

 **composers now** presents
composer curator
with eleonor sandresky



jessie montgomery



trevor weston



gilda lyons



eleonor sandresky

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 6:00 pm, Live Stream

Program

Eleonor Sandresky, host

Composer and Performer Conversations

Jessie Montgomery (b. 1981)

Rhapsody No. 1 (2014)

Jannina Norpoth, violin

Dance excerpts from original score for Dance Theatre of Harlem

Trevor Weston (b. 1967)

Shape Shifter (2011)

Alexis Pia Gerlach, cello

Gilda Lyons (b. 1975)

hush (2018)

Carrie Koffman, alto saxophone

Hydroxychloroquine (2020)

for solo voices

Gilda Lyons, voices

Chris Lyons, illustration

Audience Q & A

About the Composers

Jessie Montgomery is an acclaimed composer, violinist and educator. She is the recipient of the Leonard Bernstein Award from the ASCAP Foundation and the Sphinx Medal of Excellence. Her works are performed around the world by leading musicians and ensembles. Montgomery's music interweaves classical music with elements of vernacular music, improvisation, poetry and social consciousness, making her an acute interpreter of 21st-century American sound and experience. Her profoundly felt works have been described as “turbulent, wildy colorful and exploding with life” (*The Washington Post*). jessiemontgomery.com

Trevor Weston's music has been called a “gently syncopated marriage of intellect and feeling” (*Detroit Free Press*). His honors include the George Ladd Prix de Paris from the University of California, Berkeley, a Goddard Lieberman Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and residencies from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the MacDowell Colony. With Olly Wilson, the composers co-authored “Duke Ellington as a Cultural Icon” in the *Cambridge Companion to Duke Ellington*, published by Cambridge University Press. Carnegie Hall co-commissioned Weston's *Flying Fish*, with the American Composers Orchestra, for its 125 Commissions Project. The Bang on a Can All-Stars premiered Weston's *Dig It* for the Ecstatic Music Festival and *Juba for Strings* won the 2019 Sonori/New Orleans Chamber Orchestra Composition Competition. Dr. Weston is currently Professor of Music and Chair of the Music Department at Drew University in Madison, NJ. trevorweston.com

Gilda Lyons, composer, vocalist and visual artist, combines elements of renaissance, neo-baroque, spectral, folk, agitprop Music Theater and extended vocalism to create works of uncompromising emotional honesty and melodic beauty. Lyons has commissioned, premiered and workshopped new vocal works by dozens of composers, and her works and performances are available on the Clarion, GPR, Naxos (a work by Daron Hagen with the Buffalo Philharmonic, JoAnn Falletta conducting), New Dynamic, New Focus and Roven Records labels. Lyons is Assistant Professor of Composition at The Hartt School and Acting Chair of its Composition Program. She is Artistic and Executive Director of The Phoenix Concerts, New York's “intrepid Upper West Side new-music series” (*The New Yorker*), and serves on the Board of Advisors of Composers Now, the Steven R. Gerber Trust and Sparks & Wiry Cries. Lyons served as Composer-in-Residence of Chautauqua Opera in the 2019 season. Her music is published by Schott, E.C. Schirmer and Burning Sled. gildalyons.com

Dubbed a “piano goddess,” **Eleonor Sandresky's** music has been featured in film and on radio, and is available on Koch International, Sony, Orange Mountain Music, One Soul Records, ERM Media and Albany Records labels. Her music is performed internationally, from London's Cafe Oto to the Totally Huge New Music Festival in Perth, Australia. Much of her recent works, both with and without electronics, are for choreographed musicians, a genre that she has created to enlarge the musical and emotional meaning through a hybrid form that merges and expands the choreography of playing with the actual music-making. To further that goal, she invented the Wonder Suit, a wearable wireless sensor system that triggers electronic events and processes in her choreographed pieces. A founding member of the improvising composer-driven Ensemble 50, she is at the same time one of New York's pre-eminent new music pianists, with performances and premieres of new works by a wide range of composers from Egberto Gismonti to Philip Glass as a member of his ensemble since 1991. Deeply involved in the genre of live music and film, Sandresky composes, conducts and produces concerts of her own scores as well as those of Leonard Bernstein and Philip Glass. esandresky.com

About the Performers



Grammy-nominated violinist **Jannina Norpoth** made her solo debut with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at age 14. Since then she has built a career as an innovative collaborative artist with a passion for contemporary music, genre bending and improvisation and advocate for a more inclusive and versatile landscape in classical music. Her ensemble, PUBLIQuartet, is widely recognized for its trailblazing programming and practice – receiving the 2019 Visionary Artist Award from Chamber Music America and the 2015 CMA/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming and a residency at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She has been featured alongside acclaimed musicians James Carter, Nadia Sirota, Regina Carter, Marcus Belgrave, Jay-Z, Beyoncé, Pharell, Stevie Wonder, Anita Baker, My Brightest Diamond and many others. A sought after arranger in the classical and non-classical worlds, recent commissions include an adaptation of Scott Joplin’s “Treemonisha” for the Volcano Theatre Company in Toronto, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony and the Gardner Museum. Ms. Norpoth has arranged/recorded strings for Grammy-winning producers Jerry “Wonda” Duplessis and Bryce Goggin and for artists Keyshia Cole, Keri Hilson, Black Dahlia Murder, Akron Family, John Legend and her own ensembles PUBLIQuartet and HOLLANDS. janninanorpoth.com

Cellist **Alexis Pia Gerlach** has appeared extensively in recitals and as a soloist with orchestras across the United States, as well as in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and South America, with such conductors as Mstislav Rostropovich, James DePreist and Peter Oundjian. She was a founding member of the acclaimed Trio Solisti with whom she performed for 19 years at major venues and series across the US, and has recorded extensively to critical acclaim. As a founding member of Concertante she toured throughout North America, Asia and the Middle East. Ms. Gerlach has performed at major festivals including Marlboro, Aspen, Bridgehampton, La Musica di Asolo, Caramoor and as a guest artist with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and played extensively with Musicians from Marlboro, as soloist with the Paul Taylor Dance Company on tour in India and at New York’s City Center and in a duo with New York City Ballet principal dancer, Damian Woetzel. She has commissioned and premiered new works from preeminent composers such as Kevin Puts, Lowell Liebermann, Shulamit Ran, Richard Danielpour, Tigran Mansurian and Paul Moravec. Ms. Gerlach was born in New York City, and studied with Aldo Parisot at The Juilliard School and The Yale School of Music. triosolisti.com

Carrie Koffman is Associate Professor of Saxophone at The Hartt School of Music, Dance and Theater at the University of Hartford and Lecturer of Saxophone at the Yale School of Music. Prior to this, she held positions at Penn State University, the University of New Mexico and Boston University. She has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in 26 states, 14 countries and on 5 continents. *Fanfare Magazine* calls her playing “suave, subtly nuanced, and technically secure in its every gesture,” and praises her “melting tone and touching sensitivity.” Koffman also has an ongoing recording and performing series entitled *Pink Ink* that is dedicated to promoting the music of living women composers. Koffman has commissioned and/or premiered 52 compositions, and her saxophone students have placed in over 120 different performance competitions including winning 23 university concerto competitions. Koffman holds degrees from the University of Michigan and the University of North Texas. She is also a Conn-Selmer artist/clinician and performs exclusively on Selmer Paris saxophones and is a certified Kripalu Yoga Teacher. carriekoffman.com

Growing up with parents who were artists, **Chris Lyons** was always surrounded by art, music and ‘creative magic’. His artistic childhood inspired him to study communication design and illustration at the University of Buffalo, earning a BFA there. He interned for iconic graphic designer Milton Glaser in New York City and, from there, Lyons launched a career in freelance illustration. He worked with clients including the USPS, Pentagram, Trader Joe’s, The Smithsonian, *Sports Illustrated* and *The New York Times*. He is an adjunct professor in the College of Art + Design at Rochester Institute of Technology. In his spare time hobbies include skating on the Erie Canal and playing pick-up basketball which fuels his competitive spirit. He lives in Rochester, NY with his wife Anne and their 2 interesting cats, Indy and Skinny. chrislyonsillustration.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

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.



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