

CU ★ PRESENTS

2021-22 Season



College of Music  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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## CU Presents

### Digital Program

*Spring 2022*

#### Editors

Sabine Kortals Stein

Becca Vaclavik

#### Designer

Sabrina Green

#### Photography

CU Boulder Photography

## AT THE PERFORMANCE

- Please refrain from using electronic devices during the performance. Feel free to view this program on your device at any time prior to the performance, during intermission or after the performance ends.
- Photography and video recordings of any type are strictly prohibited during the performance.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere. CU Boulder is a smoke-free campus.

**CU ★ PRESENTS** is the home of performing arts at the University of Colorado Boulder.



The mission of the **University of Colorado Boulder College of Music** is to inspire artistry and discovery, together.



*The College of Music acknowledges that the university sits upon land within the territories of the Ute, Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples. Further, we acknowledge that 48 contemporary tribal nations are historically tied to Colorado lands.*

# Guest Artist Recital:

## Music for Speaking Pianist

Brendan Kinsella, piano

March 14, 2022

S102

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### **Balladen, op. 122 (1852)**

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

- I. Ballade von Haideknaben
- II. Die Flüchtlinge

### **Prayer's Mask (2003)**

Gao Ping (b. 1970)

### **Ursonate (1922-1923)**

Kurt Schwitters (1887-1948)

- I. Introducción—Primera parte

### **SAD! (2017)**

Brendan Kinsella (b. 1980)

### **—Intermission—**

### **De Profundis (1992)**

Frederic Rzewski (1938-2021)



# About the performer

Described as a “sensitive musician with an ear for color” by the Cincinnati *Enquirer*, pianist **Brendan Kinsella**’s recent concert engagements have taken him to New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, Dallas, Holland, Italy, and other cities throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. He earned his Bachelor (with honors) and Master of Music degrees at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music as a pupil of Frank Weinstock (with additional coaching from James Tocco and Kenneth Griffiths) and in 2008 received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City as a student of Robert Weirich. In master classes, he has performed for artists such as Christopher Elton, Susan Graham, Martin Katz, Ani Kavafian, Anne-Akiko Meyers, Frederic Rzewski, Andre-Michel Schub, Peter Serkin, David Shifrin, Midori and the Takács Quartet. He completed his training as a Solo Piano Fellow at the Music Academy of the West, working under the guidance of Jerome Lowenthal, professor of piano at the Juilliard School. In 2010, he debuted as a soloist in Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall and was a featured concerto soloist at the prestigious Midwest Clinic in Chicago.

Kinsella has appeared in concerti ranging from Beethoven to Brahms to Barber with the Kentucky Symphony, the Jefferson City Symphony, the CCM Chamber and Concert Orchestras, the UMKC Conservatory Orchestra, and the UMKC Wind Symphony in collaboration with conductors Xian Zhang, Steve Davis and Robert Olson. As a collaborative pianist, he has performed both as an orchestral pianist and in duo-recitals with members of the New World Symphony, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, the Omaha Symphony, the Dayton Philharmonic, the Kansas City Symphony and Lyric Opera, and in recital with artists such as Benny Kim, Carter Enyeart, Daniel Saenz, and his wife, Shoko. From 2010-2012, he coached and performed as a Guest Artist in Collaborative Piano at the soundSCAPE Composition Festival in Maccagno, Italy and additionally served as an Artist-Teacher of Piano at the Maccagno Piano Days Festival in 2015 and 2016.

A noted interpreter of all things dissonant, Kinsella’s all-contemporary recitals featuring the works of living masters and emerging voices have garnered wide

acclaim. Of a performance of Rzewski's *De Profundis* in Montecito, the Santa Barbara *Daily Sound* remarked that "Kinsella's performance was truly astonishing, as he missed nary a beat nor tripped over any words. The sense of terror, misery, despair, disdain, and righteous anger was palpable, and the essay is ultimately life-affirming if horrifying ... I'm glad to have heard it, especially by such a passionate and gifted pianist who clearly believed in his mission." The Kansas City *Star* declared that his performances of George Crumb's chamber repertoire were "marvelous ... he displayed convincing tonal colors, impressive technique, and incisive rhythms." Utrecht's *Le Bon Journal* described a 2011 solo recital of Beethoven, Rzewski, Liszt and Poulenc as characterized by the "indestructible force and optimism that Americans can radiate proverbially." In 2014, his national concert tour of Rzewski's *The People United Will Never Be Defeated!* was the subject of a full-length profile article in the Houston Chronicle and a corresponding radio interview on Houston Public Media.

Among Kinsella's experiences as a lecturer and visiting artist at festivals and universities include engagements at the University of Washington School of Music, the Texas A&M Contemporary Music Festival, the 2013 International Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Thought, the 2011 College Music Society South Central Conference, the Cal State Fullerton New Music Festival, the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Music, the SUNY Fredonia School of Music, the University of Iowa School of Music, and many others. His seminar topics have included lectures on keyboard music of the Italian Renaissance, recent developments in avant-garde American music, the influence of Greek philosophy on Olivier Messiaen's piano music, and studies on the evolving role of the collaborative pianist in selected chamber repertoire. *American Music Teacher* published his essay on alternative learning strategies in its "This and That" Column of the June/July 2017 issue.

A dedicated teacher, Kinsella presently serves as associate professor of piano and piano area coordinator at the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, where he teaches applied piano, chamber music, piano pedagogy and piano literature. Members of his select studio of graduate and undergraduate pianists regularly participate in prestigious national and international summer festivals, perform in master classes for distinguished artists (such as Jerome Lowenthal, David

Korevaar and Sean Chen), present their scholarly research at professional conferences, and gain admittance to prestigious master's and doctoral programs nationwide. Before joining the faculty at UTRGV, he was as a member of the piano area at Missouri Western State University and held graduate assistantships in piano and collaborative piano at CCM and UMKC.

Born 1980 in Cincinnati, Ohio, Kinsella began playing the piano at age 11 and made his concerto debut at 15. A live recording of his performance of Messiaen's *Oiseaux Exotiques* at the Midwest Clinic is commercially available from the MarkRecords label, and his recording of Narong Prangcharoen's chamber music was released on Albany records in 2012 to favorable reviews. His recent and upcoming engagements include performances of concerti by Bach, Beethoven and Grieg; a series of outreach and recruitment concerts throughout Texas with his collegiate studio; and nationwide performances of Bach's complete *Well-Tempered Clavier, Book I*.

# CU ★ PRESENTS



## Upcoming events at the College of Music

*Event details are subject to change, but the CU Presents website will always be up-to-date.*

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College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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*As of Jan. 10, 2022*

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Matthew Roeder

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### Assistant Dean for Concerts and Communications

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### Assistant Dean for Budget and Finance

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