



Cascadia
Composers
present

In Good Hands

Young
performers
join forces with
local composers
to bring new
classical music
to life!

June 29, 2017 @ 3 pm

The Old Church
1422 SW 11th Ave.
Portland, OR 97201



Cascadia Composers

Mission Statement

Cascadia Composers engages our community through the creation, performance, and promotion of contemporary musical art, while providing resources and opportunities to Cascadia composers.

Cascadia Composers serves northern Oregon and southern Washington and was founded in 2008.

Website: www.CascadiaComposers.org

Governing Board

Jan Mittelstaedt, President

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Cascadia Composers is a chapter of the National Association of Composers/USA (NACUSA). NACUSA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Founded by Henry Hadley in 1933, it is one of the oldest organizations devoted to the promotion and performance of American concert hall music. Many of America's most distinguished composers have been among its members.

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.



Program cover design by Jennifer Wright

CASCADIA COMPOSERS

(Cascadia Chapter of the National Association of Composers/USA)

presents

IN GOOD HANDS

Local Music Students Perform Music by Cascadia Composers

Thursday, June 29th, 2017, 3 pm

The Old Church 1422 SW 11th Ave., Portland, OR 97201

PACIFIC PASTORAL for Piano Duet Matthew Kaminski
Matthew Kaminski and David Chvorun, *piano*

SUITE EL BATEY: La Criolitta; El Dulcero Yalil Guerera
Jesse Nieman, *piano*

SABER TOOTH DANCE Jan Mittelstaedt
Torin Repasky, *piano*

11-8-16 (Just Shy of Midnight) Paul Safar
Leah Nieman, *piano*

HOPE IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS Matthew Neil Andrews
Dana Kim, *voice*; Julia Lee, *piano*

PRELUDES: 1 and 7 John De Runtz
Carter Scott, *piano*

CAPRICE Elizabeth Dyson
Michael Yoo, *violin*

CHINESE POLKA Jan Mittelstaedt
Jesse and Leah Nieman, *piano*

NORTHERN LULLABY Linda Woody
Elena Kato, *flute*; Abigail Rash, *piano*

SNOWBOUND Jan Mittelstaedt
Lex Kornelis, *piano*

SKETCH IN FOUR PARTS Ted Clifford
Khoi Hoang, *piano*

THE BELLS ARE RICH AND STRANGE

Linda Woody

Elena Kato, *flute*; Liam Dubay, *violoncello*

THE FUNNIEST DARN THINGS ANYONE HAS EVER SAID Jennifer Wright

I. Nobody Likes a Skinny Cowgirl for Two Toy Pianos and Percussion

Jesse and Leah Nieman, toy *pianos*

Teachers Participating

Aaron Bloom
Pauline Eidemiller
Denise Kangas
Ruth Sadilek
Paul Safar
Debra Sostrin
Nancy Stone
Sarah Tiedemann

Program Notes

PACIFIC PASTORAL for Piano Duet by Matthew Kaminski

Inspired by a camping trip in the North Cascades, Matthew's composition, Pacific Pastoral, was originally written for the Southridge High School Wind Ensemble. To be able to perform this without the expense of a wind ensemble, Matthew created a piano duet version of this piece that carries many motifs including rain, mountain views, and daydreamy thoughts of hiking again. It is amazing what beauty nature can hold for us, and the never ending adventures and sights that beckon us to go deeper and develop a love for travel and nature.

SUITE EL BATEY: La Criollita; El Dulcero by Yalil Guerra

La Criollita and *El Dulcero*, are both part of Suite *El Batey*, Guerra's first piano composition. Each one of the highly pianistic movements that delineate the suite offers a challenge to the interpreter, highly influenced by the early Cuban *Contradanzas* and *Habaneras* rhythms. Both pieces features a traditional harmonic language, while *El Dulcero* shines for its 5/4 time signature, a non traditional approach on how the Cuban Music is written and performed. In both compositions can be heard elements of the composers Afro-Cuban rhythmic roots, demanding a very precise and sharp rhythmic performance.

SABER TOOTH DANCE by Jan Mittelstaedt

I imagine a spirited dance followed by swaying which then goes back to the first mood.

11-8-16 (Just Shy of Midnight) by Paul Safar

At around 11:30 pm on that particularly important Tuesday, I knew I needed to either go outside and take a walk to clear my head or sit down at the piano. I decided to do the latter and this short piece is what came out.

HOPE IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS by Matthew Neil Andrews

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all,

And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.

I've heard it in the chillest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.

Because I was something of a melancholy weirdo child, I was drawn to fellow melancholy weirdo Emily Dickinson, both for her exquisite poetry and her fascinating character. In this song I pay homage to two other eccentrics: the Rosicrucian eremite Erik Satie and the woodsy polymath Lou Harrison. Much gratitude to my teacher, the incomparable Crazy Jane composer Bonnie Miksch.

PRELUDES: 1 and 7 by John De Runtz

My Prelude No.1 in B-flat minor was written in 1976. It was presumptuously dedicated to the 'Poet of the Piano,' Frederic Francois Chopin', whose music has always been an inspiration to me. Strangely enough, we share a common cultural heritage, we both had a Polish mother and a French father. Spooky!

My Prelude No. 7 in D minor was written in 2009. It is a short composition of only 24 measures, but it encompasses a wide dynamic range with a simple driving eighth note left hand accompaniment.

CAPRICE by Elizabeth Dyson

When I wrote “Caprice” for violin, I was thinking about someone having fun on the violin, with maybe a half-remembered folk song at the back of their mind.

CHINESE POLKA by Jan Mittelstaedt

I named this piece *Chinese Polka* because I thought the A section sounded like a polka and the open fifths in the B section made me think of Asian music. My long time friend from Junior High, Emily Stewart, a fine artist, created the cover for the duet.

NORTHERN LULLABY by Linda Woody

Northern Lullaby, one of four short pieces from the composer’s *Compass Suite*, was originally written for woodwind quartet and later adapted for flute and piano. The piece features a gently rocking rhythm in 5/4 meter and the middle section has a fanciful flute solo, perhaps illustrating the baby’s — or the babysitter’s dream.

SNOWBOUND by Jan Mittelstaedt

The first part of this solo is Romantic in style. However, the middle part contains changing meters and some dissonance, and there is a partial tone row in measure 37 which depicts snow falling. To me, the musical picture painted is a quiet scene in a log cabin where people are stranded by the snow with mounting tension and frustration, and a return to calm as the snow subsides.

SKETCH IN FOUR PARTS by Ted Clifford

There is something about this piece that makes me think of traipsing around to unusual places. I feel like this piece could represent a journey, going away to somewhere exotic, and then coming back again, and finding oneself changed in the process.

THE BELLS ARE RICH AND STRANGE by Linda Woody

This piece for flute and cello was inspired by Full Fathom Five, from *Ariel’s Song* in William Shakespeare’s play, *The Tempest*, where Ariel is ordered by Prospero to lead the shipwrecked Ferdinand to him. Ferdinand mistakenly thinks his father has drowned. This one-minute work acknowledges Ferdinand’s sadness and grief at the beginning with a brief minor-key melody and both instruments in their lower registers, but also shows the transformation and enduring qualities of a “sea change” into something “rich and strange” a few bars in. Numerous permutations of an English church bell change-ring pattern begin in the cello part and are

handed off to the flute. These patterns are passed back and forth throughout the piece. The uneasy, contrasting melody which is also shared between the parts is based (mostly) on an octatonic scale. The $\frac{3}{4}$ meter represents the rocking motion of the sea. The piece ends with the deep tolling “bell” of the low C in the cello.

THE FUNNIEST DARN THINGS ANYONE HAS EVER SAID TO ME

I. Nobody Likes a Skinny Cowgirl for Two Toy Piano and Percussion
by Jennifer Wright

So there I was, dressed as a cowgirl: pigtails, the checkered shirt, a stalk of wheat, the whole deal. I had to look the part for a show: I was performing the narrator’s part in a composition based on e e cumming’s poem “Buffalo Bill’s Defunct.” It was great fun, but I had a few other things on my mind at the time; before the performance, I was having a hurried production meeting in a university cafeteria with two fellow composers, Paul and Dan, to nail down some details concerning an upcoming concert. We likely made a funny scene to observe, but, absorbed in the meeting, I had already forgotten about my Western getup.

Paul and Dan had already eaten but I had been in rehearsals all day and was starving. I was not succeeding at trying to multi-task the meeting and a chicken-and-gravy dinner. Every time I got the fork halfway to my mouth, I’d have to put it down to write something down or wave my hands, as I generally do when making a point. Finally, famished, I said, “OK! Stop talking for a minute! I can’t eat and think at the same time.”

“Eat, eat!” said my friend Paul. “Nobody likes a skinny cowgirl.”

Composer Biographies

Matthew Neil Andrews

Matthew Andrews is terrible pianist, a passable percussionist, and a proud student of gamelan expert Mindy Johnston and Crazy Jane composer Bonnie Miksch. He holds a B.A. in Music Composition from Vanguard University, where he studied with Robert T. Reno, and currently works as Arts & Culture Editor for the PSU Vanguard. He does not, however, consider himself an avant-garde composer.

Ted Clifford

Ted Clifford has over 20 years of experience as a performer and composer. Growing up in St. Cloud, Minnesota, he attended college there and studied with Alvaro Bertand and Tom Allen. After travels in Europe and Central Asia, Ted continued to study jazz performance, and composition, under Art Lande, David Friesen, and Tomas Svoboda. A third stream of eclecticism has involved performance of arrangements of Frank Zappa. Ted has released an album of jazz originals (Azir), and his compositions and arrangements

have been performed as far as Germany and Cuba, He is a board member with Cascadia Composers.

John De Runtz

In 2011, John DeRuntz had the unique experience of being invited to perform his original works at the prestigious Van Cliburn Sixth International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs. And, if that weren't enough, Van shook John's hand and told him that he had written some wonderful music.

John began playing the piano when he was about seven years old. He taught himself to play, and then to compose piano, guitar and vocal music. John has had a varied musical life as a classical pianist, while also playing in piano bars, performing in folk music bands and being a guitar accompanist for flamenco dancers. He has also been a member of symphonic choirs and the chorus of an opera company, and, by chance, became a classical radio personality in Colorado. He has recorded four CD albums and some of his music has had air time on our own Portland radio station, All Classical 89.9 KQAC FM as well as 88.7 KCME FM in Colorado Springs, Colorado. A selection of his classical, romantic and impressionistic piano works, as well as his preliminary round performance at the Van Cliburn and related newspaper articles can be enjoyed from links embedded in his website:

<http://www.theunknowncomposer.com>

David Stabler, the music critic for the Oregonian, has written of John's music as being, 'in a lyrical style suggestive of Chopin.' Another music critic, Olin Chism, of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, wrote, 'He is unabashedly old-fashioned, composing in a sort of neo-Chopin style that was kind of charming. A couple of his melodies lingered in memory.'

What these reviewers don't know is that John shares the same European heritage as Chopin, they both had a French father and a Polish mother. Kind of spooky!

Elizabeth Dyson

Elizabeth Blachly-Dyson enjoys writing for young musicians and has written works performed by the BRAVO Youth Orchestra and the Pacific Crest Youth Sinfonietta. She teaches music theory at the Music and Arts Academy in Camas, Washington and she has adjudicated Composition Celebrations for the Oregon Music Teachers association.

Yalil Guerra

Yalil Guerra was born in Havana, Cuba, April 27th, 1973. He is the son of the famous Cuban vocal duo Rosell y Cary. Guerra obtained a Bachelor Degree in classical Guitar at the *Escuela Nacional de Música* in Havana in 1991. At the age of 16, he won the International Competition and Festival of Classical Guitar Award in Krakow, Poland, as well as receiving the Special Prize (1990), thus becoming the youngest Cuban awarded a prize in an international contest. Additionally, in 1991 he won a full scholarship and studied at the *Instituto Superior de Música*, Cuba. In 1993 he moved to Spain and obtained a Master's Degree in Classical Guitar at the *Conservatorio Superior de Música de Madrid*. Since 2008, Guerra has been studying composition privately with Aurelio de la Vega. In 2015 Guerra obtained a Master's Degree in Film Scoring at the Shepherd University, Los Angeles,. His art music includes compositions for orchestra, chamber ensembles and soloists, the majority of them having been premiered in the Americas and in Europe. He works for Univision Networks, and is part of the Music Faculty Department

at Shepherd University and College of the Canyons; he is also President of NACUSA LA Chapter.

Matthew Kaminski

Matthew Kaminski is a freshman at Southridge High School. He studies piano with Ruth Sadilek and composition with Michael Johanson. He has also studied composition with Daniel Brugh. Recently, Matthew won second place nationally for the NFMC, and has also won the state of Oregon six times through NFMC and MTNA. He has performed in a number of settings, including Reed College, Portland State University, Willamette University, The Grotto, Portland Pianos, the Polish Hall, and local retirement centers.

Jan Mittelstaedt

Jan Mittelstaedt is a piano teacher, a composer of chamber, sacred, and student piano music. She is nationally certified by MTNA. Educated at Bucknell University, Marylhurst University, and The University of Portland, her music is available through Music Sales - Hal Leonard on line (*Solo Snips* and *Sonatina for Youth*), Amazon (*Fabric and Frills*), Sheet Music Plus (*Animal Antics* and *Beehive*), and www.sintsink.com (everything else).

Paul Safar

Paul Safar is a versatile composer/performer and private piano instructor living and working in Eugene, Oregon. He performs regularly with the soprano Nancy Wood and thrives on collaborative projects. He has had commissions from the Delgani String Quartet and Oregon Parks Department and was the Oregon Music Teachers Association Composer of The Year for 2013-14. Paul's compositions have been played at Fear No Music concerts and the North American Saxophone Alliance, among other venues. His music has been performed in New York, Seattle, Cincinnati and Havana. Having a balanced background in both Classical and Jazz/Rock, Paul often tries to coherently combine these influences in his compositions. As an instructor, Paul enjoys sharing his knowledge of composition to both young students and piano teachers. He is a proud, card carrying member of Cascadia Composers, the Portland based chapter of NACUSA. When he isn't engaged in musical activities, he might be hiking, running or spending time with his family.

Linda Woody

Linda Woody lives in West Linn, Oregon and graduated in 2013 from Marylhurst University with a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Bachelor of Music in Composition. She studied music composition with Dr. Bob Priest and Dr. John Paul. She enjoys writing for a variety of ensembles, including handbell choir, choral groups, piano trio, middle school band and mixed instrumental groups. When Linda is not composing music or at the bench of Fernando, her grand piano, you will likely find her with her family and two dogs — experimenting in the kitchen or enjoying any number of outdoor pursuits requiring specialized footwear.

Jennifer Wright

Jennifer Wright, B.M., M.M., is an active pianist, teacher, composer and graphic artist. She has performed in the U.S., the U.K., Europe and Cuba. Much of her work focuses around alternative keyed instruments, including typewriters, toy pianos, amplified

harpichord, and her one-of-a-kind "Skeleton Piano." More info available at jenniferwrightpianostudio.com and skeletonpiano.com.

Performer Biographies

David Chvorun is a Freshman at Southridge High School. He has been studying piano for 8 years and currently studies with Alona Maizlin. David is involved in OMTA Syllabus, Baroque/Contemporary, Romantic, and Classical Festivals as well as other different competitions around the Portland area. Also, he is the accompanist for all the Southridge High School choirs. David accompanies with his church choir and violins/vocals around the Portland metro area. Lastly, David has won multiple Baroque/Contemporary, Romantic, and Classical Festivals and passed the Syllabus Level 8 last fall.

Liam Dubai has played the cello for almost 14 years, and is a member of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony. He also sings in the Pacific Youth Choir and plays piano. In his spare time, he enjoys stargazing and learning about the wonders of the universe. He plans to study music and astrophysics at Whitman College.

Khoi Hoang, 15, will be a sophomore at Sunset High School in the fall. He has studied with Dr. Debra Sostrin since 2011 and currently receives additional instruction from Dr. Marjorie Janove. Khoi won the Piano Santa Grand Scholarship in 2015, has performed in OMTA and PSU master classes, and received top ratings in numerous OMTA Festivals. Khoi volunteers as church choir pianist for Vietnamese Catholic churches. He enjoys basketball, origami, Rubik cubes, and hip-hop dancing.

Matthew Kaminski is a freshman at Southridge High School. He studies piano with Ruth Sadilek and composition with Michael Johanson. He has also studied composition with Daniel Brugh. Recently, Matthew won second place nationally for the NFMC, and has also won the state of Oregon six times through NFMC and MTNA. He has performed in a number of settings, including Reed College, Portland State University, Willamette University, The Grotto, Portland Pianos, the Polish Hall, and local retirement centers.

Elena Kato is a sophomore at Clackamas High School and has studied flute with Sarah Tiedemann for three years. She is a member of Metropolitan Youth Symphony's Concert Orchestra and Clackamas High School's varsity Wind Ensemble. She has also performed with the Oregon All-State Honor Band and served as principal flute in both the Young Musicians & Artists (YMA) Orchestra and Band. At her district's solo and ensemble competition, Elena placed fourth in 2016 and first in 2017, going on to compete in the 2017 OSAA State Solo Competition. She plans to attend the Wallowa Lakes Woodwind Camp this summer. When she's not practicing, Elena enjoys watching her favorite shows, drawing characters, reading, and biking long distances in beautiful weather.

Dana Kim, 10, is attending Jacob Wismer Elementary School. She studies singing with Denise Kangas. Recently, she has participated in the OMTA's romantic festival. She also has been playing the piano from age 6. Other than music, she loves to do yoga and to read books. Her team was in the final round of Jacob Wismer's Oregon Battle of Books. She lives with self-taught pianist dad, professional pianist mom, and a singing dog.

Lex Kornelis began playing piano at four years old. In Los Angeles, he studied with Nora Chiang Wrobel, before moving to Portland, where he studies with Nancy Stone. Lex, age ten, is finishing fifth grade in The International School's Mandarin immersion program. He recently returned from a student exchange trip to China.

Jesse Nieman is 14 years old and is currently being home schooled. He has been playing the piano about six years and has been studying with Pauline Eidemiller for two years. The piano is his favorite instrument and he also plays the flute, cello and trumpet a little. He would love to learn as many other orchestral instruments. Jesse is also member of Portland Youth Conservatory Orchestra, playing the violin. Jesse enjoys reading fiction in his free time. Jesse just finished his first half marathon with his mother and enjoyed it very much.

Leah Nieman is 12 years old and is currently being home schooled. She started to take lessons from Pauline Eidemiller last year. She played the piano two years prior to that. Leah is also playing the violin in the Youth String Ensemble. She loves to listen to the music and attend musical performances often. Leah enjoys spending time with friends and her Brittany spaniel in addition to swimming with her family many evenings.

Abigail Rash is going to be a senior at West Linn High School and has been studying piano for 12 years. She is an active member in her school's orchestra, symphony, and jazz band, where she plays the viola and piano respectively. Abigail also played piano in the pit orchestra for West Linn High School's musical production of "The Addams Family". This April she accompanied on the piano for the Oregon Coast Symphony Festival in Newport. She is a student of Aaron Bloom.

Torin Repasky is in 8th grade at Class Academy and is 12 years old. He has been studying piano for six years, the past four with Nancy Stone. Torin like to compose music, play soccer, and build with Legos; he would like to become an architect when he grows up.

Carter Scott is a soon to be graduating senior at South Eugene High School. He will be attending Portland State University this fall studying business administration. He has played percussion since 5th grade but formal piano lessons only this past school year. Carter gravitates towards the Impressionistic genre of classical music in addition to jazz and other styles. He studies with Paul Safar.

Michael Yoo, 11, attends Valley Catholic Middle School. He has been playing piano and violin for 5 years and studies both instruments with Ruth Sadilek. He participates in orchestra at Valley Catholic Middle School directed by Travis Hatton of the Beaverton Symphony Orchestra. Michael enjoys swimming, golf, basketball, tennis and spending time with his newly adopted puppy, Bailey.

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