

NEC Composers' Series

Michael Gandolfi, series director Efstratios Minakakis, concert curator

PROGRAM

Xiaofeng Jiang '25 DMA

...as I drift off to a lucid dream... (2023)

Chihiro Asano, mezzo-soprano Abby Reed, Tara Hagle, violin Philip Rawlinson, viola Kei Otake, cello

Kurt Vetterlein

Divine Transcience (2023)

Caroline Smoak, violin Kei Otake, cello Yuhang Nan, piano

John Heiss

(1938–2023)

Four Lyric Pieces

Andante rubato Allegro scherzando Lento rubato Animato

Amelia Libbey, flute

Sid Richardson

from Tide Tiding Time

IV. Sand & Surf

Lilit Hartunian, violin

Ketty Nez

from 5 fragments for 3 (2023)

I. in the rain, an introduction

III. calling lost sheep

IV. dance steps

V. postlude, a horn call

Jennifer Bill, saxophone Daniel Dona, viola Ketty Nez, piano

Efstratios Minakakis

Ek Vatheon, Ekekraksa Soi (2023)

T. J. Borden, cello

Jiang ... as I drift off to a lucid dream...

The ethereal sensation of being in a dream often arises during the state of semi-awakening, where consciousness and subconsciousness engage in a constant interplay of interaction and conflict.

In a lucid dream, our inner voice and narrative have the power to materialize as vibrant, sensory experiences that seem external, blurring the line between reality and imagination. - Xiaofeng Jiang

Vetterlein Divine Transcience

Divine Transience is a meditation on the fleetingness of time. It expresses the way in which our perception of time changes throughout our lives. Composed during the summer of 2023, I was interested in exploring the frantic feeling of one trying to savor all the joyous moments of summer before they slip away. Divine Transience is composed around several small motivic cells. These cells evolve, fade away, and return at various moments throughout. The listener's perception of the cell structures represents the way in which we live our lives; reaching out at moments in attempt to hold onto the memories left behind. These memories we hold shape who we are and how we continue to perceive the world. At its core, the piece is a celebration of the moments we get to spend with friends and loved ones and the lasting memories they create.

— Kurt Vetterlein

Sid Richardson Tide Tiding Time

Tide Tiding Time is a rumination on time and structure that was inspired by the Penobscot Bay in Maine. The tide there changes by about twelve feet between low and high tide, which makes for an ever-shifting seascape. The music of Tide Tiding Time is informed by activities that I engaged in on those shores growing up: swimming, skipping stones, collecting sea glass, piling together driftwood, seeking out crabs, periwinkles, and other crustaceans. Like the tide, the work follows a rigorous structure: the same proportions are applied to each movement (and to each section and sub-section, respectively), but they unfold within their own characteristic sound world. Sand & Surf, the fourth movement, strives to capture the exuberance of playing by the water side.

— Sid Richardson

Nez 5 fragments for 3

Written in the summer of 2022, 5 fragments in 3 are musical "reflections" of Romanian violin and "fluer" tunes recorded in the 1910s by composer and ethnomusicologist Béla Bartók. in the rain, an introduction, serves as an improvisatory introduction to organum, and a dance, inspired by a dance melody recorded with 2 violinists, the accompanying performer playing an instrument with only 3 strings tuned to allow close position chords (nb: not performed tonight). calling lost sheep is a category of tunes performed by shepherds who have either lost or found their sheep, performing a "fluer," a notched flute which sounds like a small recorder. In dance steps, the saxophone (or clarinet) repeats and modifies fragments of the original dance tune in continuous variation, mirroring the restless piano arpeggiation. postlude, a horn call

recalls fragments of former folk melodies of the set, and ends with a fluer melody "in imitation of an alphorn" (an actual genre of tunes). This version was soon after expanded into a trio version to include viola, entitled *5 fragments for 3*. Saxophonist Jennifer Bill, violist Daniel Doña, and the composer, gave the premiere February 9, 2023, at Boston University.

— Ketty Nez

Minakakis Ek Vatheon, Ekekraksa Soi

Ek Vatheon, Ekekraksa Soi ("Out of the depths I have cried to thee", Psalm 129) is inspired by the performance tradition of Northwestern Greek lamentations called "Moirologia". The piece reveals a fragile "inner voice" that moves between expressive extremities. The cello imitates three Greek instruments typical of Greek folk ensembles: the traditional clarinet and its characteristic glissandi, the 'laouto' (a string lute), and the 'lyra' (a three-stringed chordophone). The combination of these different timbral roles suggests an element of instrumental polyphony within a single instrument.

— Stratis Minakakis

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

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"EMBRACING CORETTA: A CELEBRATION OF CORETTA SCOTT KING":

A sabbatical project by pianist Timothy Steele; program includes Rush *Dear Coretta* (premiere); works by Black composers and poets; performers include Sarah Joyce Cooper soprano; Neil Nelson, bass-baritone; Melissa Joseph, soprano; Daon Drisdom, tenor; Timothy Steele, piano, and others

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

NEC CHAMBER ORCHESTRA, Donald Palma, artistic director Haydn *Symphony No. 6 "Le Matin"*; Stravinsky *Concerto in D*; Rózsa *Concerto for Strings, op.* 17

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

FIRST MONDAY IN JORDAN HALL, Laurence Lesser, artistic director - 39th season Rachmaninoff *Songs*; Rachmaninoff *Trio élégiaque No. 2 in D Minor, op. 9 Monday, November 6, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall*

TUESDAY NIGHT NEW MUSIC

New music by NEC student composers, performed by their peers *Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall*

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

-continued

NEC PHILHARMONIA & SYMPHONIC CHOIR, David Loebel, conductor

Pärt Fratres; Mozart "Great" Mass in C Minor, K. 427 - soloists: Yeonjae Cho, Josie Larsen, Ruoxi Peng, Shiyu Zhuo, soprano; Suowei Wu, tenor; Hyungjin Son, baritone

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

SONATA NIGHT 48, Pei-Shan Lee, director

All Schumann program in collaboration with Ayano Ninomiya's violin studio *Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Burnes Hall*

FACULTY RECITAL: VIVIAN HORNIK WEILERSTEIN, piano, CAMERON STOWE, piano,

SARI GRUBER, SOPRANO, DONALD WEILERSTEIN, violin

Works by Ives, Kurtág, Schubert, and Weinberg

Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

FACULTY RECITAL: LAURENCE LESSER, cello, and MINSOO SOHN, piano

Bartók Rhapsody No. 1 for Cello and Piano; Bach Cello Suite No. 6; Rachmaninoff, Sonata in G Minor for Cello and Piano

Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC New Music Ensemble, Hugh Wolff, conductor

Ligeti *Six Bagatelles*; Stravinsky *Octet*; Villa-Lobos *Bachianas brasileiras No. 5*; Boulez *Messagesquisse*; Yuan-Chen Li *Butterfly*; Piazzolla excerpts from *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires*

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

NEC Symphony, Paul Biss, conductor

Zwilich Jubilation; Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2, soloist tba;

Dvořák Symphony No. 8

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

CAVALLI: LA CALISTO

Performed by opera students and members of NEC Philharmonia; Brenna Corner, director; Robert Tweten, conductor *Thursday-Sunday, November 16-19, 2023, times vary*

Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

FACULTY RECITAL: MEHMET ALI SANLIKOL

Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

-continued

NEC PERCUSSION GROUP, Will Hudgins, director Monday, November 20, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

KIM KASHKASHIAN STUDIO RECITAL Monday, November 20, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall

GUNTHER SCHULLER LEGACY CONCERT

Music, remarks, and memories performances by students, alumni, and members of NEC Wind Ensemble

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC SAXOPHONE ENSEMBLE, Kenneth Radnofsky, director Monday, November 27, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

FACULTY RECITAL: BORROMEO STRING QUARTET Bartók String Quartets Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Symphonic Winds, William Drury, conductor

Nielsen Symphony for Brass and Organ; Firsova Oblivion; Nieske Like Dancing (world premiere)

Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC WIND ENSEMBLE, Robert Spittal, guest conductor Strauss Serenade in E-flat Major, op. 7; Harbison Three City Blocks; Spittal Concerto for Wind Ensemble (2023) Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

"CONNECTIONS" CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Max Levinson, director

Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

UNDERGRADUATE OPERA STUDIO: Opera Scenes, Michael Meraw, director Opera scenes performed by the members of the Undergraduate Opera Studio Friday & Saturday, December 1 & 2, 2023 at 7:30 p.m., Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

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Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall, and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited.

Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts; contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.





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