

CASCADIA COMPOSERS, NACUSA

PRESENTS

IN GOOD HANDS

VIRTUAL CONCERT



SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2020

AT 3:00 PM

Fanfare for the Arts.....	John DeRuntz
	Jonathan C. Huang
Awakening.....	Paul Safar
	Sarah Klausenburger
Through the City Gates.....	Nicholas Yandell
	Elaine Lee
Small Steps.....	Ally Rose Czyzewiez
	Emmeline Chan
Tuesday Morning.....	Ally Rose Czyzewiez
	Chelsie Zhang
Squirrels.....	Jan Mittelstaedt
	Jamie Hsu
Paradise Sound.....	Ally Rose Czyzewiez
	Branden Huang
Martian Camper.....	Daniel Brugh
	Esme Alves
Turquoise.....	Timothy O'Brien
	Kyle Chen
Skating With Jane.....	John DeRuntz
	Jalynn Hsu
Golden Poison Dart Frog.....	Dianne Davies
	Mohini Iyer
Moon Jelly.....	Lisa Neher
	Thalia Wong
Ant Colony: Hanging Honey Pots.....	Jan Mittelstaedt
	Michelle Cheng
Ant Colony: Musicians.....	Jan Mittelstaedt
	Thalia Wong
A Song for the Raven.....	Nicholas Yandell
	Ethan Raloff
Around the Christmas Tree.....	John DeRuntz
	Audrey Hou

Stained Glass Window.....	Timothy O'Brien
	Wenjing (Karen) Liu
Dusk.....	Jan Mittelstaedt
	Noah Peñafiel
Requiem for a Favorite Kitty.....	John DeRuntz
	Wenjing (Karen) Liu
3 Haiku.....	Adam Eason
	Baird Quinn
Snowbound.....	Jan Mittelstaedt
	Tyler Raven
Music Box Lullaby.....	David Bernstein
	Cathy Jiang
Nomadic Mirage.....	Jan Mittelstaedt
	Fiona Wang
Rondo Scherzo.....	Jan Mittelstaedt
	Ethan Chang
Taking Flight.....	Nicholas Yandell
	Elaine Lee
Ode to a Wanderer.....	David Bernstein
	Andrew Pelto
Rhapsodie.....	Paul Safar
	Baird Quinn

Participating Teachers:

Wilma Hawkins, NCTM
Irene Huang, NCTM
Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM
Paul Safar
Betsy Parker
Sandra Hull, NCTM
Fen-Fang Tsao

PROGRAM NOTES

Fanfare for the Arts, D Flat Major

This piece was written for the theme of a weekly radio show on KCME, the classical music and jazz station in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The show, 'Arts Peak,' was devoted to interviews, commentary and reviews. The piece also exists in a string quartet version. **John DeRuntz, 1996**

Awakening: This piece is the last tableaux in a suite of pieces that corresponds to a narrative audio book by Richard Leebrick (with music by Paul Safar) called "Live on Wings of Love-A Journey to Peggy Sioux". As the title suggests, an atmosphere of clarity and redemption is found at the end of the piece and story. **Paul Safar**

Through the City Gates: This piece is part of a collection of short piano works exploring the minors, the modes, and various other types of scales. This is a work about facing a metropolitan cityscape for the first time and all the wonder and intimidation it brings. **Nicholas Yandell**

Squirrels: This piece was inspired by watching the squirrels running around in our back yard. I wanted to write a piece that was accessible to beginning piano students working on the second or third syllabus level. I have success teaching some of Kabalevsky's pieces to this group of students, and I was inspired by the great composer's use of five finger patterns. **Jan Mittelstaedt**

Turquoise: Written during high school, this intrinsic piece was published in my anthology, **PIANO EFFIGIES**, in 2019. **Timothy O'Brien**

Skating With Jane, B Flat Major, John DeRuntz, 1979

Every boy loves to skate with his favorite girl. This piece is part of the Childhood Miniatures Suite. **John DeRuntz, 1979**

The **Golden Poison Dart Frog** grows to be about 2 inches long, yet the poison from just one of these frogs can kill ten grown men. They get the name from the fact that Native people of South America use their poison to coat their blow darts for hunting and combat. This piece illustrates the deceptive beauty of this frog's radiant skin and yet the suspense of danger. 130 species of poison dart frogs are extinct and 400 are on the endangered list. The reason for their decline is the loss of habitat. **Dianne Davies**

Moon Jelly: I often spot moon jellies off the docks in Olympia, Washington, near my grandparents' home, or on visits to Hood Canal. These creatures evoke silvery moonlight with their translucent white bells. They gently pulse just under the surface of the water with short, delicate cilia. Their mysterious and peaceful presence fills me wonder and curiosity about the lives of animals so different from us humans. In this piece, slow rolled chords express rippling water and the jellyfish motive features contrary motion like the pulsing bells of the moon jelly. At the end of the piece, the rolled chords descend into the deep, as if the jelly is moving deeper into the water and into the mysterious world below. **Lisa Neher**

Hanging Honey Pots: Since honeydew, food for honey ants, is not always available, some young ants use their own bodies to store the food. The ants get very fat and hang from the ceilings of their nests. Through their mouths, the storage ants give honey to other hungry ants. When there is a surplus of food in the colony, the other ants refill the honey-pot ants. This is found in the collection, **ANT COLONY**. **Jan Mittelstaedt**

Musicians: By rubbing parts of their abdomens together, ants make a high-pitched sound that is probably produced by vibrations in their feet. Other ants are able to hear the music, and occasionally humans can also hear the sounds. This is from the collection, **ANT COLONY**. **Jan Mittelstaedt**

A Song for the Raven: This piece is part of a collection of short piano works exploring the minors, the modes, and various other types of scales. This piece is the theme music for the raven: a dark, mysterious, and shady characters. **Nicholas Yandell**

Around the Christmas Tree, G Major

This piece is part of the Childhood Miniatures Suite and is a study in perpetual motion, excited children ripping open their Christmas presents. **John DeRuntz, 1978**

Stained Glass Windows: This short piano piece was written during my formative years in elementary school and published in 2019 in my anthology **PIANO EFFIGIES**. **Timothy O'Brien**

Dusk: This music is an update of a piece I wrote many years. It was inspired by sounds of Scriabin's *mystic chord*, a chords built from fourths. **Jan Mittelstaedt**

Requiem for a Favorite Kitty, D Major

Into every young life comes the loss of a favorite pet. This piece is part of the Childhood Miniatures Suite. **John DeRuntz, 1994**

3 Haiku These piano pieces were written as musical representations of three haiku written by Mutsuo Basho. I made no conscious effort to imitate any particular style of Japanese music. Instead, I wanted to create the "feel" of a musical haiku, while also trying to encapsulate the brevity, wit, and emotional depth of the original poems. **Adam Eason**

Snowbound is a late intermediate/early advanced piano piece which musically expresses the feelings of being snowbound. The feelings may be similar to those experienced when quarantined. The world is certainly becoming familiar with this situation (2020). **Jan Mittelstaedt**

MUSIC BOX LULLABY: This piece exploits the treble area of the piano and as well uses cross meters of 3/4 and 6/8. The thumb of the right hand has an inner voice at times. **David Bernstein**

Nomadic Mirage: This music tells a story. Any story is fine, but here is mine: An upset girl wanders around in the desert. The bass line of the music depicts the aimless wandering, also pictured by the sequence in mm. 18 - 20. Gradually, the wanderer becomes aware of a mirage (starting at m. 27). She becomes more and more excited since she views the mirage as a sign that there is purpose in her life. The third part of the music (m. 47 – end) musically traces the wanderer's exit from the desert. She leaves with energy in her step and new plans for her life. **Jan Mittelstaedt**

Rondo Scherzo: This five part rondo was probably inspired by Kabalevsky's *Clowns*. Although the two pieces are very different and would be studied by students at different levels, I have noticed some similarities: In more than one place, there is a changing back and forth from major to minor. Both pieces contain numerous staccatos and jumps to help make them humorous. However, *Rondo Scherzo* is more harmonically complex than *Clowns*. In the key of C Major, the music opens with the first beat on the dominant and also ends on the dominant. It is not until measure 13 that the piece settles, for two beats, on the tonic. **Jan Mittelstaedt**

Taking Flight: This piece is part of a collection of short piano works exploring the minors, the modes, and various other types of scales. This song is about a young creature testing their wings for the first time. At first, they're discouraged and can't figure out how they're ever going to fly. They keep at it though, all day, and eventually they leave the ground, only for a moment, but it's the most exciting moment of their lives. At the end of the day, they collapse on the ground, exhausted, but happy as can be. **Nicholas Yandell**

Ode to a Wanderer: The form of his work is a very clear A-B-A. One will find a polyrhythmic use of eighth notes. The "A" areas are characterized by variations on a harmonic progression and an ostinato is prominent in the A region as well. **David Bernstein**

Rhapsodie: This piece was written for two advanced piano students of mine at the time. It was inspired by the two Brahms Rhapsodies Op.79. **Paul Safar**

STUDENT BIOGRAPHIES

Esme Alves is 8 years old. She has been studying piano with **Paul Safar** since age 5. She plays in a family band called Sibling Revelry and has performed at Holiday and Saturday Markets and the Oregon Country Fair. She also enjoys to sing and dance.

Emmeline Chan, 7, is a first grader at Hope Chinese Charter School. Emmeline has studied piano with **Irene Huang, NCTM** for the past year and a half and completed OMTA syllabus Level I last fall. Her other activities include ballet, tap, and gymnastics. Emmeline enjoys spending time with her family, drawing, baking. She is most proud of her latest invention, a stuffy carrier attachment for her scooter.

Ethan Chang, 13, started taking piano lessons from **Fen-Fang Tsao** when he was six and half years old. He was the winner of numerous OMTA festivals and also plays the violin in PYP's Conservatory Orchestra. He enjoys reading, traveling and spending time with friends and family.

Kyle Chen, age 13. He is an incoming freshman at Lincoln High School. Kyle has been taking lesson from **Irene Huang NCTM** since 6. He has received numerous Outstanding Achievement awards in participating OMTA period festivals since 2013. In his spare time, he likes to ride bike, play tennis, swim, watch Youtube channels.

Michelle Cheng, 11, will start 6th grade in West Sylvan Middle School in the fall. She began her piano study with **Irene Huang, NCTM** when she was 6 years old. Michelle enjoy learning new music, this is her second year participating IGH. Michelle is also a very talented ballet dancer, having started ballet lesson at age 4, and has danced as a soloist in many ballet performance. She loves to read in her spare time.

Audrey Hou, 10, is a fourth grader at Findley Elementary School. She has been studying piano for five and a half years, and is currently studying with **Irene Huang NCTM**. She has participated in multiple OMTA festivals, and received many outstanding achievement awards. She also won many awards and trophies in math competitions, swimming meets and chess tournaments.

Jalynn Hsu, 11, will be attending ISB middle school this Fall. She started piano at age 5 and has studied with **Irene Huang NCTM** since 2018. She has completed level 4 of the OMTA syllabus program. Jalynn also received several Outstanding Achievement awards from OMTA Period festivals. Besides playing the piano, she enjoys reading, playing tennis, and drawing.

Sarah Klausenburger is a 15 year old and lives in Beaverton, Oregon. She just finished her freshman year at Jesuit High School. In addition to piano, she has studied flute for four years and enjoys playing in her school band. In her spare time, she enjoys running. She has enjoyed this opportunity to work with a local composer.

Jamie Hsu, 9, will be in 4th grade at Rock Creek Elementary this Fall. She has been studying piano for 4 years and is currently studies with **Irene Huang NCTM**. She had received many Outstanding Achievement awards in both OMTA period festivals and Ensemble Festivals. She also performed at the State Level Ensemble Performance Recital, with her older sister, Jalynn.

Branden Z. Huang: Age 9, will be in fourth grade at Oak Creek Elementary School in Lake Oswego this fall. He has been studying piano with **Irene Huang NCTM** since 6. He loves to perform and participate both OMTA period festival and JR festival. Branden has swam competitively since age 5 and has received his first silver medal from the state competition during his first year competing.

Jonathan C. Huang: Age 14, is an eighth grader at Lake Oswego Junior High School. He has been studying piano for 7 years, and is currently studying with **Irene Huang NCTM**. He loves to perform on the piano and has received numerous Outstanding Achievement awards in the OMTA period Festivals. Besides piano, Jonathan has swam competitively since age 8.

Mohini Iyer, student of **Betsy Parker**, is 10 years old and just graduated from French Immersion elementary school. She loves to play the piano and cello and also enjoys painting and swimming. She loves animals (especially puppies) and robots. Her favorite composer is J. S. Bach and favorite writer is E.B. White. She is thinking of pursuing a career in architecture.

Yuxuan (Cathy) Jiang, age 10, started piano lessons in Shanghai, China when she was 6. She has been studying with **Irene Huang, NCTM** since 2016. Cathy has participated in many OMTA festivals and received Outstanding Achievement awards. In her spare time, she loves reading, writing, swimming, skiing, tennis, and drawing. She will be in the fifth grade at Jacob Wismer Elementary School in the fall.

Sarah Klausenburger is a 15 year old and lives in Beaverton, Oregon. She just finished her freshman year at Jesuit High School. In addition to piano, she has studied flute for four years and enjoys playing in her school band. In her spare time, she enjoys running. She has enjoyed this opportunity to work with a local composer. She is a student of **Cindy Peterson-Peart, NCTM**.

Elaine Lee, Elaine Lee is a ninth grader at Westview High School in Beaverton. She began her piano study at age seven, with **Irene Huang, NCTM**, and has consistently been awarded in the OMTA period festivals. Besides the piano, Elaine plays the trombone and is a member of her high school band.

Wenjing (Karen) Liu, age 12, will be in 7th grade at Stoller Middle School in Beaverton. She started piano lessons at the age of 10. Karen is currently studying with **Irene Huang, NCTM**. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, listening to music, and play basketball. This is her first year in the In Good Hands Concert, and she's really looking forward to playing.

Noah Peñafiel is 14 years old and likes reading, playing video games, soccer, playing piano, and playing with his dog Moki. He has traveled to Norway and Ecuador and can speak Spanish. He is looking forward to starting High School at Churchill next Fall. He is a student of Paul Safar.

Andrew Pelto will be a Senior at Westview High School in Beaverton this Fall. He has been playing piano for 12 years and trumpet for nearly 8. He also is involved heavily in the band program at Westview, playing trumpet in the wind ensemble, jazz band, and marching band, as well as playing lead trumpet in the Seattle Cascades Drum and Bugle Corps. After he graduates, Andrew intends to pursue a degree in music education and trumpet performance. He is a student of Cindy Peterson-Peart.

Baird Quinn is now officially a senior at South Eugene High School. He has been playing piano for more than eight years and has had Paul Safar as his instructor for the last two. Baird also enjoys playing trombone in his high school jazz band and marimba for Kutsinhira Cultural Arts Center. Aside from music, he enjoys playing card and board games and biking around Eugene. He is excited to perform Rhapsodie and 3 Haiku.

Ethan Raloff, student of Cindy Peterson-Peart NCTM, is twelve years old and will be a 7th grader at Whitford Middle School's Summa program in the fall. When not playing piano or doing homework, he enjoys swimming and reading fantasy novels. "During the summer I mostly just read the whole time", he says.

"My name is **Tyler Raven** and I am 13 years old. I recently learned the piece entitled Snowbound by Jan Mittelstaedt. I learned the piece for part of my syllabus Level 6 exam. I enjoyed learning and performing it. It was awesome to then be able to meet Jan. I was able to play the piece for her and we talked about what the piece was about, what inspired her to write it, and discussed different parts of it.

Fiona Wang is a 14-year-old who has played the piano for 9 years. She enjoys playing the piano because it teaches her about music and it is also a lifelong skill that will impact the rest of her life. In addition, she also participates in robotics, dance, and art. She is a student of Wilma Hawkins.

Thalia Wong is a 5th grader at Findley Elementary School. She started piano in 1st grade, and is grateful for her piano teacher, Irene Huang, for helping her appreciate music while improving her piano skills. Besides piano, she loves theater, drawing, reading, writing, and spending time with her cat.

Chelsie Zhang, 8, will be a third grader at Findley Elementary School. Before turning six, she asked her parents for piano lessons and had been discovering piano world with her Piano teacher, Irene Huang. She also enjoys jazz, country music and singing pops. Besides music, she loves reading, drawing, figure skating, and being a competitive swimmer. She is honored to perform IGH 2020.

COMPOSER BIOGRAPHIES

David Bernstein's music has seen its expression in a wide variety of genres. His concert music ranges from compositions for the theatre and musical theatre to works for dance, opera, orchestra, chorus, band and many varied chamber music ensembles. Since moving to the Portland, Oregon area in 2006, he has been involved with the creation of CASCADIA COMPOSERS, an organization that has performed the music of more than 500 compositions by its 95 plus members.

Daniel Brugh was born and raised in Portland Oregon and began to study music with OMTA member, Ruth Roper. A graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy (1979), Dan studied composition with Doy Baker and, during the summers, with Andrzej Dutkiewicz. Daniel is the recipient of the Close Award in 1984 and earned a Bachelors of Music degree from the University of Oregon where he studied piano with Victor Steinhart and composition with Dr Harold Owen and Dr Derek Healey. After earning his degree, Daniel continued to study composition with Dr Walter Saul. Currently he teaches piano and music composition in Beaverton, Oregon. He is also an active member of Cascadia Composer (see cascadiacomposers.org for more info).

My name is **Alexandra Rose Czyzewicz**. Growing up in the Portland, Oregon area, I spent my childhood studying violin, piano and voice. By the time I was 12 years old I had become obsessed with the idea of writing my own music. At 18 years old I began studying music composition and graduated from Portland State University in 2015. I currently teach private violin, piano, voice, and composition lessons and play weddings and other events. I compose original music in all capacities: for advertising, film, youth music programs, and anywhere else I can get

Dianne Davies, BA in music from Lewis and Clark College with piano emphasis and K-12 music education certification, has taught public and private school music and currently focuses on her private piano studio, performing and her family. In February of 2016, she created her own show titled Attachments & Detachments

Tragedy to Triumph combining the music of Cascadia Composers with dance, live art and theatre to tell her own transparent story. Simultaneously, she created her comedy show titled, Dianne Davies has Fallen off her Bench. It is classically funny with traces of Victor Borge, Carol Burnett, Liberace, Igudesman & Joo and P.D.Q. Bach, including “Soleful” playing with her feet to performing upside down and backwards. A new facet in her musical life is composing. She has been under the mentorship of Lisa Ann Marsh since 2016.

Adam Eason graduated from Southern Methodist University in 2008, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Music. He then taught and freelanced in the Greater Dallas area until moving to Portland in 2017. Currently, he teaches both privately and as a cello instructor at Cedarwood Waldorf School and composes music for students, professionals, and amateurs. He also blogs about composers around the globe, and produces videos for YouTube.

John DeRuntz has written roughly 90 pieces for solo piano in Classical, Romantic and Impressionistic styles. Fifty of his works appear on four albums, Soaring, Fantasia, Reverie and Encore. In May, 2011 he competed in the Sixth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs in Fort Worth, Texas. To listen to some of his music you may visit the web site: <http://www.theunknowncomposer.com>

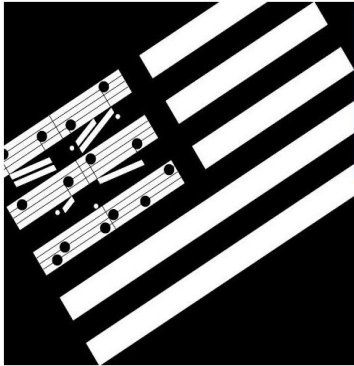
Jan Mittelstaedt holds a B.S. in education, Bucknell University, B.A. in music, Marylhurst University and M.M. in composition from The University of Portland. She participated in the Ernest Bloch Composers Symposium in 1993, was the 1994 Oregon Music Teachers Association (OMTA) Composer of the Year, has published piano music with piano pieces in two NFMC Junior Festival bulletins, and was a 2020 American Prize semi-finalist in vocal chamber music. A teacher of piano and composition, Jan received an Honorary State Membership (2017) award from OMTA. She is past president of Cascadia Composers and remains on the board of directors. www.sintsink.com.

Portland, Oregon composer and mezzo-soprano **Lisa Neher** writes theatrical, story-driven music for instruments and voices. Trained as a stage actress, her compositions are shaped by her keen sense of dramatic timing and feature aching, lyrical phrases, energetic rhythmic motives, and intense harmonies. She often draws inspiration for her works from the natural world, suggesting the joyous bubbling of streams, the delicacy of sprouting plants, and the eerie mystery of deep ocean life with evocative timbres and vivid motives. She spends her free time distance running and baking delicious treats involving copious amounts of chocolate. For more information, visit her website, www.lisanehermusic.com.

Timothy Arliss OBrien is an interdisciplinary artist in music composition, writing, and visual arts. He has premiered music with The Astoria Music Festival, Cascadia Composers, Sound of Late’s 48 hour Composition Competition and ENAensemble’s Serial Opera Project. He has published several novels (Dear God I’m a Faggot, They), and has written for Look Up Records (Seattle), Our Bible App, and Deep Overstock: The Bookseller’s Journal. He has also combined his passion for poetry with his love of publishing and curates the podcast The Poet Heroic. Check out more of his writing, and his full discography at his website: www.timothyarlissobrien.com

Paul Safar is a versatile composer/performer and private piano instructor living and working in Eugene, Oregon. A member of the board of Cascadia Composers (NACUSA), he performs regularly and thrives on collaborative projects. Paul was the Oregon Music Teachers Association Composer of The Year for 2013-14. His music has been from New York and Seattle to Havana and Fairbanks. Having a background in both classical and jazz/rock, one of Paul’s goals is to coherently combine these influences in his compositions. When not engaged in musical activities, he might be seen hiking, backpacking, traveling or spending time with his family. For more information, visit www.paulsafar.com

Born July 24th, 1982 in Boise, Idaho, **Nicholas Yandell** received a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Music Composition at Five Towns College and eventually settled in Portland, Oregon. While educated at a jazz-based music school, he also played in emo, bluegrass, electronic, and post-rock bands, and eventually fell totally in love with classical composition. He's had works performed by groups such as 45th Parallel and the Delgani String Quartet and has been named Composer of the Year for 2020 by the Oregon Music Teachers Association (OMTA). Check out more of his music at www.nicholasyandell.com and thanks for listening!



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