

 **composers now** presents  
**DIALOGUES**

A Virtual Concert & Conversation Tuesday, September 29, 2020 @ 5PM EDT



Nicole Mitchell



John King



Andreia Pinto Correia



Tania León, Host



Cory Smythe



String Noise



George Nickson

**Program**

Introduction by Tania León

**John King** (b. 1953)  
*Centripetal Light* (2020)  
String Noise, violins

**Nicole Mitchell** (b. 1967)  
*Interdimensional Interplay* (2016)  
Cory Smythe, piano  
Nicole Mitchell, pre-recorded flute

**Andreia Pinto Correia** (b. 1971)  
*Cadernos* (2009)  
George Nickson, vibraphone

Dialogues with composers, performers, and audience

## **About the Composers**

**John King** is a composer, guitarist, and violist who has worked collaboratively with and been commissioned by Kronos Quartet, Brooklyn Youth Chorus, Ethel, String Noise, Bang On A Can All-Stars, the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, and New York City Ballet, among others. He has written several operas including *disappearant* with texts by the composer, *ping* and *what is the word* with texts by Samuel Beckett, and, most recently, *SapphOpera*, using fragments of Sappho's poetry translated by Anne Carson. Since April 1, 2020 he has hosted a weekly live online performance series called "Sonic Gatherings" with choreographer/dancer Bandon Collwes. He presented the world premiere of *Piano Vectors* for 6 grand pianos in the 40,000 sq. ft. Knockdown Center in May 2015 and premiered his 4-hour long *KOSMOS* for string quartet and live electronics there in October 2018. King has worked on five installation/productions with CultureHub involving telematic performance practices. He was Co-Director of the Music Committee for the Merce Cunningham Dance Company from 2003 until MCDC's closing at the end of 2011. Other honors include grants from the NEA/Music in Motion, Jerome Foundation, and Asian Cultural Council, as well as the 2009 Alpert Award in the Arts for Music, the 2014 Foundation for Contemporary Arts Award for Sound/Music, a 2016 Rockefeller Foundation/Bellagio Residency, and residencies with The McDowell Colony and The Emily Harvey Foundation in Venice, Italy. [johnkingmusic.com](http://johnkingmusic.com)

**Nicole Mitchell** is an award-winning creative flutist, composer, bandleader, and educator. With her unique improvisational language, she has been repeatedly awarded "Top Flutist of the Year" by Downbeat Magazine Critics Poll and the Jazz Journalists Association (2010-2017). She is the founder of Black Earth Ensemble, Black Earth Strings, Sonic Projections, and Ice Crystal. Mitchell celebrates endless possibility by "creating visionary worlds through music that bridges the familiar with the unknown." In October 2017 she celebrated a compositional premiere with *Procession Time*, a suite inspired by the work of Harlem Renaissance artist Norman Lewis, that was performed by the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players and conducted by Steve Schick. In January 2018, Mitchell was the Artist in Residence at New York's Winter Jazz Fest, where she performed four suites of her compositions, including the Afrofuturist *Mandorla Awakening*, which was cited as a top jazz recording in *The New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times* for 2017. Mitchell has been commissioned by the French Ministry of Culture, the Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art, the Stone, and ICE, among others. Mitchell has performed with creative music luminaries including Craig Taborn, Joelle Leandre, Anthony Braxton, Geri Allen, George Lewis, and Muhal Richard Abrams. She is a recipient of the Herb Alpert Award (2011), the Chicago 3Arts Award (2011), and the Doris Duke Artist Award (2012). She is currently the Director of Jazz Studies in the University of Pittsburgh's Deitrich School. [nicolemitchell.com](http://nicolemitchell.com)

**Andreia Pinto Correia's** music has been described as "compellingly meditative" (*The Boston Globe*) and "a major contribution to the dissemination of Portugal's culture and language, perhaps a contribution larger than could ever be imagined" (*Jornal de Letras*). Following a family tradition of scholars and writers, her work often reflects the influence of literary sources from the Iberian Peninsula and beyond. Honors include a 2020 Arts and Letters Award in Music by the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, a Rockefeller Foundation Center Fellowship, and commissions from the European Union Presidency, League of American Orchestras and the Toulmin Foundation, and the Fromm Music Foundation at Harvard University. Her works have been performed by the Minnesota Symphony Orchestra, Berkeley Symphony Orchestra, Orquestra Metropolitana de Lisboa, and the JACK, Borrromeo, and Mivos String Quartets. She was the curator of the Fertile Crescent Festival for Contemporary Music at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and composer in residence with contemporary music ensemble OrchestrUtópica (Lisbon). She has collaborated with an array of artists and scholars including historian Prof. Ann McGrath (Australia), marine biologist Dr. Claudio Campagna (Argentina), filmmakers Daniel Blaufuks and Salomé Lamas (Portugal), writer Mia Couto (Mozambique), and choreographer Omayra Amaya (Spain/USA). She is currently writing a cello concerto for American virtuoso Jay Campbell to be premiered during the 2021 season. [andreiapintocorreia.com](http://andreiapintocorreia.com)

**Tania León** (Founder and Artistic Director, Composers Now), Cuban born, is a vital, formidable personality on today's music scene. She is valued as a composer and conductor, an accomplished educator, advisor, and advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion. This was the subject of her keynote speech for the American Symphony Orchestra League 2019 Conference. Among her credits are: founding member and first Music Director of the Dance Theatre of Harlem; Music Director for Broadway's *The Wiz*; creator of the Brooklyn Philharmonic Community Concert Series; co-founder of the American Composers Orchestra Sonidos de las Américas Festival. León has received a Pulitzer Prize nomination, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the New York Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award, Grammy and Latin Grammy nominations, and ASCAP's Victor Herbert Award, along with Honorary Doctorate degrees from Colgate University, Oberlin, and Purchase College. She was the Claire and Leonard Tow Professor in Music at Brooklyn College, 2000 to 2004, and Distinguished Professor of the City University of New York from 2006 to 2019, now Professor Emerita. Recent premieres include her 2020 work *Stride*, commissioned by the New York Philharmonic as part of its Project 19 series honoring the centennial of the constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote. [tanialeon.com](http://tanialeon.com)

### **About the Performers**

**String Noise**, New York's most daring violin duo composed of Conrad Harris and Pauline Kim Harris, has expanded the repertoire with over 50 new works since their debut at Ostrava New Music Days in 2011. Nearly a decade later, they continue to break down the boundaries of traditional expectations, inspire innovative compositions, and display formidable virtuosity while integrating multimedia art, electronics, improvisation, video projections, opera, and dance. Premieres by String Noise include works by George Lewis, Christian Wolff, Michael Byron, David Behrman, Alvin Lucier, John King, Phill Niblock, Caleb Burhans, Catherine Lamb, David Lang, Petr Kotik, Du Yun, Annie Gosfield, Bernhard Lang, John Zorn, Greg Saunier, Alex Mincek, and Richard Carrick. String Noise has recorded for Northern Spy, Dymaxion Groove, Cold Blue, Infrequent Seams, New Focus, and Black Truffle Records, among others. [stringnoiseduo.com](http://stringnoiseduo.com)

Pianist **Cory Smythe** has worked closely with pioneering artists in new, improvisatory, and classical music, including saxophonist-composer Ingrid Laubrock, violinist Hilary Hahn, and multidisciplinary composers from Anthony Braxton to Zosha Di Castri. His own music "dissolves the lines between composition and improvisation with rigor" (*Chicago Reader*), and his first record was praised by Jason Moran as "hands down one of the best solo recordings I've ever heard." Smythe has been featured at the Newport Jazz, Wien Modern, Trondheim Chamber Music, Nordic Music Days, Approximation, Concorso Busoni, and Darmstadt festivals, as well as at Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, where he was recently invited to premiere a new work created in collaboration with Peter Evans and Craig Taborn. He has received commissions from Milwaukee's Present Music, the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Trondheim Jazz Orchestra, the International Contemporary Ensemble, of which he is a longtime member, and the Shifting Foundation. Smythe received a Grammy Award for his work with Ms. Hahn and plays regularly in the critically acclaimed Tyshawn Sorey Trio. [corysmythe.com](http://corysmythe.com)

A percussionist and conductor of great versatility and virtuosity, **George Nickson** holds the Margie and William H. Seay Chair as Principal Percussionist of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Prior to Dallas, Nickson served as Principal Percussionist of the Sarasota Orchestra from 2012-2019. He received the Master of Music degree at The Juilliard School where he studied with Daniel Druckman and completed his undergraduate studies at the New England Conservatory with Will Hudgins. In addition to his position with the Sarasota Orchestra, Nickson has had the privilege of performing with the orchestras of Boston, Detroit, Washington, D.C., Toronto, Honolulu, and San Francisco. Recent highlights include world premiere concerto performances at ensemblenewSRQ in Sarasota, Florida and at Tanglewood, solo performances at the Spoleto Festival, and solo recording projects that can be heard on Bridge Records, NAXOS, and Albany Records. Nickson frequently appears as conductor in notable performances with ensemblenewSRQ, including world premieres, Charles Wuorinen's *New York Notes*, and *Le Marteau sans maître* by Pierre Boulez. Additionally, Nickson is Adjunct Assistant Professor of Percussion at Southern Methodist University and maintains an active presence as a giver of clinics and masterclasses around the world. [georgenickson.instantencore.com](http://georgenickson.instantencore.com)

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

[www.composersnow.org/cn/about/mission](http://www.composersnow.org/cn/about/mission)

*We proudly acknowledge the support of the following people and organizations:*

*The Aaron Copland Fund for Music  
The Amphion Foundation  
Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation  
BNY Mellon Wealth Management  
The Cheswaty Foundation  
The DuBose and Dorothy Heyward Memorial Fund  
Fund for the City of New York  
Michael Minard and Phyllis Ross  
Newburgh Institute for the Arts and Ideas  
The Witherspoon Fund*

*Composers Now is made possible in part with public funds from Creative Engagement, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and administered by LMCC.*



#### **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  
Ivonne Paredes-Burton, Social Media  
Austin Shadduck, Graphics and PDF Program

*Composers Now, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization*

[www.composersnow.org](http://www.composersnow.org)