



New England
Conservatory

Concert Program

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Welcome to NEC!

I am thrilled to share New England Conservatory's 2023-24 concert season—a celebration of the power of music to connect and inspire one another.

Whether you are seated in one of our concert halls or watching online, we hope you are uplifted by the performances of our students, faculty, and guest artists.

Above all, we thank you for your support of our students as they cultivate their artistry and contribute to the world through music.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Andrea Kalyn".

Andrea Kalyn
President

[nec]shivaree
Callithumpian Consort

Stephen Drury, artistic director

Monday, December 4, 2023
8:00 p.m.
Williams Hall

PROGRAM

[nec]shivaree

Alvin Lucier
(1931–2021)

*Music for Cello with One or More
Amplified Vases* (1993)

Shannon Ross, cello

Lior Navok
(b. 1971)

Mysterious Pond (2004)

Honor Hickman, flute
Corinne Foley, oboe
Kexin Tian, piano

Alvin Lucier

Music for Piano with Magnetic Strings (1995)

Hidemi Akaiwa, piano

Elliott Carter
(1908–2012)

Figment No. 1 for solo cello (1994)

Shannon Ross, cello

[nec]shivaree, the NEC Avant-Garde Ensemble directed by Stephen Drury, is the attack wing of NEC's new music program, performing the modern, the new, and the avant-garde. Sounds are provided by such composers as John Cage, Steve Reich, Morton Feldman, George Crumb, Galina Ustvolskaya, and Giacinto Scelsi. The players of [nec]shivaree have worked with composers John Zorn, John Luther Adams, Christian Wolff, and Frederic Rzewski. The group gives concerts both inside and outside of the Conservatory, and has performed regularly at the Zeitgeist Gallery in Cambridge and Tonic and The Stone in New York.

Intermission

The Callithumpian Consort

György Ligeti
(1923–2006)

**Trio for Violin, Horn and Piano (1982),
“Hommage à Brahms”**

Andante con tenerezza

Vivacissimo molto ritmico

Alla Marcia

Lamento: Adagio

Lilit Hartunian, violin

Sarah Sutherland, French horn

Yukiko Takagi, piano

Navok *Mysterious Pond*

Mysterious Pond was written during my artist residency at the MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire, USA. From my studio which was sited in the midst of the forest I could hear remote sounds that came from the nearby pond: Frog peepers created a most haunting sound texture, the sounds of night birds and the distant howls. My mind started to work towards imagining the pond and its mysterious atmosphere at different times of the day, but especially from dusk to sunrise. I imagined small episodes, involving the water creatures, their sounds, the lighting, rustle of the leaves and the whisper of the water. All these created a continuum of musical scenes, woven one into the other.

– Lior Navok

Lucier *Music for Piano with Magnetic Strings*

Years ago I met a music critic who said he didn't like music made with wires. He was referring to my *Music on a Long Thin Wire* which had just been installed at the Landmark Center in Saint Paul, as part of New Music America Minneapolis 1980. I retorted that he must not like the piano; it contained over two hundred and fifty of them.

When Lois Svard asked me to write her a piece, my mind flashed back to that encounter and I imagined a work in which the strings of a piano would sound by themselves. In *Music on a Long Thin Wire* a large horseshoe magnet straddles the wire creating a flux field around it which, in conjunction with a current from an oscillator, causes the wire to vibrate and sound. For a piano work I would need several small magnets to activate more than one string at a time. I bought several EBows, small electromagnets used primarily with electric guitars. I experimented, placing them on the strings of my piano. I discovered that if I waited long enough, certain strings would begin sounding.

I wrote Lois a prose score, describing the process and suggesting she freely position and reposition five EBows on the piano strings, creating strands of sounds of varying density and texture. Much of her time was spent listening for harmonics, audible beating, occasional rhythms produced as one or more magnets vibrates against adjacent strings, and other acoustic phenomena.

Music for Piano with Magnetic Strings was first performed by Lois Svard on the Interpretations Series, Merkin Hall, New York, May 11, 1995.

– Alvin Lucier

Carter *Figment No. 1*

The idea of composing a solo cello piece had been in the back of my mind for many years, especially since many cellists had been urging me to do so. When Thomas Demenga asked me for this at my 85th birthday concert in Basel (in 1994) for a concert he was giving sponsored by the Naumburg Foundation in New York, I soon set to work. Thomas Demenga had already impressed me greatly when he played some of my chamber works at my 80th birthday concert in Badenweiler, Germany and especially by his wonderful recording of these works for ECM, New Series.

Figment, for solo cello, presents a variety of contrasting, dramatic moments, using material derived from one musical idea.

– Elliott Carter

Ligeti Trio for Violin, Horn and Piano

In 1982, Ligeti completed his *Trio for Violin, Horn and Piano*, a piece which was a turning point in his career. Ligeti had composed little since he completed his opera, *Le Grand Macabre*, in 1977, having only finished a few smaller pieces, like *Hungarian Rock (chaconne)* and *Passacaglia ungherese* for harpsichord. Influenced by sources as diverse as sub-Saharan African drumming, the music of Conlon Nancarrow, and the piano music of Chopin and Schumann, the Trio is considered to be the watershed moment that opened up his "third way," a style that Ligeti claimed to be neither modern nor postmodern.

Ligeti wrote the Trio at the suggestion of pianist Eckart Besch as a companion to Johannes Brahms' Horn Trio, one of the few other examples in the genre, which is why the Ligeti Trio is marked *Hommage à Brahms*. Ligeti recalled his reaction to the suggestion: "[a]s soon as he pronounced the word 'horn' somewhere inside my head I heard the sound of a horn as if coming from a distant forest in a fairy tale, just as in a poem by Eichendorff."

– Wikipedia

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

Visit necmusic.edu for complete and updated concert and ticketing information

HANDEL ARIAS & SHAKESPEARE MONOLOGUES

Performances by graduate students in the NEC Opera Department

Tuesday & Thursday, December 5 & 7, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.,

Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

TUESDAY NIGHT NEW MUSIC

New music by NEC student composers, performed by their peers

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

NEC CHAMBER SINGERS, MEMBERS OF NEC SYMPHONIC WINDS AND NAVY BAND

NORTHEAST; Erica J. Washburn and LT David A. Harbuziuk, conductors

"WICN Brown Bag Holiday Pops" (repeated at NEC on Dec. 11)

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 12:00 noon, Mechanics Hall, Worcester, MA

LIEDERABEND LXIX & SONG AND VERSE

Songs of Schubert

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Williams Hall

CHAMBER MUSIC GALA

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC JAZZ ORCHESTRA: "Music of Ken Schaphorst"

Ken Schaphorst, conductor

Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

WIND ENSEMBLE STUDENT CONDUCTORS

Weizhe Bai '24 MM and Rachel Brake '24 MM conduct members of the NEC wind ensembles

Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

LESSONS AND CAROLS "Winter Scenes": NEC Choruses

NEC Symphonic Choir, NEC Chamber Singers, NEC Youth Chorale

NEC Children's Chorus; Erica J. Washburn and Laura Nevitt, conductors;

Back Bay Ringers, Griff Gall, director; Thomas Handel, organ; brass and percussion -

Maglione *Winter Scenes* (world premiere); Esmail *A Winter Breviary*; Chesnokov *In*

Winter; Myers *The Winter Night*; Stanford *The Blue Bird*; traditional carols

Friday, December 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., Church of the Covenant, Boston, MA

(free admission)

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

—continued

“INTO THE HOLIDAYS”

NEC Chamber Singers, Symphonic Winds, & Navy Band, NE perform works of the season; Erica J. Washburn and Lt. David A. Harbuziuk, conductors

Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC BAROQUE ENSEMBLE - Ingrid Matthews, leader

Works by Purcell, Lully, Biber, Marini, and Castello

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

JAZZ COMPOSERS’ WORKSHOP ORCHESTRA, Frank Carlberg, director

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

NEC PHILHARMONIA, Hugh Wolff, conductor

Frank Escaramuza; Lutoslawski *Cello Concerto*, Leland Ko ’24 AD, soloist;

Rachmaninoff *Symphonic Dances*

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC LAB ORCHESTRA

Graduate student orchestral conductors

Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

SONATA CLASS CONCERT, Vivian Hornik Weilerstein, coach

Monday, December 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Williams Hall

BORRROMEO STRING QUARTET BEETHOVEN SEMINAR RECITAL

Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall



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Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall,
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