



New England
Conservatory

Concert Program

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Jazz Composers' Workshop Orchestra

Frank Carlberg, director
Joshua Gagnon, assistant

Nicole Mitchell Residency Concert

Tuesday, March 12, 2024
7:30 p.m.
NEC's Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

All compositions by Nicole Mitchell

Nicole Mitchell

Geri's Glide

Too Many of Our Young Are Dying

Visitation

Water Lifegiver

Nicole Mitchell, flute, composer

Yifei Zhou, voice

Michele Zimmerman, violin

Jonah Keris, cello

Sam Childs, tenor saxophone

Lemuel Marc, trumpet

Hidemi Akaiwa, piano

Kai Burns, guitar

Nick Isherwood, bass

Carlo Kind, drums

God's Bits of Wood

Navigator

from Afrika Rising Trilogy

I. The Ancient Power Awakens

NEC Jazz Composers' Workshop Orchestra

Jazz Composers' Workshop Orchestra

Frank Carlberg, conductor

Woodwinds

Annalise Stalls, Zack Bacak, Kira Daglio Fine,
Gabriel Nieves, Hunter McKay, Vladyslav Dovhan

Trumpets

Richard Stanmeyer	Isaac Dubow
Sebastián Haros	Maddoc Johnson

Trombones

Joshua Gagnon	Jim Connolly
Aiden Coleman	Weza Jamison-Neto (bass trombone)

Rhythm

Peter Vazquez, piano	Nadav Brenner, guitar
Daniel Mayer, bass	Carlo Kind, drums

Guests

Nicole Mitchell, flute, composer
Yifei Zhou, voice

With an impressive 14 year run as “Top Flutist of the Year” named by *Downbeat Magazine* Critics Poll and the Jazz Journalists Association from 2010 to 2023 for her development of a unique improvisational language, **Nicole Mitchell** is an award-winning creative flutist, composer, bandleader, educator. Mitchell emerged from Chicago’s innovative music scene in the late 90s, having started as a co-founder of the all-woman group Samana, and a member of the David Boykin Expanse. She was also the first woman to serve as president of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians.

Born in Syracuse, NY, Nicole was influenced by her mother’s community work as an artist and music teacher at the Black Folk Art Gallery of Syracuse, founded by Herb Williams. After moving to Chicago in her early twenties, these early experiences influenced her to become a member of the AACM and to become a cultural daughter of Haki R. Madhubuti while working at Third World Press. Mitchell’s music celebrates contemporary African American culture with a creative process informed by literature, narrative and a special interest in science fiction. For over 20 years, Nicole has utilized her art to create alternative worlds that “bridge the familiar with the unknown,” with her Black Earth Ensemble. She composes for contemporary ensembles of varied instrumentation and size, while incorporating

improvisation and a wide aesthetic expression.

As a soloist, bandleader and improviser, she has repeatedly performed throughout Europe, Canada and the U.S. since the early 2000s. Some of her newest work with Black Earth Ensemble explores intercultural collaborations; Bamako*Chicago, featuring Malian kora master, Ballake Sissoko and Mandorla Awakening with Kojiro Umezaki (shakuhachi) and Tatsu Aoki (taiko, bass, shamisen). Her album, *Mandorla Awakening*, combines Afrofuturism with intercultural collaboration and was selected by the *New York Times* as the #1 jazz album of 2017, and led to the writing of her first book, *The Mandorla Letters*, which was published in 2022 by Green Lantern and the University of Minnesota Press.

As a composer, Mitchell has been commissioned by the French Ministry of Culture, Chicago Symphony's MusicNOW, the Fromm Music Foundation, the Newport Jazz Festival, the French American Jazz Exchange, Chamber Music America, and the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE). She is a recipient of several awards, including Doris Duke Artist Award, the United States Artist Award, the Herb Alpert Award, the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship Award. She is a professor of music composition at University of Virginia since 2022, having previously taught University of California Irvine (2011-2019) and the University of Pittsburgh (2019-2022).

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Please consider making a gift to support NEC at necmusic.edu/give.

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.

Stay connected



necmusic.edu/tonight



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, appearing to read 'Andrea Kalyn'.

Andrea Kalyn
President

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the music playing?

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Thank you to our generous community of donors who remain committed to elevating the NEC experience and make it possible for our students to continue their artistic pursuits. Every gift to **The NEC Fund** supports all pillars of an NEC education, from scholarship to community engagement, to our world-renowned faculty.



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