

University of Louisville: New Music Festival

NouLou Chamber Players



Kathy Karr, flute
Marilyn Nije, clarinet
Ernie Gross, bass clarinet
Laura De St. Croix, viola
Cecilia Huerta-Lauf, cello
Christopher Brody, piano
Michael Launius, percussion
Laura Atkinson, voice
Gabriel Lefkowitz, conductor



Monday, November 8, 2021
Comstock Concert Hall
8:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

Arrival (2020)

Thaddaeus Maurice Harris

phosphine shrouds her now (2021)

Tanner Jones

Universal Thoughts (2021)

Isaac Smith

Think on These Things (2021)

Benjamin Carter

Relay (2021)

Rron Karahoda

PROGRAM NOTES

HARRIS - ARRIVAL (2020)

“Arrival” is a sextet I composed for the NouLou Chamber players. It will be the first non-electronic piece I have ever performed, my arrival piece you could say, hence the title. When composing a piece, I always take into consideration the form of the piece and the tonal center. You will hear throughout this piece that I truly do love tonality; however, I wanted to explore composing without a predetermined form. Having a melody or motif for a section, and then transitioning into a completely different one, without the two correlating whatsoever. Writing just to write and moving on from a section essentially either when I was finished writing in a certain key or was finished playing with a certain idea. This piece helped me realize how much I do enjoy composing with the form of the piece in mind, and that composing without a predetermined form is a form in and of itself.

JONES - PHOSPHINE SHROUDS HER NOW (2021)

phosphine shrouds her now is an exploration of dichotomies, the contrast within them, and the interplay and symbiosis therein. The title refers to such a dichotomy; the recent discovery (and rebuttal) that the toxic gas phosphine exists in the atmosphere of Venus and the mythos of Roman goddess of love, beauty, and fertility, Venus.

SMITH - UNIVERSAL THOUGHTS (2021)

I have recently become fascinated by the idea of non-linearity. The concept of interrupting a direct storyline and then returning to it later offers countless artistic opportunities that can deeply convey feelings or beliefs without bluntly stating them to the audience. With this in mind, I began thinking about how this could be applied in music in my listening and my composition.

Universal Thoughts (2021)

Universal Thoughts is an attempt to utilize the ideas of multiple storylines and non-linear development in a short chamber work. The project began by drawing out the similar themes and features in five poems by Carl Sandburg and Walt Whitman and arranging them into a nested structure. Within and around this structure, I could develop my concepts and allow the texts to interact with each other in ways that were not always direct or linear. Further reflecting this idea are the interaction of different sound worlds developed within the piece, and the relationships between the ensemble and performers themselves. The piece draws its inspiration from the texts, but I hope that in turn, the music can bring new appreciation for these texts for all who hear it.

PROGRAM NOTES

CARTER - THINK ON THESE THINGS (2021)

Composition at its core is a remarkable act of human vulnerability. The composer decides that ideas they conceive of are meaningful enough to craft into a new work of art, and then they release it to you, the unknown audience. From person to person, the audience members can develop a wide variety of meanings from a piece based on their listening expectations, personal preferences, and even their mood. This piece contains a wide variety of harmonic material, rhythmic textures, melodic motifs, any of which could have any number of possible interpretations. As you're listening, how do certain sounds make you feel? As your mind wanders, are you reminded of any current events? Are you reminded of any personal memories? Are there any patterns you're able to track in the music? In the rich canvas of your mind, what do you, the listener, make of the music presented to you? Think on these things...

KARAHODA - RELAY (2021)

Relay is a collection of distress transmissions and personal logs received from an astronaut in deep space, following a failed experiment with dark matter.

-Incoming Transmissions-

“Come in, I repeat, this is relay station Sigma requesting immediate assistance.”

Mom, Dad, you always liked to say,
these was nothing in the world
like having nails purled with earthy clay
or seeing sweet morning glories unfurled.

“Five, ten, twenty, thirty, thirty-six, forty-three.
Readings seem nominal so far”

PROGRAM NOTES

“This is my fifth broadcast, maybe my last.
I am running out of air!”

I thought if I was more like you,
then I'd be happy some day.
Nothing else I'd thought to do
'till the stars called
“Come now! Don't delay!”

“Experiment aborted, brought on by cascading errors.”

“Dark matter containment failed,
attempting external reset.”

Do you remember your hands on our flight to the Nepal,
searching for a semblance of land?
You prayed for me,
I promised I'd call.

“Mom? Dad? Is that you?”

“Can you hear me?”

“I'm sorry!”

“Please, someone hear me!”

“Computer, call home!”

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

NOULOU CHAMBER PLAYERS

NouLou Chamber Players is a vibrant chamber ensemble, launched in 2016 and co-directed by Laura De St. Croix and Cecilia Huerta-Lauf, that brings together Louisville's elite classical musicians, to provide the community with exceptional music making outside of the traditional concert hall. Our salon style, of performing in intimate settings, is reminiscent of the way chamber music was enjoyed centuries ago but with our own fresh take and modern flair. Although the group's first love is chamber music of the traditional classical repertoire, NouLou Chamber Players embrace Louisville's enthusiasm for new music. In April 2019 they commissioned and gave the world premiere of three new cello concerti by Dorian Wallace, Alyssa Weinberg & Lev "Ljova" Zhurbin with soloist & Louisville Orchestra Principal Cellist Nicholas Finch and Kansas City Symphony Associate Conductor Jason Seber. NouLou Chamber Players is thrilled to be working with the fine student composers at the University of Louisville and to premiere their compositions.



THADDAEUS MAURICE HARRIS

I am Thaddaeus Harris, and I was born in Louisville, Kentucky. My primary instrument is percussion and I have been playing since the 7th grade. I started composing my sophomore year of college, in the fall of 2019. My fascination with movie music is what got me into composition, as I hope to someday compose music for films.

BENJAMIN CARTER

Benjamin Carter (b. 2000) is a composer, pianist, and vocalist who is currently pursuing a B.M. in Music Composition at the University of Louisville. A native of Bowling Green, Kentucky, Benjamin is also an alumnus of both the Governor's School for the Arts and the Governor's Scholars Program. At the University of Louisville, Benjamin studies composition, piano, and sings in the Collegiate Chorale and Cardinal Singers, both under the direction of Dr. Kent Hatteberg. Benjamin is also a member of the Brown Fellows Program, a prestigious academic scholarship program dedicated to attracting and retaining bright, passionate minds for the betterment of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Upon completion of his B.M. in Music Composition, Benjamin plans to attain an M.M. and a D.M.A. in Choral Conducting, eventually working as a university-level choir director while maintaining an active composition career.

TANNER JONES

Tanner Jones (b. 1998) composes music that explores interplay, freedom, and texture. His music has been performed and recorded by the Murray State University Concert Choir and Brass Choir, violinist Sue-Jean Park, and the University of Louisville Orchestra Strings, with upcoming premieres by soprano Kelsey Blanco (with the Murray State University Chamber Winds) and the NouLou Chamber Players. He is the winner of the KMEA Collegiate Composer Competition, and his music has been presented at the NSEME conference.

Tanner holds a Bachelor of Music degree in music composition from Murray State University, where he studied with Mike D'Ambrosio, Steven Weimer, and Ash Stemke. He is currently pursuing his Master of Music degree in music composition from the University of Louisville, where he studies with Allison Ogden and Krzysztof Wołek. A passionate educator, Tanner is an instructor of music theory at UofL.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

ISAAC SMITH

Isaac Raymond Smith (b. 1998) currently studies at the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky, pursuing a master's degree in music composition as the recipient of the Bomhard Fellowship for 2020-2022, where his teachers include Krzysztof Wolek and Steve Rouse. In May of 2020, he graduated summa cum laude from the University of Northern Iowa with a BM in composition and theory, and a minor in jazz studies. His private instructors at UNI included Rebecca Burkhardt, Nancy Hill Cobb, Jonathan Schwabe, and Daniel Swilley, and he also studied privately with Harvey Sollberger.

Isaac's compositions include works for woodwind, brass, and mixed chamber groups, as well as pieces for solo piano, electronics, and orchestra. He is the winner of the 2020 National Federation of Music Clubs Marion Richter Award, the 2019 Iowa Composers Forum Student Composition Competition, and the 2019 UNI percussion student composers' competition. He also placed third in the 2019 National Association of Composers/USA Composers' Contest. Isaac's music has been performed at the 2019 Society of Composers', Inc. Region VI Conference, the 2019 International Tuba and Euphonium Conference, and the Spotlight Competition Finals at UNI. In 2019, he was accepted to the Atlantic Music Festival, held at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. Isaac is a member of the Society of Composers, Incorporated; Broadcast Music, Incorporated; the Iowa Composers Forum; and Phi Mu Alpha, Sinfonia (alumnus).

RRON KARAHODA

Rron Karahoda (b. 1992) is a composer from Brooklyn, NY, and based in Louisville, KY.

Karahoda's music is centered around telling stories that invites audiences of all backgrounds to re-interpret who they are today, by looking at who we have been in the past, and who we could be in the future. His works have been performed by the Da Capo Chamber Players, the Louisville Civic Orchestra, and the Nou Lou Chamber Players, written about in publications including *Hyperallergic* and *the Village Voice*, and appeared at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Karahoda completed his undergraduate degree at Bard College and is currently pursuing a master's degree in music composition at the University of Louisville under Dr. Allison Ogden. His past teachers include Dr. Steve Rouse, Dr. Kyle Gann, Dr. Joan Tower, and Alisher Latif-Zade.

PROGRAM

Welcome to the University of Louisville!
We hope you enjoy the concert this evening.

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In the unlikely event of a fire or other emergency, please walk to the nearest exit.

› The use of recording devices and flash photography is strictly prohibited.

› Please silence cell phones & other electronic devices.

Thank you.



UPCOMING EVENTS

All events are held at the School of Music on the University of Louisville Belknap Campus and are free and open to the public, unless otherwise noted.

Events are subject to change. Scan the code below for a full list.



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