NEC Composers’ Series

Michael Gandolfi, series director
Efstratios Minakakis, concert curator

Thursday, October 26, 2023
7:30 p.m.
NEC’s Jordan Hall
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

Four Lyric Pieces
(1938–2023)

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 Transcience* 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 Transcience* 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, Ekekraka Soi*

*Ek Vatheon, Ekekraka 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 HORNK WEILERSTEIN, piano, CAMERON STOWE, piano, SARIA 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 Messagesquises; 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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