

CU ★ PRESENTS

2021-22 Season



College of Music
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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Spring 2022

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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.

Fifth Annual Distinguished Lectureship in Music, Diversity and Inclusion

Gabriela Lena Frank

Composer, Pianist

Founder and Director, Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy

3:30 p.m., Thursday, March 17, 2022

Grusin Music Hall

With reverence for the past while yet more for the future, this conversation with Peruvian-American composer/pianist Gabriela Lena Frank will offer insights on creating the 21st-century musician.



About Gabriela Lena Frank

Born in Berkeley, California (September 1972) to a mother of mixed Peruvian/Chinese ancestry and a father of Lithuanian/Jewish descent, **Gabriela Lena Frank** explores her multicultural heritage through her compositions.

Inspired by the works of Bela Bartók and Alberto Ginastera, Frank has traveled extensively throughout South America in creative exploration. Her music often reflects not only her own personal experience as a multiracial Latina, but also refract her studies of Latin American cultures, incorporating poetry, mythology and native musical styles into a western classical framework that is uniquely her own.

Moreover, she writes, “There’s usually a storyline behind my music; a scenario or character.”

While the enjoyment of her works can be obtained solely from her music, the composer’s program notes enhance the listener’s experience, describing how a piano part mimics a marimba or pan-pipes, or how a movement is based on a particular type of folk song where the singer is mockingly crying. Even a brief glance at her titles evokes specific imagery: *Leyendas (Legends): An Andean Walkabout*; *La Llorona (The Crying Woman): Tone Poem for Viola and Orchestra*; and *Concertino Cusqueño (Concertino in the Cusco style)*.

Frank's compositions also reflect her virtuosity as a pianist—when not composing, she is a sought-after performer, specializing in contemporary repertoire.

In 2020, Frank was a recipient of the prestigious **25th anniversary Heinz Award** in the Arts and Humanity category with an unrestricted cash prize of \$250,000, a meaningful portion of which was donated by Frank to the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music (GLFCAM). The award recognized Frank for breaking gender, disability and cultural barriers in the classical music industry, and for her work as an activist on behalf of emerging composers of all demographics and aesthetics.

Winner of a Latin Grammy and nominated for Grammys as both composer and pianist, Frank also holds a Guggenheim Fellowship and a USA Artist Fellowship given each year to 50 of the country's finest artists. Her work has been described as “crafted with unself-conscious mastery” (Washington Post), “brilliantly effective” (New York Times), “a knockout” (Chicago Tribune) and “glorious” (Los Angeles Times). Frank is regularly commissioned by luminaries such as cellist Yo-Yo Ma, soprano Dawn Upshaw, the King's Singers, the Cuarteto Latinoamericano with guitarist Manuel Barrueco, Brooklyn Rider, and conductors Marin Alsop and Yannick Nézet-Séguin. She has also received

orchestral commissions and performances from leading American orchestras including the Chicago Symphony, the Boston Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony.

Civic outreach is an essential part of Frank's work. She has volunteered extensively in hospitals and prisons, with her current focus on developing the music school program at Anderson Valley High School, a rural public school of modest means with a large Latino population in Boonville, California.

Frank is also a climate activist, co-authoring a regular column on climate action within the music industry for **Chamber Music America Magazine** and creating a **Climate Commitment** for the **GLFCAM**, which she founded in 2017. Learn more about the award-winning academy's **history** and **mission**.

Frank attended Rice University in Houston, Texas, where she earned a bachelor's degree (1994) and a master's degree (1996). She studied composition with Sam Jones and piano with Jeanne Kierman Fischer. At the University of Michigan, where she received a doctorate in composition (2001), Frank studied with William Albright, William Bolcom,

Leslie Bassett and Michael Daugherty, and piano with Logan Skelton. She currently resides in Boonville, a small rural town in the Anderson Valley, with her husband Jeremy, has a second home in her native Berkeley in the San Francisco Bay area and has traveled extensively in Andean South America.

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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UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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