NEC New England Conservatory

Concert Program

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Tuesday Night New Music

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 8:00 p.m. Brown Hall

PROGRAM

Shawn Lian	CentriFUGAL Force (2021)
	Subin Oh, flute Yuhsi Chang, oboe Xianyi Ji, clarinet Jialu Wang, bassoon Mattias Bengtsson, French horn Justin Park, trumpet PuYuan Chen, trombone Masaru Lin, tuba Hyun Ji Lee, Bowen Chen, violin Jowen Hsu, viola Hechen Sun, cello Minyi Wang, double bass Ngaieng Lai, percussion Yoonsu Cha, harp Iverson Eliopoulos, conductor
Ai Jian	Nacht (2022)
	Tara Hagle, Caroline Smoak, violin
Zining Wu	Stargazer (2023)
	Dillon Acey, bass clarinet

Coco Chapman	Mission Unaccomplished (2023)
-	I. Sequins
	II. Trialogue
	III. Odyssey
	Alexander Lenser, English horn, oboe
	Xiaoran Xu, French horn
	Miruna Eynon, cello
Mathew Lanning	Three American String Quartets (2023)
	Automospheres
	Ghost Tree
	on the inside I'm hootin' on the outside I'm
	hollerin'
	Kearston Gonzales, Maxwell Fairman, violin
	Nicolette Sullivan-Cozza, viola
	Miruna Eynon, cello
Changjin Ha	Bella's Dreamworld: Cassavavac S (2023)
	Bella Hyeonseo Jeong, violin
	Changjin Ha, piano
Kei Otake	cloudwatching (2023)
	Kei Otake, cello
	Ziang Xu, piano

A Normal Day (2023)

Yunqi Li, fixed media

Quinn Rosenberg

Bomb Cyclone (2023)

Honor Hickman, alto flute Sarah Cho, bass clarinet Yirou Zhang, violin Philip Rawlinson, viola Lily Stern, cello Shalun Li, piano Changjin Ha, conductor

Tuesday Night New Music was founded in the early 90s by Lee Hyla. It is a student-run, faculty-supervised concert series that offers the opportunity to hear music by the next generation of composers: current New England Conservatory composition students. This year, the series is directed by Changjin Ha and Stellan Connelly Bettany, under the supervision of composition chair Michael Gandolfi.

Upcoming Tuesday Night New Music concerts - Fall 2023

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

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

Yunqi Li

Lian CentriFUGAL Force

CentriFUGAL Force features many contrapuntal ideas and material, with the double entendre "FUGAL" relating very clearly to "fugue." The name CentriFUGAL *Force* comes from a physics term, "centrifugal force," which describes the tendency of an object moving in a circular path to travel away from the center of the circle due to inertia. This piece contains elements of pentatonic systems and contemporary contrapuntal techniques. It begins with a peaceful introduction, which then arrives at a point where all the instruments are playing a chord built on a minor 7th (voiced from the bottom to the top). After the "big 7th chord," it goes into a fast, contrapuntal section. The counterpoint here also serves as an introduction of the main "Grand Fugue" section. This fugue section is the central point of the piece. It comprises a complex, thirteen-voice fugue that builds in momentum as counterpoints strive to break out of the fugal complex. Afterwards, the fugue subject is combined with the pentatonic melody that appeared in the beginning of the piece to form a chaotic stretto. This section ends in the "big 7th chord" again, but this time it is inverted from the top voice to the bottom. The form, then, has a circular logic. In the end, it returns to the slow music of the opening, again emphasizing the circulation inherent in the title, CentriFUGAL Force. – Shawn Lian

Jian Nacht

I got the idea of the 5th between open strings in violin; I imitated it and made it into the motive, and I also got inspiration from minimal music employing the limited musical materials with repetitive patterns and shifting value of notes to enrich the conversation between two violins. This music piece was written at night so I named it in the German word "Nacht,"; it expresses the mystery of the night and the aimless meander of our minds at night through the melodious and graceful sound of the violin. -Ai Jian

Wu Stargazer

Origin of the Name:

The inspiration for this comes from Matthew Wong's artwork of the same name, which I first encountered at the Museum of Fine Art. Wong's paintings often depict solitary and wandering figures. The instant I beheld "Stargazer," it profoundly enchanted me. The tree branches are adorned with few leaves, yet illuminated by moonlight, they form exquisite patterns on the grass, akin to something from a dream by Van Gogh. A lone individual contemplates the stars in silence, prompting reflections on themes like solitude, introspection, and our connection to the cosmos. This is my favorite review of one of his other works : "A Tree's Rhythm puts the viewer amid a dazzling dance of quivering silvery branches and flickering leaves in harmony with the tempo of the cosmos. Time collapses and expands, marked in repetitive scores on the trunk very like sound notations, connecting everything in a process of continual renewal. Nature is the chief protagonist in Wong's narratives, and elements of the landscape are uncommonly animated." (Cathryn Drake)

About My Creative Process for this Piece:

This is my first composition for solo bass clarinet, drawing inspiration from Elliott Carter's harmonic system. Each section introduces distinct elements different from the previous one. My aim is to create a rich and colorful tonal palette solely using the bass clarinet itself. -Zining Wu

Chapman Mission Unaccomplished

Although my usual creative process involves improvising on a piano, recording myself, and notating my creation in Sibelius to make edits, since Mission Unaccomplished is a chamber work, it would have been virtually impossible to improvise all parts at once using only two hands. Thus, I tried something different for this piece. I sat in the lounge with my laptop on my lap at 2 AM-hence the title, which suggests procrastination-and composed the entire first movement from start to finish. Rarely am I as inspired as I was for this totally impromptu piece, which I wrote as I went along. In fact, I would say I did improvise Mission Unaccomplished, just not on an instrument. After workshopping it with these fabulous musicians-it was delightful to hear my vision brought to life – I went home for the summer and came back rejuvenated and ready to compose two contrasting movements. My second movement is a rondo-esque exploration of a wonderful tonal world, while my final movement is an extensive conclusion that touches on themes from my favorite movie, La La Land. Once again, I'm so grateful for Alex, Xiaoran, and Miruna for accomplishing this mission! - Coco Chapman

Lanning Three American String Quartets

– Kermit the Frog

"Yeehaw"

Ha Bella's Dreamworld: Cassavavac S

Upon receiving a commission to compose a piece for my dear friend Bella Jeong's graduation recital, I was talking to her regarding the theme of the piece. Unexpectedly, I got a cryptic message from her: Cassavavac S. Puzzled, I inquired about its meaning. She replied several hours later that she mistakenly sent a random message as she was nodding off to sleep. That's it. It clicked, it became the title of the piece. TADA-.

The work draws its primary motive from the title, specifically <CAAAAAC> (from CAssAvAvAC s). Given the constrained pitch domain, the piece places a heightened emphasis on rhythm and timbre. This stands in contrast to the more ethereal sections of the piece, which lean into whole-tone and octatonic scales. The intent is to encapsulate the element of surprise, mirroring Bella's delightfully unconventional character. – *Changjin Ha*

Otake cloudwatching

cloudwatching was written over the summer of 2023, which was very musically active for me, and in many ways is a crystallization of the wide range of experiences and influences I encountered during that time. Although it didn't occur to me during the

writing of the piece, I get the sense now that it is full of dark and light, and invitation to find the tranquility between.

Despite having studied and performed in the cello/piano format for many years, this is my first composition within it, which proved both a challenge and a gift. Composed for and first performed in an August recital in Tokyo, I'm now very excited to present this piece here at NEC; thank you to Ziang Xu for helping me realize this music once again! – *Kei Otake*

Li A Normal Day

This piece is inspired by a day in the life of my uncle, a medical assistant in China. Normal person, normal day, abnormal story.... Because of love and responsibility, no matter whether it's day and night, he keeps helping people in trouble: Giving a hand to patients who arrive alone at hospital, helping busy nurses to pick up their meals. In this piece, I use some traditional Chinese drama melodies and I also compose new lyrics for the melodies to draw my impression of my uncle, a normal person who tries his best to warm the world through small kind actions. My thanks for the contribution of actor Baoqing Shang, photographer Ying Li, lyricist Yunqi Li, singers Ying Nie and Pipa Lingtong Zhao, and drummers Binglin Li and Huiqiao Yang.

– Yungi Li

One moment, a cute boy becomes an adult. One moment, an adult becomes a father. One moment, a father becomes an old man. All moments become the road of life. A normal person walks an abnormal road on his life's journey.

Rosenberg Bomb Cyclone

From drought to downpour: *Bomb Cyclone* (2023) is influenced by the nine consecutive atmospheric rivers which occurred in the San Francisco Bay Area from December 2022 to January 2023, and seeks to personify the torrential rains and subsequent flooding. As the atmosphere gets warmer and therefore holds more water, when cold and warm air masses collide, air pressure declines rapidly and a more intense storm is created. This process is called bombogenesis, more colloquially known as bomb cyclones. The piece is approximately ten minutes in length. -Quinn Rosenberg

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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.



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.

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