

Cycles of Life

Sleep Saga

words and music by Dianne Davies

1. Monsters, 2. Love Birds, 3. I'm in! 4. Prom, 5. The Dress, 6. Kids

I'm used to the way I move from *Sense of Self* (libretto by Kendra Preston Leonard)

Lisa Neher

A Woman's Life piano solo (poetry by Deborah Buchanan)

Dianne Davies

- Marriage, Death, Moving On, Empty Nest, Reunion

I Want to be Soft

words and music by Lisa Neher

I Think of You

words and music by Lisa Neher

Lonesome Waltz

words and music by Dianne Davies

Fissure piano solo (poetry by Trevor K. Allred)

Lisa Neher

Intermission

A Sonnet at the Edge of the Reef (poetry by Craig Santos Perez)

Lisa Neher

Grateful Prayers (words adapted from religious texts by Dianne Davies)

Dianne Davies

1. Grateful, Thankful and Glad, 2. Dayenu (It is Enough), 3. Graces of Allah
4. Meditation Mantra, 5. The View

Snapshots (texts from the University Daily Kansan)

Lisa Neher

1. Crocodiles, 2. Rain, 3. Sneaky Squirrels, 4. A Simple Request, 5. Turtle Fence,
6. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7. Spoiler Alert!

How Doth the Little Crocodile? (poetry by Lewis Carroll)

Lisa Neher

Special Thanks To:

Linda and Connelly Woody, John Hidalgo, Jeff Winslow, Brian Magill, Nicholas Yandell, and the Cascadia Composers Publicity Team, Ted Clifford, Kevin Lay, Matthew Neil Andrews, Charles Rose, and Oregon Arts Watch, Christa Wessel and Portland All Classical Radio

About the Performers:

DIANNE DAVIES' musical roots harken back to her childhood growing up in a musical family. Early on, she was playing by ear her favorite Christmas carols. Her mom, a church choir director, sought to foster her love of music, and so Dianne started formal lessons at eight years old and began serving in her church as a pianist by the age of ten. All through high school and college she also served as music director for summer church camps, infusing these retreats with her love and knowledge of music. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in piano performance from Lewis and Clark College with certification for K-12 public school instruction. In the summer of 2023, Dianne earned her National Certification through the Music Teachers' National Association (MTNA).

Dianne's multi-faceted career includes composing, arranging, and performing. Her finely crafted piano music is centered on the natural world of creation or sonic representations of her life experiences. Her arrangements are an amalgam of her two greatest loves of music: traditional gems of sacred music and the works of major composers from a classically trained pianist's repertoire. Her shows span from deeply personal to slap stick comedy that combine piano music with dance, live visual art creation, and theatre.

Dianne holds memberships in National Federation of Music Clubs (NFMC), Oregon Music Teachers' Association (OMTA), Cascadia Composers, Oregon's local chapter of the National Association of Composers USA (NACUSA) and Christian Fellowship of Art Music Composers (CFAMC). For the state level in Oregon (OMTA), Dianne chairs the annual State Composition Festival for honored student composers and at the national level (MTNA) she chairs the State of Oregon's Composition Competition. As an artist/educator, Dianne is deeply committed to the creation and performance of new music. For her upcoming projects, check out Dianne and her music at www.musiqPOWER.com.

DR. LISA NEHER (she/her, "NEER") is an award-winning composer and new music mezzo on a mission to transform audiences through sound, story, and vulnerability. With a voice praised as "full and rich" and "especially alive" (Oregon ArtsWatch), Neher's musical-theatrical fluency and passion for contemporary music have led to performances with Third Angle New Music, Experiments in Opera, Renegade Opera, Really Spicy Opera, Big Mouth Society, Portland Columbia Symphony Orchestra, New Music Gathering, the Resonance Ensemble, Opera Theatre Oregon, Queer Opera, and the International Saxophone Symposium. She is a member of Portland Opera Chorus. Neher created the roles of Jennifer in Chamber Sounds of Singapore's *One Thousand Paper Cranes for Japan* by Rita Ueda and Julian of Norwich in Brooke Joyce's *The Showing of Love*.

Neher is described as a "visionary composer" (Willamette Week) "supremely talented," a "maestro of beautifully wacky noises" (Oregon ArtsWatch), and author of "liquid, impressionist piano writing and fluent melding" of voices (New York Classical Review). Her compositions are inspired by the climate crisis, the tender love of family and friends, and the eerie mystery of deep ocean life. She has been commissioned and performed by the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Cincinnati Song Initiative, Mirror Visions Ensemble, Third Angle New Music, FearNoMusic, Dinosaur Annex, Alma Ensemble, Opera Elect, Opera Theatre Oregon, Opera Santa Barbara, and New Opera West, among others.

Her awards include the Flute New Music Consortium Competition, ICDA/ICF Choral Competition and the Mirror Visions Ensemble Young Composer Competition and runner up in the Celebris Ensemble Choral Competition. She is an alumnus of the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music and the NATS Composer Mentorship Program, working with Tom Cipullo. Neher is on faculty at Lewis & Clark College and runs a thriving private studio in which she coaches singers and composers on the technique, craft, and business of music. www.lisanehermusic.com.

Soprano **LINDSEY RAE JOHNSON** hails from Minnesota. After completing music degrees at Luther College and the University of North Texas, she relocated to Portland. Lindsey has performed locally with Portland Opera, Renegade Opera, Ping & Woof Opera, Lark Opera, Queer Opera, OperaBend, Opera on Tap PDX, Mocks Crest Productions, Light Opera of Portland, Classical Revolution PDX, Coulter Concert Series, and the Dickens Carolers. Lindsey is a Musical Artist in Residence with The Episcopal Parish of St. John the Baptist. www.lindseyraejohnson.com

KALEB DAVIES was principal percussionist of Portland Youth Philharmonic for two years and studied with Jon Greeney of the Oregon Symphony. He marched snare drum and quads at Beaverton High and placed second in orchestral snare and third in timpani at State. After high school, he studied jazz with Alan Jones at Alan Jones Academy of Music, played in various local bands; ARCO-PDX, recorded for 80's power metal band Cruella's 2019 "Metal Revenge", and the technical deathcore band Earth Eater.



Cascadia's Mission Statement

We engage our community through the creation, performance, and promotion of contemporary musical art, while providing resources and opportunities to composers connected to the Pacific Northwest.

Cascadia Composers is a local affiliate of National Association of Composers USA. It offers its members educational enrichment and presentation opportunities through monthly meetings. Members work in virtually every musical genre: chamber music, jazz, choral music, musical theater, electronic and electro-acoustic music, world music and orchestral music. Cascadia Composers' members include independent professionals, composer/educators and students. Fostering a rich collaboration with local musicians, members share the benefit of being part of a regional community of composers who share common goals and aspirations.

Cascadia Composers upholds and embraces principles of inclusivity and equity in all our programming, for all our members and the community, in terms of gender, race, age, location, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, socio-economic status and artistic practice.

Cascadia's Upcoming Events:

Blackout 24/24, Saturday February 24th, 2024, 7:30 pm, Alberta House, Portland, OR

May the Fourth be With You!, Saturday May 4th, at 7:30 pm, Lincoln Recital Hall, Portland, OR

In Good Hands 2024, Saturday July 20th, at 4 pm, Lincoln Recital Hall, Portland, OR

These concerts and presentations are made possible by dues from NACUSA (National Association of Composers/USA), other grants and donors, and fundraisers sponsored by Cascadia. Special thanks to our media sponsor, Oregon ArtsWatch. Cascadia Composers receives support from the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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Acknowledgments:

In addition to our government and foundation supporters, the following individuals have made recent generous donations to Cascadia

Composers: Dinah Bianchi, Ted Clifford, Jon Martin, Alan Niven, William & Ligia Toutant, Betty Wishart, Linda Woody.



Cascadia Composers presents:

Cycles of Life

music written & performed by Dianne Davies & Lisa Neher



music for voice & piano exploring the experiences & emotions we encounter as we navigate the path of life



cascadiacomposers.org

Sat, February 10, 2024, 7pm

Sun, February 11, 2024, 3pm

House Concert with Wine & Appetizers in West Linn, Oregon