

N | E | C

New England  
Conservatory



# Concert Program

[necmusic.edu](http://necmusic.edu)





# Welcome to NEC!

I am thrilled to share New England Conservatory's 2024-25 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, which appears to be "Andrea Kalyn". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Andrea Kalyn  
President

NEC Contemporary Musical Arts Department  
presents

*What Does Earth Need?*  
*A Call to Action*

Directed by Linda J. Chase and Hankus Netsky

Tuesday, February 25, 2025  
7:30 p.m.  
NEC's Jordan Hall

## On the Fifth Day

On the fifth day  
the scientists who studied the rivers  
were forbidden to speak  
or to study the rivers.

The scientists who studied the air  
were told not to speak of the air,  
and the ones who worked for the farmers  
were silenced,  
and the ones who worked for the bees.

Someone, from deep in the Badlands,  
began posting facts.

The facts were told not to speak  
and were taken away.  
The facts, surprised to be taken, were silent.

Now it was only the rivers  
that spoke of the rivers,  
and only the wind that spoke of its bees,

while the unpausing factual buds of the fruit trees  
continued to move toward their fruit.

The silence spoke loudly of silence,  
and the rivers kept speaking  
of rivers, of boulders and air.

Bound to gravity, earless and tongueless,  
the untested rivers kept speaking.

Bus drivers, shelf stockers,  
code writers, machinists, accountants,  
lab techs, cellists kept speaking.

They spoke, the fifth day,  
of silence.

—Jane Hirshfield, 2017



The idea for this concert originated from Laudato Si' - the ecology encyclical that Pope Francis issued in 2015. He poses the question: "What need does the earth have of us? It is no longer enough, then, simply to state that we should be concerned for future generations. We need to see that what is at stake is our own dignity. Leaving an inhabitable planet to future generations is, first and foremost, up to us." (Pope Francis, 2015). My response to Laudato Si' was to compose *For Our Common Home*, an oratorio for ecojustice, which includes the movement, "What Does Earth Need?"

What kind of world will we leave?  
What is the purpose of our labor and our being?  
What is our meaning?  
And what does Earth need?

What does it mean to be free?  
And when the laws protect the profits not community?  
And is it freedom when it leads to suffering?  
Because all are not free.

What are the questions for humanity?  
We seek direction through our shared responsibility.  
Listen for the calling,  
to hear what Earth needs.

*Linda Chase, 2025*

The concert this evening expresses responses to the current state of the world, specifically in regards to climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental justice. The program explores themes of relationship: (1) relationships with other than human beings (2) relationships with communities impacted by climate disaster and (3) relationships with activism. We hope you will find these pieces both inspiring and motivating.

Thank you for joining us!

(Quote from Laudato Si' is retrieved from  
[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html))

*For Our Common Home – Resounding Ecojustice* will be performed by the Harvard Radcliffe Chorus in Sanders Theatre in Cambridge on May 10, 2025 at 8 pm.

PROGRAM

---

**Rosario Rivas**

*What Does Earth Need?*

Rosario Rivas, recitation  
Michael Yang Wierenga, erhu

**Samandar Dehghani**

*Nowruz*

Samandar Dehghani, tar  
Agne Giedraityte, voice  
Yilin Chen, percussion

**Tianqi Luo**

*Yunnan* 云之南 - Chinese percussion repertoire

Yilin Chen, Yunni Fu, Yizhe John Jiang,  
Chinese percussion  
Xia Jing, Frankie Sheng, Lucy Geller,  
Anju Madhok, David Warren Harewood,  
Samandar Dehghani, Jake Wise,  
Sam Srithongkum, voice

**Ysaye M. Barnwell**  
(b. 1946)

*Breaths*

from the repertoire of Sweet Honey in the  
Rock

*CMA Contemporary Vocal Ensemble*  
Farayi Malek, director and arranger

**Stella Sokolowski**

*Harlem*

Stella Sokolowski, voice, guitar

**Solomon Caldwell**

*Dialogue for Violin and Bass*

Bella Navarro, violin  
Solomon Caldwell, bass  
Beth Ann Jones, recitation

**Lucy Geller**

*Paradise*

Lucy Geller, voice  
Keilani Bolhuis, violin  
Bug Jaffe, banjo

**André Messier IV**

*For the Promise of a Sunrise*

André Messier IV, voice, guitar

*Intermission*

**Skyler Lim**

*Urban Usurpation*

Agne Giedraityte, narrator  
Woody Pierre, trumpet  
Cosmo Lieberman, Lorenzo Cortese,  
alto saxophone  
Caleb Schmale, tenor saxophone  
Aiden Coleman, trombone  
Skyler Lim, piano  
Ben Koh, bass  
Victor Giraldez, drums

**Anne Feeney**

arr. Morgan Brookman

*Rich Man's House*

*Boston Resistance Revival Chorus*  
Morgan Brookman, director



**Jake Wise**

*Horizon's Lament*

Jake Wise, voice, bass clarinet,  
fixed audiovisual media, composition  
Keilani Bolhuis, Bella Navarro, violin  
Samandar Dehghani, tar  
Xia Jing, guzheng  
Stella Sokolowski, guitar  
Alma Vatya, autoharp, banjo, ukulele, voice  
Solomon Caldwell, double bass  
Yilin Chen, percussion

**Traditional Haitian**  
arr. Paul July Joseph

*Soufflé Van (The Wind Blows)*

Pitiki Aliakai, Stella Sokolowski,  
André Messier IV, Farrell Smith, voice  
Sam Srithongkum, piano  
Bug Jaffe, bass  
Paul July Joseph, drums  
Victor Giraldez, congas

**Antonio Vivaldi**  
(1678–1741)  
arr. Bella Navarro

*And to make my pain worse...*  
(reimagining of "Gelido in ogni vena" from  
*Farnace*)

Nancy Schoen, mezzo-soprano  
Bella Navarro, violin

**Alma Vatya**

*The Christine Jorgensen Apocalypto Calypto*

Alma Vatya, voice, piano

**Marvin Gaye**  
reimagined for today by  
David Harewood

*Mercy, Mercy Me (The Ecology)*

Pitiki Aliakai, voice  
Stella Sokolowski, guitar  
David Harewood, piano  
Solomon Caldwell, double bass  
Paul July Joseph, drums  
Morgan Brookman, director

**CMA Contemporary Vocal Ensemble**

Farayi Malek, director and arranger

Morgan Brookman  
Anju Madhok  
Tinley Gorman  
Stella Sokolowski  
Yixin Liu

Lucy Geller  
Jamie Eliot  
Elias Shane  
Agne Giedraityte

**Boston Resistance Revival Chorus**

Morgan Brookman, director

Morgan Brookman  
Hannah Miller  
Molly Knight  
Ting Zhou  
Rosario Rivas

Frankie Sheng  
Anju Madhok  
Stella Sokolowski  
Katya Popova

## Rivas *What Does Earth Need?*

Rosario Rivas took to the Boston Common to ask Bostonians this question.

*Soy Valiente y te hago esta pregunta  
Junto coraje y veo que te asusta  
En mis ojos ves angustia y no preguntas*

*Que en silencio me veo más bonita  
Que es mejor no hablar lo que sentimos perdonar,  
olvidar y seguir  
Y me tengo que hacer pequeña para que me  
escuches  
Porque si hablo como de verdad quiero  
Dices que exagero  
Pero la única verdad es que todo lo que va vuelve*

*Que aunque parezca que vamos en direcciones  
opuestas siempre nos encontramos  
estamos interconectados*

*Tus latidos suenan igual que los míos  
Tus lágrimas Saladas se camuflan con las aguas de  
mis mares  
Tus acciones intentan limitarme, pero no ves*

*Que jamás lograrán quitar la vida que llevo dentro  
que es por lo que tanto ruido hago, por lo que tanto  
me desvelo, por lo que tanto dices que exagero.*

I am brave enough to ask you this question  
I gather courage and I see that it scares you  
In my eyes you see anguish but you don't  
question it  
That in silence I look prettier  
That it is better not to talk about how we feel  
to forgive, to forget and move on  
And I have to make myself small so you will  
listen to me  
Because if I speak as loud as I want  
You say I exaggerate/ do too much  
But the only truth is that what goes around  
comes around  
That although it seems that we are going in  
opposite directions we always find our  
way back to each other  
we are interconnected  
Your heartbeats sound just like mine  
Your salty tears camouflage with my seas  
With your actions you can try to limit me, but  
can't you see  
You will never be able to take away the life  
that I carry inside of me.  
The life that I fight for, exists in the breaths  
you take.  
So go easy on me and we'll get to breathe  
another day.

Rosario Rivas

## Dehghani *Nowruz*

Nowruz, the ancient Persian new year, symbolizes nature's renewal and the cyclical rebirth of life. Rooted in Zoroastrian traditions, it honors the connection and balance between humanity and the Earth. This original composition reflects the spirit of Nowruz through three distinct sections. The first section's repetitive musical pattern symbolizes the call of time, awakening listeners to the arrival of Nowruz. The second section, set in a seven-beat rhythm, brings depth and contemplation by using the poetry of Hafez (14th century Persian poet) to echo the wisdom of love and hope. Finally, the piece culminates in a celebratory, uplifting rhythm, embodying the joy and vitality of life. Aligned with the theme "*What does Earth need? A call to action,*" this piece invites listeners to reflect on their connection to nature and their role in sustaining its harmony. Just as Nowruz represents the revival of the Earth, this



musical tribute to an ancient tradition calls upon us to awaken, act, and celebrate the beauty of a world we must cherish and protect. – Samandar Dehghani

حافظ Hafez (1325–90) was a Persian lyric poet whose collected works are regarded by many Iranians as one of the highest pinnacles of Persian literature. Hafez primarily wrote in the literary genre of lyric poetry or ghazals.

ز کوی یار م آید نسیم باد نوروزی

از این باد ار مدد خواهیہ چراغ دل برافروزی

به صحرا روکه از دامن غبار غم بیفشان

بی‌آموزی به گلزار آیکز بلبل غزلگفت

Feel the New Year's breeze from the beloved's block (neighborhood)

Implore that heavenly wind to light a light in your heart

Walk into the sea of flowers, to brush off sorrow's dust from your heart

Wander to the rosebed, let the nightingale guide your voice to sing poetry

### Luo Yunnan 云之南

The existence of Faith and Culture enriches our world. Faith gives hope and moral guidance to individuals, and the development of diverse cultures make our world so colorful. The background of this piece is inspired by the traditional Torch Festival of the Yi ethnic group, one of China's ethnic minorities. For the Yi people, fire is a symbol of faith and hope. On this Festival, people light torches and gather around bonfires to sing and dance, praying for peace and well-being in the coming year. This piece integrates musical elements from the Torch Festival of ethnic minorities in Yunnan, it also incorporates the traditional vocal styles of ethnic minorities, which enhance the piece becomes more infectious, at the same time, reflects the hope and strength that culture and faith bring to people and the world.

*If you ask me What Does Earth need? I would say: The Earth needs the dawn of civilization.*

*If you ask me What Does Earth need? I would say: the Earth needs us.*

– Tianqi Luo

### Sokolowski Harlem

Tonight I will be performing a rendition of Langston Hughes' famous 1951 poem, "Harlem," reimagined as a song. This poem deals with the effects of systemic racism on the hopes and dreams of black Americans. Through this performance, I want to highlight the issue of environmental racism: the disproportionate effect of climate change and environmental hazards on communities of color and marginalized communities. Specifically, I want to uplift the issue of heat islands, which occur when a lack of vegetation; an excess of heat-absorbing surfaces; and a lack of shade-producing structures cause a specific urban area to become significantly hotter than surrounding areas.

Like many neighborhoods that have experienced historic divestment and racist housing policies, Harlem is among the areas in New York most affected by rising urban heat, illustrating the relationship between systemic racism and global warming. Just as oppressed groups are more impacted by climate change, the earth

suffers more when land is commodified, divyed, and mistreated by systems of "have and have-nots." We cannot address the climate crises without understanding how colonization, slavery, capitalism, and historic prejudices have intersected and shaped our society's relationship to the earth. To build a healthier future for the planet and its inhabitants, we urgently need systemic change that leads to collective social liberation.

– Stella Sokolowski

## Harlem

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up  
like a raisin in the sun?  
Or fester like a sore—  
And then run?  
Does it stink like rotten meat?  
Or crust and sugar over—  
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags  
like a heavy load.

*Or does it explode?*

*Langston Hughes (1901–1967)*

From *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes* published by Alfred A. Knopf/Vintage.  
Copyright © 1994 by the Estate of Langston Hughes. Permissions granted by Harold Ober Associates Incorporated. All rights reserved

## Caldwell *Dialogue for Violin and Bass*

The aim of this piece is to frame two questions, "What does it mean to listen?" and "Should dialogue be peaceful?" The violin and bass represent the voices of the common people and the corporations, asking whether it is even possible to reach those who harm our planet the most.

– Solomon Caldwell

Living to die, dying to live  
The ego vs the Id  
It's all in our head, just make sure you're well read  
Read the audience of the room in which we enter this life's stage  
Enter stage left and truly live, exist, thrive!  
Exit stage right and loose this mortal coil into that good night.

We are of the Earth, nourished by the soil that contains the stardust of the universe.

Humans, upright apes, have dominion over the land so we must take care of it.

Our Earth cries out to us, wanting to heal from the industrial damage her children have caused in the name of 'progress'.

We must get back to the Earth, be one with the rhythm of her cycles and streams in order to continue the natural flow.

We are called to be stewards of this land, looking to our indigenous brothers as examples of how to traverse the path.

We must die to the human idols of: greed, capitalism, and everything that pulls us from the connection to the land.

We must die to our own egos and get back to the creative spirit of nature before we become crucified on the cross of uniformity and not raised to life to be our full creative selves.  
We are of the Earth and will return to the Earth....eventually.

*Solomon Caldwell*

### **Geller *Paradise***

Devastating wildfires have become a constant threat on the West Coast. Growing up in Oregon and California, I saw the 2018 Camp Fire as a turning point. The resulting destruction of Paradise, CA made the dangers of wildfires and climate change feel real to me. I learned that my grandmother had grown up in Paradise and married my grandfather there. All that was left of her childhood home was a chimney. Earlier this year, the Los Angeles fires forced my sister to evacuate her apartment. The severity of the LA fires made the story of Paradise even more relevant. To tell the story, I drew musical inspiration from the Wailin' Jennys, the musical *Spring Awakening*, and Joni Mitchell. You will also hear the voices of my grandmother, great uncle, and local news reporters.

*– Lucy Geller*

Up in the foothills  
Paradise is real  
Rivers carve the canyons  
Sunshine carves the trees

Life up high is simpler  
The people close and warm  
In this little Paradise  
none will do you harm  
none will do you harm

One November morning  
the wind was harsh and dry  
Monopoly PG&E  
had faulty power lines

Air begins to crackle  
the foothills starts to glow  
flames jump across the canyons  
the skies are thick with smoke  
skies are thick with smoke



When fire haunts you every year  
it's the new routine  
But fire happens over there  
not to you or me  
not to you or me

Get in the car  
Drive down the hill  
It's so much harder than it sounds  
to make it out of hell

Stuck in traffic  
while the world around you burns  
Sometimes real life  
is one sick metaphor

Apathy and greed  
and a year that's extra dry  
only need a little wind  
to level Paradise

*Lucy Geller*

**Messier** *For the Promise of a Sunrise*

There's fires in the west, flooding in the east,  
fireplanes fill the sky, good people deceased.  
Pollution in the glacial streams, where will people go to dream?  
Denial and fear will break us at the seams.  
Childhood homes burning down,  
while floods level towns,  
disaster strikes at every turn as you look around.  
Tides are rising, polarizing seasons of the year,  
a glimpse of an apocalyptic frontier, all the kids live in fear.

Will you ever see your children play?  
When the world already looks so goddamn gray  
How can you smile in these troubled times?  
Numbed by the frequency of all these crimes.

And when all flowers have died by our hand,  
will that be enough to make us understand?  
Mother Nature weeps inside,  
is the answer going out with the tide?

They said the times we're a changin', you're wondering what has changed?  
Where's the solidarity when everyone's estranged?  
The people are split on the most basic of facts,  
friends becoming enemies speaking over what this world lacks.

Folks can't see eye to eye, can't separate truth from lies,  
a modern world designed for misinformation to thrive.  
Your honest intentions are met with positivity,  
but they don't match a world obsessed with profits and liquidity

Will you ever see your children smile?  
Is there anything on this earth that won't be defiled?

This life's a time bomb and we still stay calm,  
playing into death's hand, right in his palm  
And when we're at the point of no return,  
will you be proud you let the world burn?  
Mother Nature barely lingers,  
got her wrapped around our finger.  
You're getting all confused with this endless information,  
the words all seem to tear apart this wondrous creation.

The facts don't look the same, you feel like a pawn in the game,  
looking around you feel angry trying to find a place to lay the blame.  
Still the trees burn to ash, your fear has left a gash,  
on your mind, you fall behind as you wait to hear the crash.  
The fear of the unknown makes you feel so alone,  
how can you face the future where the trees can't grow?

And so I ask how can your children dream?  
When the day of no return is closer than it may seem

How can we stand tall in the face of night?  
So we don't bear witness to the death of life  
And when the arctic has melted away into the sea,  
how will we justify how that came to be?  
For the promise of a sunrise, pray and plead,  
it's what the earth needs.

*André Messier IV*

### **Lim    *Urban Usurpation***

*Urban Usurpation* is my way to communicate how I see a city overtaking earth's natural state, i.e. peace that is disturbed by loud noises, flashing lights, and busy streets.

Usurpation is defined as the act of taking a position of power illegally or by force. In my piece; the usurpation of nature's presence through urbanizations, and deforestations that turn a forest into a jungle of concrete barrenness, but liveliness as well.

This piece intends chaos, however, is contrasted by a waltz ballad mid-section, representing nature's serenity.

To deliver our message concisely, Agne recites to you an excerpt of the poem "Lost Breath of Trees" by Colleen J. McElroy:

– *Skyler Lim*

one morning on the sun-drenched asphalt  
a blue feather lay as if fallen by magic  
from some child's dream of angels  
was there ever a bird so blue so  
cobalt perfect from downy barbs to vanes  
to fall undamaged by progress  
among the squalor of high-rises and noise  
of backhoes awakening each morning

was this an omen an augury a straw in the wind  
to land here where few trees thrive  
you look up at the birdless sky think:  
this is a city this a mountain  
this a remnant of the rainforest

*Colleen J. McElroy*

### **Feeney** *Rich Man's House*

The piece "Rich Man's House" was originally a work protest song by Anne Feeney with the Kensington Welfare Rights Union. It has since become a hallmark piece of the Resistance Revival Chorus (RRC). This version of the piece, arranged by Morgan Brookman, is modeled after the traditional RRC version, featuring several lyric and harmonic changes as well as an opening section meant to highlight the disparity between the pollution generated by the utmost wealthy and that of the general population. A 2022 study found that the average carbon footprint of the top 1% was "more than 75-times higher than in the bottom 50%". Another study found that the greenhouse gas emissions of the upper 10% comprise nearly half of all global emissions. The effects of these emissions, and climate change as a whole have disastrous consequences for us all, but disproportionately affect marginalized populations, especially people of color. It is our responsibility to acknowledge these atrocious disparities, call out their perpetrators, and to unite to dismantle this unjust system.

*– Morgan Brookman*

There is a sickness  
Creeping in the water  
Moving through the trees  
Floating on the breeze  
Poisoning sky and sea  
Heatening the blood  
Breathing in disease  
We have witnessed  
Men's hunger  
Counting coins as waves take the shore  
Fires rage but he'll assure you  
The danger is still unsure  
All while razor toothed  
And forked tongue

The pit inside his stomach hisses  
"more..."  
There is a wickedness  
In the hearts of the sunlight keepers  
Oceans boil  
Their pockets grow deeper  
They have signed us as debts to the reaper  
All left to incinerate  
Inside of this globalized fever  
As collateral

*Anne Feeney & Kensington Women's Rights Union*

The **Resistance Revival Chorus** (RRC) is a national movement with chapters spanning across the United States centered on using music as a tool for social and political change. Each chapter is composed of women and non-binary musicians who "join together to breathe joy and song into the resistance, and to uplift and center women's voices." The group welcomes those of all backgrounds, ages, and levels of musical experience! If you are interested in joining/supporting the Boston Chapter of the RRC please email us at [rrcboston@gmail.com](mailto:rrcboston@gmail.com)

### **Wise *Horizon's Lament***

I started writing *Horizon's Lament*, originally *OilyWhalesong*, in 2010, the year the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded and killed 11 human workers and billions of other animals, releasing an estimated 4+ million barrels of crude into the Gulf of Mexico. I lived in Oberlin in the months following, biking around town, ruminating on destruction, death, and the cavalier irresponsibility that caused it. For the song, I borrowed lyrics and texture from Bearcubes's (Claire Chenette / Katherine Dohan) more optimistic *Whalesong*, and drew upon Jewish prayer, much of which points to reflection and turning from missteps, and Torah cantillation. Today's version adds electronic sounds and material from PBS FRONTLINE's 2010 documentary *The Spill* to the original bass clarinet. I wanted to reflect deeply injured and mourning whales or other creatures whose homes, lives, and communities we destroyed and my grief as a human for them and my (our) part in it. With the live musicians I hope to give a sense of humanity and togetherness.

This was no ordinary disaster. This was BP's Deepwater Horizon, emblem of humanity's hubris and greed. It dug the deepest well in history, cut corners and omitted crucial steps and equipment, and conducted fraudulent safety inspections to increase profits. The theatre of postmortem strikes me anew today. BP's CEO played the fall guy. They dragged him into Congress to lambast him and his horrific crimes. The public shrieked from the gallery. Other oil CEOs paraded through, professing shock at what they themselves would never dare. It's a song and dance all too familiar. We have not learned our lesson. Corporations' status and rights equal human beings', treasonous billionaires usurp governments.

If humanity has not yet heard the call, what could possibly inspire action? I hope

my expression of grief and rage helps motivation crystallize.

– Jake Wise

**Traditional Haitian/Joseph Soufflé Van (The Wind Blows)**

The earth needs humanity to change its mindset. We need to move from a perspective of dominance over nature to one of stewardship. We need humanity to embrace a profound shift in values and behaviors. If I change, the world will change. To make a difference in this world we must act towards ourselves first, we need to take care of ourselves because you can't force people to change. The only thing we can do is inspire them by how we act with what we have. *Soufflé Van* is telling people to be the wind of hope and by improving themselves so we can have a better life that we all can truly be free in our minds. The one thing we need is a strong mentality so that we're not afraid of difficulties. Making change requires a deep belief in ourselves. To do all that we need to do, people to act on what they know needs to be done and start inspiring humanity.

– Paul July Joseph

**Vivaldi *And to make my pain worse...***

Vivaldi's "Gelido in ogni vena" captures the depth of irredeemable loss, gradually leading to a point of inevitability—where there is no one left to blame, only an end to fulfill. The aria portrays a mother who, under command from her husband, kills her son and ultimately herself. This pain is irreversible, an ending too clear to outwit.

Tonight's interpretation reframes this piece as a reflection of a grieving population, powerless to enact the change needed for survival. While we're taught to believe in our ability to make a difference, our collective efforts prove heartbreakingly small against the overwhelming destruction that industrial powers impose. This reimagining plays the role of devil's advocate, cynically urging us to see our world without the comfort of optimism.

This piece is a story no one wishes to hear; yet, it is necessary. Perhaps what Earth needs most is for us to acknowledge its ending, do what we can, and say goodbye when the time comes.

– Bella Navarro

*Gelido in ogni vena  
Scorrer mi sento il sangue.  
L'ombra del figlio esangue  
M'ingombra di terror.*

Like ice in every vein,  
I feel my blood flow,  
the shade of my lifeless son  
falls over me; I'm terrorized.

*E per maggior mia pena  
Vedo che fui crudele  
A un'anima fedele,  
A un innocente cor.*

And worse than that pain,  
I see that I was cruel  
to an innocent soul,  
to the heart of my heart.

Pietro Metastasio

*Translation from Italian to English copyright ©  
2020 by Laura Prichard, reprinted with  
permission from the LiederNet Archive,  
<https://www.lieder.net/>*

**Vatya** *The Christine Jorgensen Apocalypto Calypto*

As a trans woman living through the ecopocalypse, I present this piece to problematize neo-liberal narratives of climate utopianism. To survive, to be healthy, to be a woman, I must take seven pills every day. I am a phwoman, I am artificial, I am sustained by the same pharmaceutical industry that pollutes, violates, and ravages the earth. Being from the Sonoran Desert, climate change perilously threatens my friends, family, and home. However, for trans women to be a part of any future, we must radically expand our vision to include the material needs of marginalized people.

*The Christine Jorgensen Apocalypto Calypto* decomposes text written by Louis Farrakan, during his ill-fated calypso stint in the early 1950s, with interjections from Huddie Ledbetter's western musics.

The trans-visuals were crafted by Ruby Poile.

– Alma Vatya

**Gaye/Harewood** *Mercy, Mercy Me (The Ecology)*

When Marvin Gaye released *Mercy, Mercy Me (The Ecology)* in 1971, it was a haunting cry for environmental awareness—a plea for cleaner air, unpolluted waters, and an end to the destruction of our natural world. More than 50 years later, his message remains just as urgent and for the most part unanswered due to profit motivated concern

This updated version of *Mercy, Mercy Me* reflects the environmental crises of today: climate change, wildfires, deforestation, rising sea levels, and the disproportionate impact of environmental degradation on marginalized communities. The lyrics, originally inspired by the emerging environmental movement of the early 1970s, take on new weight as we witness record breaking temperatures, loss of biodiversity, and ongoing industrial pollution.

Musically, at first, this rendition honors Gaye's soulful urgency while incorporating a more dystopian aspect of this music that represents the tension between hope and despair—a reminder that the earth's wounds have deepened. The call for action is louder than ever while we must also understand that, after 50 plus years, the effect of past actions has done little to fend off the march to the destruction of our planet. As we sing these words today, they serve not just as a lament but as a challenge: Can we change our society in order to save our planet?

Let this song be both a tribute and a call to action, reminding us that the future of our world is still in our hands.

– David Harewood

Woah, ah, mercy, mercy me  
Ah, things ain't what they used to be (ain't what they used to be)  
Where did all the blue skies go?  
Poison is the wind that blows  
From the north and south and east  
Woah mercy, mercy me, yeah  
Ah, things ain't what they used to be (ain't what they used to be)  
Oil wasted on the ocean and upon our seas  
Fish full of mercury

Oh Jesus, yeah, mercy, mercy me, ah  
Ah, things ain't what they used to be (ain't what they used to be)  
Radiation underground and in the sky  
Animals and birds who live nearby are dying  
Hey, mercy, mercy me, oh  
Hey, things ain't what they used to be  
What about this overcrowded land?  
How much more abuse from man can she stand?  
Oh, na, na, na  
Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh  
Hey, ooh, woo

### **You ask, "But what can we do?"**

**First:** Get educated. What is going on and why? Research deeply to see what is going on. Be critical to find the sources of devastation and oppression.

**Next:** What do you care about? What breaks your heart or what are you outraged about?

**Then:** Find an organization that is doing work in that area and join the movement.

**And:** Keep getting educated. Learn deeply enough so you can share with those who don't understand, with those who fall into despair and those who think that only the higher powers of government will help us. Educate others. Help them to join a movement.

*Imagine the world you want to create.  
Connect with others and create this world together.  
Believe in your power to make a difference!*

**Better Future Project** <https://www.betterfutureproject.org/>

**Biodiversity for a Livable Climate** <https://bio4climate.org/>

**Sunrise Movement** <https://www.sunrisemovement.org/>

**Work that Reconnects** <https://workthatreconnects.org>

**Massachusetts Peace Action** <https://masspeaceaction.org>

**Extinction Rebellion** <https://xrboston.org>

**The Guardian** <http://bit.ly/2Xu8ea9>

Best mainstream newspaper coverage of global climate change issues. Sign up for their weekly summary of global climate-related news.



**Inside Climate News  
and DeSmog Blog**

Award-winning investigative journalists on climate issues.

[www.insideclimatenews.org](http://www.insideclimatenews.org)  
[www.desmogblog.com](http://www.desmogblog.com)

**Huffpost Climate**

[www.huffingtonpost.com/topic/climate-change](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/topic/climate-change)

**Mass Power Forward**

Coalition of 200+ environmental organizations.

<http://mapowerforward.com/>

**350 Mass for a Better Future: Contact Alan Palm**

to be added to their Climate Movement Weekly Update.

[alan@betterfutureproject.org](mailto:alan@betterfutureproject.org)

**Mothers Out Front** local at

MOF runs a successful campaign in MA to fix leaks in the gas system and to oppose new fossil fuel infrastructure.

<http://bit.ly/2IfdPs9>

**ELM – Environmental League of Mass.**

Lobbying group at the State House for environmental issues.

<http://www.environmentalleague.org/>

**Alternatives for Community and Environment (ACE)**

Roxbury based and led by people of color, Ace addresses environmental justice issues in Boston.

<http://ace-ej.org/>

**GreenRoots**

Multi-racial Environmental Justice group working in Chelsea and surrounding communities.

<http://www.greenrootschelsea.org/>

**South Coast Neighbors United**

fighting proposed LNG storage tanks and pipeline that would impact Acushnet, Freetown, and Brockton.

[www.scnu.us/](http://www.scnu.us/)

**Mass. Interfaith Power and Light**

part of national Interfaith Power and Light. Helps congregations “green” their facilities and do advocacy.

[www.mipandl.org/faith\\_res.html](http://www.mipandl.org/faith_res.html)

**Creation Justice Ministries**

U.S. based ecumenical Christian eco-justice organization, formerly part of National Council of Churches.

<http://www.creationjustice.org/>

**Blessed Tomorrow**

U.S. interfaith climate group led by major faith leaders. Similar to Creation Justice Ministries, but in a multi-faith context.

[www.blessedtomorrow.org/](http://www.blessedtomorrow.org/)

**Greenfaith**

Global interfaith environmental group. Provides resources, awareness of global issues, educational resources and action opportunities.

<http://www.greenfaith.org/>

**DivestInvest**

You can pledge to divest personally and/or as a congregation at the site, and use tools provided to research how to go about it.

<http://divestinvest.org/>

**Go Fossil Free**

part of 350.org focused primarily on divestment.

[www.gofossilfree.org/](http://www.gofossilfree.org/)

**Divest Our Pensions Now**

MA Public employees

<http://divestourpensionsnow.org/>

**350.org**

Best global coverage of the climate movement.

[www.350.org/](http://www.350.org/)

**NASA**

Science on the depth of the problem and sustainable energy

<http://climate.nasa.gov/>

**Indigenous Environmental Network**

Global reports on threats to First Nations by the fossil fuel industry, including opportunities for allies.

[www.ienearth.org/](http://www.ienearth.org/)

**Story of Stuff Project**

Connects the dots among production, consumption, and economic growth that is incompatible with environmental sustainability, along with strategies for personal and social change. Latest resource *The Story of Plastic* <http://bit.ly/2VIBpba>

<https://storyofstuff.org/>

What does climate change ask of us?

We all have a part to play.

How can you play your part?

WHAT DOES EARTH NEED?

**Support the future of music at NEC!**

Your gift to The NEC Fund has a direct and immediate impact on student scholarships, NEC's world-class faculty, and a collaborative and innovative learning environment rooted in the highest level of musical excellence.

Please consider making a gift to support NEC at [necmusic.edu/givenow](http://necmusic.edu/givenow)

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](http://necmusic.edu/tonight)

# How can **you** keep the music playing?

Find out by visiting [necmusic.edu/givenow](https://necmusic.edu/givenow).





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.



## President's Circle

### **\$100,000 +**

Tom and Lisa Blumenthal  
Kennett F. Burnes '22 hon. DM and Barbara Burnes  
Blair and Jackie Hendrix  
Harold I. Pratt '17 hon. DM and Frances G. Pratt  
David W. Scudder '03 hon. DM

### **\$75,000 - \$99,999**

Barbara and Amos Hostetter  
Richard K. Lubin Family Foundation

### **\$50,000 - \$74,999**

Carroll L. Cabot  
Deborah Bennett Elfers '82  
The Friese Foundation  
Barbara Winter Glauber  
Sene and Eric A. Gray  
Kimberly and Brian McCaslin  
Wendy Shattuck '75 and Samuel Plimpton  
Carlos Zarate in memory of Raquel Zarate

### **\$25,000 - \$49,999**

Anonymous  
Nikolaos and Katherine Athanasiou  
Anne and Samuel Bartlett  
Enid L. Beal and Alan Wolfe  
Willia C. and Taylor S. Bodman  
Joseph Bower '18 hon. DM and Elizabeth Potter  
Lise M. Olney and Timothy W. Fulham  
George F. and Elsie Barnard Hodder Classical Music Fund  
Anna and David Goldenheim  
Edwin D. Graves, Jr. '87 MM  
Elizabeth B. Johnson  
Andrea Kalyn  
Elizabeth and John M. Loder  
Murray Metcalfe and Louise Burnham Packard  
Ute and Patrick Prevost  
Mattina R. Proctor Foundation  
Margaret E. Richardson  
Peter J. Ross  
Sally Rubin and Arthur Applbaum  
Margarita Rudyak  
Michael and Susan T. Thonis  
Alice Welch Tolley

This list reflects those who contributed to The NEC Fund and our annual scholarship appeal between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

## Dean's Circle

### \$15,000 - \$24,999

Anonymous

Rebecca J. Bermont and Alexander D. Benik

Suki and Miguel de Bragança

The Charisma Fund – Lucy R. Sprague Memorial

Downey Family Charitable Foundation

Uzochi and Erik Erlingsson

Robert and Jane Morse

Margaret and David Nichols

Joanne Zervas Sattley

Jennifer Maloney '88 and Peter Seka '88

S. Douglas Smith

Jack and Anne Vernon

Frances B. and Patrick S. Wilmerding

### \$10,000 - \$14,999

Anonymous

Rumiko and Laurent Adamowicz

Gianluca Gallori and Allison Bailey

Peggy and Bruce Barter

Henry P. Becton

Ann Macy Beha and Robert A. Radloff

Leon-Diego Fernandez

Erika Franke and David Brown

Margaret L. Goodman

Hamilton and Mildred Kellogg Charitable Trust

Whitney Hatch

Helen G. Hauben Foundation

Eloise and Arthur Hodges

Jephson Educational Trusts

Kathleen and Matthew Kelly

Pamela Kohlberg and Curtis Greer

Laurence Lesser '00 hon. DM

Jane E. Manopoli

Melody L. McDonald '70 MM in memory of

Professor Jack McDonald

Katharine M. and Anthony D. Pell

Slocumb H. Perry

Allan G. Rodgers

Barbara E. and Edward M. Scolnick

Norton Q. and Sandy Sloan

Jacob A. Smith

This list reflects those who contributed to The NEC Fund and our annual scholarship appeal between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

Lee T. Sprague  
The Seth Sprague Educational and Charitable Foundation  
Swanson Family Foundation  
Daniel and Shera Mae Walker

**\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Anonymous  
The Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation  
Wally and Roz Bernheimer  
Debora L. Booth '78  
Dr. H. Franklin and Elizabeth Bunn  
Mei-Ann Chen  
F. Lyman Clark Trust  
John A. Clark '81 MM  
Cogan Family Foundation  
J. D. de Veer  
Charles C. Ely Trust  
Margaretta and Jerry Hausman  
Samuel L. Hayes III and Barbara L. Hayes  
Elizabeth and Woody Ives  
Saj-nicole Joni, Ph.D.  
Diane Katzenberg Braun '01 MM and Peter Braun  
Thomas Kearns  
Justin and LeAnn Lindsey  
Elizabeth I. Lintz '97 and John D. Kramer  
Albert Mason  
Kevin N. Moll '89 MM, trustee for the Marilyn S. Moll Charitable Trust  
Morgan Palmer Foundation  
Robert and Alexa Plenge  
Helen C. Powell  
Margaret D. Raymond Revocable Trust  
Linda Reineman  
Lee S. Ridgway '77 MM  
Philip Rosenkranz  
John C. Rutherford  
Shrieking Meadow Foundation  
Chad T. Smith '95, '98 MM and Bruce McCarthy  
Madeleine H. Soren Trust  
C. Winfield Swarr '62, '65 MM and Winifred B. Swarr  
Ronald W. Takvorian  
James L. Terry '93 hon. DM and Maude D. Terry  
Lixiang Yao  
Joan and Michael Yogg  
Artiss D. Zacharias Charitable Trust



## Leadership Circle

**\$2,500 - \$4,999**

Anonymous, in memory of Helen Kwan  
Chris Bartel  
Laura L. Bell '85 and Robert Schultz  
Ferdinando Buonanno  
Renée M. and Lee Burns  
Wha Kyung Byun '74 and Russell Shermant  
Paul C. and Virginia C. Cabot Charitable Trust  
Cedar Tree Foundation  
Catherine Tan Chan  
Luís Claret  
Gloria dePasquale '71, '73 MM  
Joanne W. Dickinson  
Melinda Donovan  
Yukiko Egozy '01 and Eran Egozy  
Nancy Gade and James Curto  
David Gaylin '76 MM and Karen Gaylin  
Mary J. Greer  
Carol T. Henderson  
Douglas Hires '80  
Vandana and Shankar Jagannathan  
A. Diehl Jenkins  
Theodore N. Luu  
Andre J. Messier  
Richard K. Nichols  
Louise Oremland  
Fernande and George Raine  
David J. Reider '89 MM and Gail Harris  
Ted Reinert  
James and Yuki Renwick  
Anne Rippy Turtle  
Robert L. Rosiello  
Ann M. Bajart and John A. Schemmer  
Vivian K. and Lionel B. Spiro  
Eliza and Timothy Sullivan  
Charles and Rae Terpenning  
Neil L. and Kathleen Thompson  
Michael Trach and Lisa Manning  
David J. Varnerin  
Clara B. Winthrop Charitable Trust

This list reflects those who contributed to The NEC Fund and our annual scholarship appeal between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

## **\$1,000 - \$2,499**

Anonymous (4)  
Beverly Achki  
Alexandra Ackerman  
Jeff and Keiko Alexander  
Lawson P. Allen  
Lindsay M. Miller and Peter W. Ambler  
Vivian Pyle and Tony Anemone  
Sunny L. Arata  
Michelle A. Ashford  
Deniz C. Ince and Clinton Bajakian '87  
John and Molly Beard  
Joan Bentinck-Smith  
Clark and Susana Bernard  
Miriam Fried and Paul Biss  
Peter Boberg and Sunwoo Kahng  
Allison Boehret Soderstrom  
Charles and Julia Bolton  
Brenda S. Bruce '66 MM  
Lisa Z. Burke and Edward L. Burke  
Richard Burnes, Jr.  
Barbara and Richard Burwen  
Katie and Paul Buttenwieser  
The Edmund & Betsy Cabot Charitable Foundation  
John Carey  
Jenny Chang  
Andy Chen  
Chris and Denise Chisholm  
Vernice Van Ham Cohen  
Nathaniel S. and Catherine Coolidge  
Dr. John J. Curtis  
Brit d'Arbeloff  
Gene and Lloyd Dahmen  
David F. Dietz  
Deborah C. and Timothy W. Diggins  
Cole Dutcher  
Richard B. Earle '76 and Alison M. Earle  
Peter C. Erichsen and David R. Palumb  
Andrew J. Falender '92 hon. DM and Jacquelyn A. Lenth  
Ellen Feingold  
Corinne and Tim Ferguson  
Edwin G. Fischer  
Elizabeth Coxe and David Forney

Marjorie and Lawrence Franko  
Daniel P. Friedman  
Garth and Lindsay Greimann  
Marjorie P. and Nicholas P. Greville  
Janice Guilbault  
Stella M. Hammond  
Dena Hardymon  
Gardner C. Hendrie/The Fannie Cox Foundation  
Julie and Bayard Henry  
Eric Hoover  
Michael C. Hutchinson '01 and Laura Hutchinson  
F. Gardner and Pamela Jackson  
Thomas R. Jackson  
Hongyu Jiang and Xiaojun Li  
Esther P. Kaplan  
Susan Katzenberg  
Raymond Kelleher  
Sunwha M. Kim '70 and Kee H. Lee  
Nancy Kim  
Shirish and Paula Korde  
Andrew M. Carter and Renée Krimmier Carter '78, '80 MM  
Dr. Eng-Hwi and Sew-Leong Kwa  
Paul LaFerriere  
Christopher and Laura Lindop  
James Mackey  
Thomas W. Malone  
Ruth Shefer and Earl S. Marmar  
Eugene B. Meyer  
Kyra Montagu  
Jacqueline C. Morby  
Richard P. and Claire W. Morse  
Wanda J. and Ronald R. Mourant  
Jo Ann Neusner  
David and Elly Newbower  
Cindy J. Null and Robert Goodof  
Carol Burchard O'Hare  
Violet Ohanasian  
Susan W. Paine  
Naimish Patel  
The Plumb Family Fund of the Maine Community Foundation  
Donna M. Regis '79  
Julie H. Reveley '78 MM and Robert J. Reveley

This list reflects those who contributed to The NEC Fund and our annual scholarship appeal between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

Anne R. and James V. Righter  
Jill Roff  
Joshua Roseman  
Michael and Karen Rotenberg  
Stuart Rowe  
Susan K. Ruf  
Dr. Frank M. Sacks  
Rebecca B. and Preston H. Saunders  
Drs. Richard and Mary Scott  
Carol P. Searle  
Aviva Selling  
Pedro Sifre and Caroline Fitzgerald  
Karl Sims  
Eve E. Slater  
Judi Smolinski  
Peter Solomon  
Benjamin Sosland  
Emilie D. Steele  
Daniel Stern and Deborah Nadel  
The Helena Segy Foundation  
M. Sternweiler  
Stephen L. Symchych  
Thomas W. Thaler  
James and Deb Thomas  
Jane Wen Tsuang '86 and Jason Warner  
Dr. Joseph B. Twichell  
Monte Wallace  
Robert Weisskoff and Ann Marie Lindquist  
Edward B. White  
Thomas A. Wilkins '82 MM  
Elizabeth and Bill Leatherman  
Elsie and Patrick Wilmerding  
Judith Kogan and Hugh Wolff  
Heather Woods  
Janet Wu  
Allan Yudacufski

## Corporate Partners

### **\$25,000 +**

The Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation  
Kirkland & Ellis

### **\$15,000 - \$24,999**

JPMorgan Chase & Co.  
Loews Corporation

### **\$10,000 - \$14,999**

AECOM Tishman  
Eastern Bank  
PwC  
Strategic Investment Group

### **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Dewey Square Group  
East Meets West Catering  
Eaton Vance  
M. Steinert & Sons  
NFP

### **\$2,500 - \$4,999**

Aptiv  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts  
Carriage House Violins  
Clarion Associates, Inc.  
Fiducient Advisors  
Jenzabar  
Nutter  
USENTRA Security  
Wessling Architects, PLLC

### **\$1,000- \$2,499**

Brown Advisory  
Collegiate Press Co.  
EMCOR Services Northeast  
Encore Tours  
HUB International New England  
Isaacson, Miller  
Sweetwater Sound

This list reflects those who contributed to The NEC Fund and our annual scholarship appeal between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.







N | E | C

[necmusic.edu](http://necmusic.edu)