

NEC Department of Jazz Studies presents

Sara Serpa

vocalist

with

Matt Mitchell

piano

Thursday, October 2, 2025

8:00 p.m.

Williams Hall

PROGRAM

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|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sara Serpa | <i>News Cycle</i> |
| Matt Mitchell | <i>Diction</i> |
| | <i>Hyper Pathos</i> |
| Sara Serpa | <i>The Future</i> |
| Matt Mitchell | <i>Trouvaille</i> |
| Olivier Messiaen (1908–1992) | <i>Les Bergers</i> |
| Matt Mitchell | <i>Gluey Clamor</i> |
| Sara Serpa Lyrics by Sonia Sanchez | <i>Carry You Like a River</i> |
| Matt Mitchell | <i>Fettleau</i> |
| | <i>Elegiac Foldouts</i> |
| Sara Serpa Lyrics by Sophia Mello Breyner | <i>Ar e Vento</i> |
| Matt Mitchell | <i>Tooth Helmet</i> |
| | <i>End of Something</i> |
| Sara Serpa Lyrics by Luce Irigaray | <i>Dead Spirits</i> |
| Matt Mitchell | <i>Hypo Bathos</i> |

A native from Lisboa, Portuguese **Sara Serpa** is a singer, composer, improviser, who through her practice and performance, explores the use of the voice as an instrument. Serpa has been working in the field of jazz, improvised and experimental music, since moving to New York in 2008. Literature, film, visual arts, nature and history inspire Serpa in the creative process and development of her music. Described by the *New York Times* as “a singer of silvery poise and cosmopolitan outlook,” and by the *JazzTimes* magazine as “a master of wordless landscapes,” Serpa started her recording and performing career with jazz luminaries such as Grammy-nominated pianist, Danilo Perez, Guggenheim and MacArthur Fellow pianist, Ran Blake, and Greg Osby.

Her ethereal music draws from a broad variety of inspirations including literature, film, visual arts as well as history and nature. As a leader, she has produced and released ten albums, the latest being *Intimate Strangers* (2021) and *Recognition* (2020).

Recognition, a singular multi-disciplinary work that traces the historical legacy of Portuguese colonialism in Africa through moving image and sound, features Zeena Parkins (harp), Mark Turner (saxophone) and David Virelles (piano). *Intimate Strangers*, a collaboration with Nigerian writer Emmanuel Iduma, is an interdisciplinary musical performance that portrays the writer’s travels in several African countries and features Sofia Rei, Aubrey Johnson (voice), Matt Mitchell (piano) and Qasim Naqvi (modular synth).

Serpa was voted 2020 NPR Jazz Vocalist, Rising Star-Female Vocalist 2019 by the *Downbeat* Magazine Critics Poll, and teaches at The New School and New Jersey City University. Currently Serpa is Artist-In-Residence at Park Avenue Armory in New York and is a recipient of New York City Women’s Fund 2020, Chamber Music America New Jazz Works Grant 2019, New Music USA 2019 Grant, 2021 USArtists Grant from Mid-Atlantic Foundation for the Arts, and 2021 Herb Alpert/Ragdale Prize in Composition.

Serpa has been active in gender equity in music and is the co-founder (along with fellow musician Jen Shyu) of Mutual Mentorship for Musicians (M³), an organization created to empower and elevate women and non-binary musicians. Serpa has collaborated with an extensive array of musicians including Ingrid Laubrock, Erik Friedlander, John Zorn, Nicole Mitchell, André Matos, Okkyung Lee, Guillermo Klein, Linda May Han Oh, Kris Davis, Sofia Rei, Chris Tordini, Caroline Davis, Angelica Sanchez, Thomas Morgan, Dan Weiss, Jacob Sacks, Malika Zarra, Erica Lindsay, Matt Mitchell, Zeena Parkins, Mark Turner, David Virelles, Tyshawn Sorey, Leo Genovese, Ben Street, Adam Cruz, Demian Cabaud, Fabian Almazan, Aya Nishina, Ashley Fure, Andreia Pinto Correia, Derek Bermel, and Joseph C. Phillips Jr., among many others.

She has performed her own music in Europe, Australia, North and South America, singing at international festivals such as Bergamo Jazz Festival, Festa do Jazz, the Panama Jazz Festival, Festival de Jazz de Montevideo, Wangaratta Jazz Festival, Adelaide Festival, Sopot Jazz Festival or venues like Bimhuis, Casa da Música, Village Vanguard, Jazz Standard, The Stone, Brooklyn Academy of Music,

the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Lincoln Center, the Met Breuer, and the Kennedy Center for the Arts, among others.

Matt Mitchell is a pianist, composer, and electronic musician interested in the intersections of various strains of acoustic, electric, composed, and improvised new music. He has released several forward-thinking, critically acclaimed, and influential albums as a leader on Pi Recordings, Screwgun Records, and Out of Your Head Records, and—together with Kate Gentile—he runs Obliquity Records. He leads the ensemble Phalanx Ambassadors and co-leads Snark Horse with Kate Gentile. These and other bands he regularly presents feature many of the current foremost musicians and improvisers, including Patricia Brennan, Kim Cass, Kate Gentile, Jon Irabagon, Ava Mendoza, Miles Okazaki, Mariel Roberts, Sara Serpa, Sara Schoenbeck, Brandon Seabrook, Ches Smith, Chris Tordini, Anna Webber, Dan Weiss, and Miguel Zenón. He is an member of several significant and acclaimed creative music ensembles, including Dan Weiss's Starebaby, Miles Okazaki's Trickster, Ches Smith's We All Break, Kate Gentile's Find Letter X, Anna Webber's Simple Trio, Jon Irabagon's Outright!, Sara Serpa's Intimate Strangers, and Yuhuan Su's Liberated Gesture. He has a longstanding association with Tim Berne, and he has played extensively in the ensembles of many major figures in improvised music, including Dave Douglas, Steve Coleman, David Binney, John Hollenbeck, Miguel Zenón, Rudresh Mahanthappa, Linda May Han Oh, Jonathan Finlayson, Mario Pavone, and Darius Jones.

He has taught extensively with the Brooklyn-based School for Improvisational Music, as well as at the New School, NYU, and the Siena Jazz Workshop. He is a 2015 recipient of a Doris Duke Impact Award and a 2012 recipient of a Pew Fellowship from the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage.

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

all programs subject to change

Visit necmusic.edu for complete and updated concert information

Enchanted Circle: The Callithumpian Consort, Stephen Drury, artistic director

Works by Lucier, Mastel, Laubrock, and Hyla

Sunday, October 5, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

First Monday at Jordan Hall, 41st season

Works by Shostakovich, Ravel, Gubaidulina, and Massenet

Monday, October 6, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Tuesday Night New Music

New music by NEC student composers, performed by their peers

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Brown Hall

NEC Chamber Orchestra, Donald Palma, artistic director

Strauss *Sextet for Strings* from *Capriccio*; Mozart *Serenade No. 6 in D Major*;

Weinberg *Symphony No. 7*, op. 81

Wednesday October 8, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Symphonic Winds, Sylvia Alimena, guest conductor

Works by Arnold, Danielpour, Hazo, Ticheli, Jager, Broughton, Holst, and Thomas

Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Faculty Recital: Max Levinson, piano

Schubert *Sonata in A Major*; Mussorgsky *Pictures at an Exhibition*

Friday, October 10, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Composers' Series, Arthur Berger Memorial Concert

Sid Richardson, curator; Berger *Five Settings of European Poets*; Agócs *Hyacinth Curl*;

Mallia *Alone*; Lister *Ordinary Heartbreaks and Other Poems of Michael Blumenthal*;

Richardson *Inscribed on a Lintel*; Richardson *How Do I Love Thee?*

Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Jazz Orchestra, Ken Schaphorst, director

"Dreamkeeper: Music of Carla Bley"

Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Tuesday Night New Music

New music by NEC student composers, performed by their peers

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

—continued

Liederabend LXXVII, JJ Penna, curator

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Williams Hall

NEC Symphony, David Loebel, conductor

Tower Sixth Fanfare for the Uncommon Woman; Haydn *Symphony No. 85, “La Reine”*;

Franck Symphony in D Minor

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Perkin Opera Scenes

Thursday, October 23 & Friday, October 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.,

Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

Sonata Night 57, Pei-Shan Lee, director

Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., Burnes Hall

NEC Chamber Singers, Erica J. Washburn, conductor

“Beyond Boundaries and Borders”, works focussing on refugee issues

and awareness, police brutality, victim recognition, and more by Shaw,

von Bingen, Thompson, Curenton-Simpson, Bussewitz-Quarm, and Boulanger

Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Faculty Recital: Cameron Stowe

Monday, October 27, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Faculty Recital: Borromeo String Quartet

Tuesday, October 28, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Philharmonia, Hugh Wolff, conductor

Bacewicz Overture; Shostakovich *Piano Concerto No. 1*;

Prokofiev Symphony No. 5 in B-flat Major, op. 100

Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

First Monday at Jordan Hall, 41st season

Works by Haydn, Britten, and Brahms

Monday, November 3, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Trombone Choir, James Markey, director

Tuesday, November 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

–continued

NEC Philharmonia, NEC Symphonic Choir, David Loebel, conductor

Mozart *Symphony No. 31, “Paris”*; Debussy *Nocturnes*;

Boulinger *Psaume 129*; Poulenc *Gloria*

Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Composers’ Series: “Home”

Sophia Szokolay ‘19, ‘25 DMA, violin and Sid Richardson, co-curators

An exploration of cultural identity and belonging, shaped by the experiences of migration and the quest for a sense of home in the midst of dissonance – works by Sam Wu, Marc Migó, Richardson, Mallia, Sanlikol, Minakakis, and Gandolfi

Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Undergraduate Opera Seminar: Opera Scenes, Michael Meraw, director

Thursday & Friday, November 6 & 7, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

NEC Chamber Orchestra, Donald Palma, artistic director

Stravinsky *Apollon musagète*

Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

BSO Prelude: What I Hear - Tania León

Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., Brown Hall

Sonata Night 58, Pei-Shan Lee, director

Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., Burnes Hall

NEC Wind Ensemble, William Drury, guest conductor

Minakakis *Vykinon* (world premiere), Stephen Drury and Yukiko Takagi, piano

Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Baroque Orchestra, Guy Fishman, director

Monday, November 17, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Brown Hall

NEC Festival: “Chamber Music + Sonatas: Schuller and the Spirit of Collaboration”

Ken Schaphorst and Ara Gregorian, co-curators

Monday, November 17, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Festival: “Contemporary Musical Arts Today – A Global Vision Realized”

Eden MacAdam Somer and Hankus Netsky, curators

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 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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