanda Piña to present work at the Presidential Palace of Austria. Born and raised in Tokyo, Japan to an Indonesian mother and an American father, she became a multi-instrumentalist performing alongside her mother, a musician and composer active in Asia and the Middle East. Dunkelman graduated with honors in both music and mathematics from Mills College. www.shaynadunkelmanmusic.com

Angélica Negrón is a Puerto-Rican born composer and multi-instrumentalist who writes music for accordions, robotic instruments, toys and electronics, as well as chamber ensembles and orchestras. She has been commissioned by the Bang on a Can All-Stars, loadbang, MATA Festival, Brooklyn Youth Chorus, Sō Percussion, the American Composers Orchestra, and the New York Botanical Garden, among others. Her music has been performed at the Kennedy Center, the Ecstatic Music Festival, EMPAC, Bang on a Can Marathon and the 2016 New York Philharmonic Biennial and her film scores have been heard numerous times at the Tribeca Film Festival. She has collaborated with artists like Sō Percussion, The Knights, Face the Music, and NOVUS NY, among others and is a founding member of the tropical electronic band Balún. Negrón holds a Master's degree in music composition from New York University and pursued doctoral studies at The Graduate Center (CUNY) under the guidance of Tania León. She's a teaching artist for New York Philharmonic's Very Young Composers Program working with young learners on creative composition projects. Upcoming premieres include works for the LA Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and National Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Girls Chorus, and New York Philharmonic Project 19 initiative. Negrón continues to perform and compose for film. www.angelicanegron.com

inti figgis-vizueta is a New York-based composer whose music focuses on combinations of various notational schemata, disparate and overlaid sonic plans, and collaborative unlearning of dominant vernaculars. She often writes magically real musics through the lens of personal identities, braiding a childhood of overlapping immigrant communities and Black-founded Freedom schools—in Chocolate City (DC)--with direct Andean & Irish heritage and a deep connection to the land. figgis-vizueta is the recipient of the 2020 ASCAP Foundation Fred Ho Award. She has been commissioned by JACK Quartet, Crash Ensemble, National Sawdust, Music from Copland House, The Phillips Collection, Jennifer Koh's Arco Collaborative, cellists Matt Haimovitz, Amanda Gookin and Andrew Yee, among many others. Her music has been performed at the Kennedy Center, Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Ecstatic Music Festival, Spoleto Festival, Seattle Symphony's Contemporary Music Marathon and the New Latin Wave Festival. She has been featured by organizations such as the American Composer's Orchestra, Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra, Montpelier Chamber Orchestra, the Institute for New Music, and Mizzou New Music and curates for Score Follower, an online archive championing universal access to contemporary musics, with a focus on finding and featuring QTBIPOC artists. figgis-vizueta loves reading poetry, particularly Danez Smith and Joy Harjo, and she honors her Quechua bisabuela, who was the only woman butcher on the whole plaza central and used to fight men with a machete. www.inticomposes.com

Ninth Planet is a new music ensemble and service organization dedicated to the commissioning, performance and furthering of new music, especially the works of young composers. Created in 2019 as a merger of Bay Area new music groups Wild Rumpus and Composers, Inc. Ninth Planet combines the resources of performers and composers of music of our time. Its core ensemble is often supplemented by guest vocalists and instrumentalists to present a rich and wide-ranging repertoire. Ninth Planet hosts an annual call-for-scores as part of the internationally renowned Suzanne & Lee Ettelson Composer's Award. www.ninthplanetmusic.org

Alba Potes was born in Cali, Colombia and moved to the USA in 1983. She began composing music in 1990, recognized for her subtle, yet energetic and personal compositional style. Her works feature European influences blended with traces of rhythms and melodic gestures inspired by Latin-American traditional music and music of other cultures. Potes' compositions have been performed by the Montreal Chamber Orchestra, National Symphony of Colombia, National Philharmonic Orchestra of Venezuela, Cantori New York, Darmstadt 2000 Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik, Vox n Flux, International Alliance for Women in Music, the ISCM in New York, Parnassus, the Network for New Music, Momenta Quartet, and The New York New Music Ensemble, among others. She began her musical studies at the Conservatorio Antonio Maria Valencia in Cali and received a Bachelor of Arts in music theory, a Master of Music in composition and a Doctor of Musical Arts in composition from Temple University where she studied with Matthew Greenbaum, Ursula Mamlok, and Maurice Wright. Potes is presently working on her opera Comala based on the book Pedro Páramo by Juan Rulfo. She is the Artistic Director and founder of the concert series Las Américas en Concierto (www.americasenconcierto.org) and teaches at the New School Mannes College Preparatory Division, Pratt Institute, and Borough of Manhattan Community College/CUNY.

Charles Abramovic has won critical acclaim with a vast repertoire not only on the piano, but also the harpsichord and fortepiano. He made his solo orchestral debut at the age of fourteen with the Pittsburgh Symphony. Since then he has appeared as soloist with the Baltimore Symphony, the Colorado Philharmonic, the Florida Philharmonic, and the Nebraska Chamber Orchestra, among others. He has given solo recitals throughout the United States, France and Yugoslavia and appeared at major international festivals in Berlin, Salzburg, Bermuda, Dubrovnik, Aspen, and Vancouver. Abramovic has collaborated with Midori, Robert McDuffie, Viktoria Mullova, Kim Kashkashian, and Mimi Stillman. His recording of the solo piano works of Delius for DTR recordings has been widely praised. He has recorded for EMI Classics with violinist Sarah Chang, for Avie Recordings with flutist Jeffrey Khaner and works of Milton Babbitt, Joseph Schwantner, Gunther Schuller and others for Albany Records, CRI, Bridge, and Naxos. An active part of the musical life of Philadelphia, Abramovic has taught at Temple University's Boyer College of Music since 1988 where he is currently chair of keyboard studies, a core member of the Dolce Suono Ensemble, and performs with Network for New Music and Orchestra 2001. In 2003 received the Creative Achievement Award from Temple University. His teachers have included Natalie Phillips, Eleanor Sokoloff, Leon Fleisher, and Harvey Wedeen.

Anthony Cheung writes music that explores the senses, a wide palette of instrumental play and affects, improvisational traditions, reimagined musical artifacts, and multiple layers of textual meaning. His music has been commissioned and performed by leading groups such as the Ensemble Modern, Ensemble Intercontemporain, New York Philharmonic, Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Musikfabrik, Scharoun Ensemble, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, and many others. From 2015-17, he was the Daniel R. Lewis Composer Fellow with the Cleveland Orchestra. Cheung is the recipient of a 2016 Guggenheim Fellowship, as well as a 2012 Rome Prize, and received First Prize at the 2008 Dutilleux Competition. As a cofounder of New York's Talea Ensemble, he served as pianist and artistic director of the group. Recordings include three portrait discs: *Cycles and Arrows* (New Focus), *Dystemporal* (Wergo), and *Roundabouts* (Ensemble Modern Medien). He studied at Harvard and Columbia Universities, and was a Junior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows. Cheung taught at the University of Chicago from 2013-20 and is currently Associate Professor of Music at Brown University. www.acheungmusic.com

Miranda Cuckson delights audiences as a violinist and violist with her playing of a large range of repertoire, from the newest creations to older works. Coming from a thorough grounding in the classical repertoire, she works at the forefront of today's music scene and is passionate about the creative role of the performer/interpreter in the artistic process and in communicating the music. In addition to her ongoing engagement with the classical repertoire – including the concerto and sonata repertoire and the solo works of JS Bach – Cuckson plays a large number and variety of contemporary works. She is the director of *Nunc* (with which she programs concerts on a sporadic basis) and a performing member of *counter)induction* and *AMOC*. As guest curator at Brooklyn venue *National Sawdust*, she programs premieres of new works and performs solo and with groups. She has collaborated with numerous ensembles including *Continuum*, *Sequitur*, *Talea Ensemble*, *ICE*, *Yarn/Wire*, *Horszowski Trio*, *JACK Quartet*, *Decoda*, *Loadbang*, *Da Capo Chamber Players*, *Locrian Chamber Players*, *Collide-o-Scope*, and *Fonema Consort*. Cuckson studied at The Juilliard School from the age of nine through her DMA. www.mirandacuckson.com

Pamela Z is a composer/performer and media artist who works primarily with voice, live electronic processing, sampled sound, and video. A pioneer of live digital looping techniques, she processes her voice in real time to create dense, complex sonic layers. Her solo works combine experimental extended vocal techniques, operatic bel canto, found objects, text, digital processing, and wireless MIDI controllers that allow her to manipulate sound with physical gestures. She has been commissioned to compose scores for dance, theatre, film, and chamber ensembles including *Kronos Quartet*, *Eighth Blackbird*, *the Bang on a Can All Stars*, *Ethel*, and *San Francisco Contemporary Music Players*. Her interdisciplinary performance works have been presented at venues including *The Kitchen* (NY), *Yerba Buena Center for the Arts* (SF), *REDCAT* (LA), and *MCA* (Chicago), and her installations have been presented at such exhibition spaces as the *Whitney* (NY), the *Diözesanmuseum* (Cologne), and the *Krannert* (IL). She is a recipient of numerous awards including the *Rome Prize*, *United States Artists*, a *Robert Rauschenberg Foundation* residency, the *Guggenheim*, the *Doris Duke Artist Impact Award*, *Herb Alpert Award*, an *Ars Electronica* honorable mention, and the *NEA Japan/US Friendship Commission Fellowship*. Pamela Z holds a music degree from the *University of Colorado, Boulder*. www.pamelaz.com

Donal Fox is internationally acclaimed as a composer, pianist, and improviser in both jazz and classical music. His numerous awards include a Guggenheim fellowship in music composition and the distinction of serving as the first African American composer-in-residence with the St. Louis Symphony. Fox's music has been performed and premiered at Carnegie Hall, major music halls, and festivals including Tanglewood and Jazz at Lincoln Center. Fox's fluency across genres has led to collaborations and recordings with the likes of Oliver Lake, David Murray, Quincy Troupe, Regina Carter, Terri Lyne Carrington, Maya Beiser and Hilary Hahn, along with the Richmond Symphony, American Composers Orchestra, and the Albany Symphony Orchestra. Visiting Scholar Emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Fox is a Steinway Artist. www.donalfox.com

Donal Fox and his **Inventions Trio** tackle both jazz and baroque repertoire with visionary takes on Scarlatti, Bach, Monk, Coltrane, Coleman and more. Fox expertly fuses jazz, Afro-Latin and classical idioms into intricate new works and electrifying performances, widely recognized for de-constructing and reconstructing Bach, Piazzolla, Schumann, Monk, Schoenberg and more, adding propulsive grooves and using composed themes as springboards for glorious improvisational flights that blend baroque with bebop, twelve-tone techniques with twelve-bar blues.

Composers Now is an organization that empowers all living composers, celebrates the diversity of their voices, and honors the significance of their artistic contributions to the cultural fabric of society.

<https://www.composersnow.org/cn/about/mission/>

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COMPOSERS NOW TEAM

Tania León, Founder and Artistic Director
Béatriz Hernández, Executive Producer
David Bridges, Assistant Technical Director
Amy Roberts Frawley, Production Supervisor
Andrés Vera León, Technical Director
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