

[nec]shivaree

Stephen Drury, artistic director

Tuesday, October 1, 2024
7:30 p.m.
NEC's Jordan Hall

PROGRAM

Lei Liang '96, '98 MM
(b. 1972)

Six Seasons (2022)

Season 1: New Ice
Season 2: Darkness
Season 3: Sunrise
Season 4: Migration
Season 5: Cacophony
Season 6: Bloom
Coda

Rachel Brake '24 MM, French horn
Nicolette Sullivan-Cozza, viola
Kei Otake, cello
Mark Abramovski, double bass
Kai Burns, Evan Haskin, guitar
Jessica Yuma, Ranfei Wang, piano
John Mallia, electronics

Special guest: Joshua Jones, oceanographer

[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.

Liang *Six Seasons*

The Chukchi Sea, north of Alaska, is one of the most inaccessible places to humans on earth. Six seasons in the Arctic, according to the Inuit, are not demarcated by a fixed calendar, but by what we hear in the changing environment.

Hydrophones were placed about 300 meters below the sea surface at a seafloor recording location 160 km north of Point Barrow. They capture the sound of sea ice, marine mammals, and the underwater environment throughout an entire year.

— Lei Liang

A cycle of six movements and a coda, *Six Seasons* (2022) is as protean as the ocean waters that serve as its substance and underlying metaphor. In creating a space of many spaces and multiple temporalities, Lei Liang resides in select company, artists who have fashioned a syntax of exploration both attendant to and divergent from music history's established grooves and curves of innovation and tradition. Of the composers now lionized through the ever-expanding and often-arbitrary canon, George Crumb, John Cage, and Pauline Oliveros come most directly to mind, given their penchants for the enlarging of an instrument's sonic palette in the service of extra-musical concerns.

At the heart of Liang's vision is an all-inclusive and ever-evolving concept of presence in dynamism. When describing the experience of performing and recording *Six Seasons*, it is the idea most often revisited by the Mivos Quartet. To be present as listener, as reactor, performer, and planetary citizen is paramount. Liang's goal is to create a totality, an experience to be shared in a common space. — Marc Medwin

Six Seasons was commissioned by the Mivos Quartet. It was made possible by a generous grant from the Jebediah Foundation New Music Commissions. *Six Seasons* is published by Schott Music Corporation, New York (ASCAP).

Chinese-born American composer **Lei Liang** is the winner of the Rome Prize, the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Koussevitzky Foundation Commission, a Creative Capital Award, and the Goddard Lieberson Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His concerto for saxophone and orchestra, *Xiaoxiang*, was named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Music in 2015. His orchestral work, *A Thousand Mountains, A Million Streams*, won the prestigious 2021 Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition.

Lei Liang was commissioned by the New York Philharmonic for the inaugural concert of the *CONTACT!* new music series. Other commissions come from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Fromm Music Foundation, the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, pipa virtuoso Wu Man, among others. Lei Liang's fourteen portrait discs have been released by several prestigious labels. As a scholar, he has edited and co-edited eight books and editions, and published more than fifty articles.

From 2013-2016, Lei Liang served as Composer-in-Residence at the Qualcomm

Institute/Calit2 where his multimedia works preserve and reimagine cultural heritage through combining scientific research and advanced technology. In 2023, the Institute launched “Lei Lab” where he continues to collaborate with engineers, geologists, oceanographers and software developers, to explore what he calls “the unique potential for learning offered by creative listening.”

Lei Liang’s recent works address issues of sex trafficking across the US-Mexican border, America’s complex relationship with gun and violence, and environmental awareness through the sonification of coral reefs.

Lei Liang received degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music (B.M. and M.M.) and Harvard University (Ph.D.). He is Chancellor’s Distinguished Professor of Music at the University of California, San Diego. His catalogue of more than a hundred works is published exclusively by Schott Music Corporation (New York).

Joshua Jones has spent the last 28 years working on the ocean, studying marine mammals and their environment through underwater sound. Jones received his PhD in oceanography from the University of California, San Diego’s Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO). His current research programs at SIO are focused on the California Current ecosystem and the Arctic, where he directs a long-term study of climate change and shipping impacts on Arctic marine wildlife. This international, collaborative work in the Arctic is conducted in close partnership with Inuit community members and organizations and with regional governments in Canada.

From 2004-2014, Josh directed and produced the interactive exhibit, *Whales: Voices in the Sea*, which has been installed in nine US public aquariums. He also developed the SeaTech program at SIO, a research internship and technology training program based in Sitka Alaska, where primarily Alaska Native youth conduct research into marine mammals. Josh has developed innovative software and hardware for acoustic observation of the ocean. He is a licensed captain who has worked in all the world’s oceans. Along with his ocean science career, Josh has continued to work annually as a charter fishing and wilderness guide in southeast Alaska since 1995.

Josh is the scientific advisor to the Arctic Six Seasons and other underwater listening projects at “Lei Lab.” He provided ocean sound recordings, audio engineering assistance, and relevant information about the acoustic data to Lei Lab’s sound team.

The Creative Team at Lei Lab (Lei Lab: <https://lei-lab.ucsd.edu/>)

Lei Liang – Composer / Artistic Director

Joshua Jones – Oceanographer / Principal Scientific Advisor

Charles Deluga – Spatial Audio Designer / Software Developer

Theocharis Papatrechas – Audio Engineer / Sound Designer

Zachary Seldess – Audio Software Developer

Nicholas Solem – Sound Designer

Gabriel Zalles Ballivian – Audio Engineer

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

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

First Monday at Jordan Hall, Laurence Lesser, artistic director - 40th season
Bach *Brandenburg Concerto No. 2*; Barber *Despite and Still*; Fauré *Clair de lune* and
Après un rêve; Fauré *Piano Quartet in C Minor, op. 15*
Monday, October 7, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

AD Recital: Yutong Sun, piano
Student of Alexander Korsantia and Dang Thai Son.
Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Chamber Orchestra, Donald Palma, artistic director
Schreker *Intermezzo and Scherzo*; Shostakovich *Symphony for Strings, op. 118A*;
Suk *Serenade for Strings, op. 6*
Wednesday October 9, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Wind Ensemble, Patricia Cornett, guest conductor
"Inspiration from Song" - Martín y Soler *Divertimento No. 4*;
Sweelinck *Variations on "Mein junges Leben hat ein End"*; Horne *Deep River*;
Grainger *Lincolnshire Posy*; Grantham *Phantastische Spirites*;
Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Faculty Recital: Tanya Blaich, piano, with Heidi Stober, soprano
Barber *Despite and Still*; Tailleferre *6 chansons françaises*; and songs by Maude White,
Elisabeth Lutyens, Ethel Smyth, Florence Price, Franz Liszt, Margaret Bonds,
and B.E. Boykin
Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Composers' Series, John Mallia, curator
Gavin Bryant *The Sinking of the Titanic*
Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Jazz Orchestra, Ken Schaphorst, director
"The See'r: Charles Ives at 150"
Arrangements by Ken Schaphorst of some Ives classics: *Three Places in New England, A*
Set of Pieces for Theatre Orchestra, and *Ragtime Dance No. 4*
Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

AD Recital: Evren Ozel, piano
Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

—continued

Tuesday Night New Music

New music by NEC student composers, performed by their peers

Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

NEC Symphony, David Loebel, conductor

Thomas *Sunburst*; Prokofiev *Suite No. 2 from Romeo and Juliet*

Beethoven *Symphony No. 7*

Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Perkin Opera Scenes

Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., Friday, October 25, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.,

Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

Sonata Night 52, Pei-Shan Lee, director

Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., Burnes Hall

NEC Chamber Singers, Erica J. Washburn, conductor

“Great Music for a Great Space: Of Im/mortals”

Tormis *Raua Needmine (Curse Upon Iron)*; Wilhelm *Hjaðningaríma*;

Holst *Choral Hymns from the Rig Veda* (group 1); Iliya *avoonan dbishmayya*;

Brahms *Schicksalslied*; Crawford Seeger *Chant, 1930*

Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Liederabend LXXIII, Cameron Stowe and Tanya Blaich, curators

Monday, October 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., Williams Hall

Faculty Recital: Anthony Coleman

Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

NEC Philharmonia, Stefan Asbury, guest conductor

Smetana *Vyšehrad* from *Ma Vlast*; Tania León *Pasajes*;

Shostakovich *Symphony No. 11, “The Year 1905”*

Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Jazz Residency: Theo Bleckmann, composer, singer

Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Faculty Recital: Minsoo Sohn, piano

Thursday, October 31, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

—continued

Connections Chamber Music, Max Levinson, director

Thursday, October 31, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

First Monday at Jordan Hall, Laurence Lesser, artistic director - 40th season

Bach *Trio Sonata in G Major, BWV 1039*; Clarke *Piano Trio (1922)*;

Schoenberg *Verklärte Nacht*

Monday, November 4, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Philharmonia, Hugh Wolff, conductor

Lee *Sukkot Through Orion's Nebula*; Schumann *Piano Concerto*;

Tchaikovsky *Symphony No. 2 "Ukrainian"*

Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Ives/Ruth Seeger Festival

NEC Contemporary Musical Arts Dept, Eden MacAdam-Somer, curator

Barn dance

Sunday, November 10, 2024 at 2:00 p.m., Brown Hall

Ives/Ruth Seeger Festival

NEC Chamber Orchestra, Donald Palma, artistic director

Crawford Seeger *Andante for Strings*; Haydn *Symphony No. 44*;

Ives *Symphony No. 3*

Monday, November 11, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Ives/Ruth Seeger Festival

NEC Contemporary Musical Arts Dept, Eden MacAdam-Somer, curator

"I, Too, Sing America: Ruth Crawford Seeger and Other Untold Stories of America"

special guest Raven Chacon - Diné composer, musician and artist

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Song and Verse, Brett Hodgdon, curator

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Ives/Ruth Seeger Festival

NEC Symphony, David Loebel, conductor

Dvořák *Symphony No. 9 "From the New World"*

Ives *Symphony No. 2*

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

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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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