

CU★PRESENTS

2022-23 Season



College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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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.



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SoundWorks

Egemen Kesikli, artistic director

Annika Socolofsky, faculty coach

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023

ATLAS BlackBox Theatre

Program

Selected Works (20:00)

Melody McKiver

Melody McKiver, electric viola, vocals and live electronics

Motion in Stillness (7:00)

Josie Arnett (2022 SPARK Award Winner)

Ilan Blanck, electric guitar

Josie Arnett, live electronics

64-Bit Competition Finalists

—Intermission—

The Creator's Hobbies (12:00)

Jessie Lausé (2022 SPARK Award Winner)

~Nois: Hunter Bockes, János Csontos, Jordan Lulloff and Julian Velasco, saxophones

Jessie Lausé, live electronics

Content warning: firearms

Business meeting (in an unmarked grave) (5:00)

Rain Michael

- I. Business Meeting
- II. Toddler Toddle

~Nois

Broken Through (11:00)

Ilan Blanck

~Nois

Ilan Blanck, live electronics

Boomerang (10:00)

Blake Clawson

~Nois

Winners of the 64-Bit Competition

Program notes

Motion in Stillness (7:00)

Josie Arnett (2022 SPARK Award Winner)

Motion in Stillness was commissioned for the CU Boulder 2022 Undergraduate SPARK award. This piece centers around ideas of constant motion within stillness. It uses extended techniques on the electric guitar as well as looping and several other effects to create layered sounds that contrast between rich, lush sounds and gritty, granular sounds.

The Creator's Hobbies (12:00)

Jessie Lausé (2022 SPARK Award Winner)

This is a piece about playing God. It is a study on taking and relinquishing control, a study on coping. Each and every one of us has hobbies with which we pass time, express ourselves, relieve stress and add layers to our personhood. For some hobbyists, the symbols that characterize their favorite activities can be dangerous, be it knitting needles, high heels, golf balls, firearms or frying pans. In the town where I grew up, firearms were a popular collectible and just about everyone went hunting on the weekends.

Over time, I've learned that culture can shape policy and policy really shapes culture. None of my friends with deer mounted on their walls would dare put me or anyone in harm's way, and for that reason I believe in their right to practice their hobbies. After all, our hobbies are part of what makes us who we are. However, when a collectible is protected by law, it means that anyone can collect it. Conversely, androgyny and gender performance are not protected by law, and whether it's on stage or on the street, those who embody it are not safe. I can't help but think that there's a better compromise to be made so that my friends can keep their weekend pastimes and I can keep mine. For now, I am exploring a new hobby and the messages it sends. In this work, the performers will endure chaos by carving out the strongest components of their identities. If and when musical or extra-musical normality disintegrates, those who are ill-equipped to cope may take control at all costs.

Boomerang (10:00)

Blake Clawson

Boomerang explores a few motives through a variety of fast-paced grooves. Like its namesake, the piece ends near where it began, but travels quite a distance in the interim. *Boomerang* was named after my fiancée's childhood cat, who passed away in January 2023. Though the piece wasn't written about Boomer, it certainly exhibits some of his spunk.

Personnel

Text that is bold and underlined is a hyperlink and can be clicked or tapped for more information.

Egemen Kesikli, artistic director

Annika Socolofsky, faculty coach

Josie Arnett

Josie Arnett is a composer, pianist, singer and overall instrument enthusiast. She grew up playing a variety of instruments including piano, upright and electric bass, ukulele, banjo, cello, guitar and any other instrument she could get her hands on. Arnett started piano lessons at 5 years old and grew up around the music of Bruce Hornsby, Billy Joel, Herbie Hancock and many romantic and impressionist era composers. Because of her love of instruments, she has written for a variety of ensembles and experimented with several instruments used outside of their traditional context. Arnett's compositions have been described as "colorful and deeply expressive". Her music often centers around the emotional gesture of the music in order to encourage the audience to connect with the music on an emotional level. Several of her pieces focus on making the piece fun for the performers or fun for the audience to hear or participate in. Arnett's music often expands outside of traditional musical contexts by incorporating fields such as psychology, visual art, film and nature into her music. She is currently based in Boulder, Colorado, where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in composition and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Ilan Blanck

Ilan Blanck is a composer and guitarist currently based in Boulder, Colorado. As a music maker, he has written and arranged for all kinds of projects, including flute choirs, love-sick singer-songwriters, saxophone quartets, orchestras, podcasts and a lot of bands. As a guitarist, he has appeared on more than a dozen albums of original music, sharing the stage with acts from Guster and Here Come the Mummies to eighth blackbird and Charlie Parr. An experienced teacher, Blanck has presented educational workshops with partner organizations like Carnegie Hall, Minnesota Public Radio and the Mile of Music Music Education Team. He works as assistant to Minneapolis' super-producer Lazerbeak (Lizzo, Doja Cat, Doomtree), and is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in composition at CU Boulder where he teaches undergraduate introduction to music technology.

Blake Clawson

Blake Clawson is a composer, pianist and vocalist based in Boulder, Colorado. Clawson's music spans many genres, but he specializes in contemporary classical and jazz. He has collaborated with both filmmakers and choreographers, and his award-winning pieces *Matara* and *Fantasy Arabesque* have received performances around the state of Washington, including a performance and award by Seattle-based Opus 7 Vocal Ensemble. In 2020, Clawson received a Bachelor of Arts in composition from Whitworth University, where he studied with Brent Edstrom. Clawson is currently pursuing a master's in composition at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he teaches aural skills and studies with Carter Pann.

Jessie Lausé

Jessie Lausé is a composer, performer and educator with a passion for creating diversified sensory engagement within their music. Lausé is originally from central Kentucky and holds a bachelor's degree in arts administration from Butler University in Indianapolis. Lausé is currently pursuing a master's in music composition at the University of Colorado Boulder where they teach music technology and have studied with Annika Socolofsky and Michael Theodore. Most recently, Lausé's work has been featured at the 2022 Lake George Music

Festival, the Eugene Difficult Music Ensemble's 2022 New Music Festival and in Musicworks Magazine as Second Prize winner for their 2021 Electronic Music Composition Contest. When not composing, Lausé spends their free time playing board games and watching RuPaul's Drag Race with their cats, Gubaidulina and Mr. Bear.

Melody McKiver

Melody McKiver's (they/them) musical work integrates electronics with Western classical music to shape a new genre of Anishinaabe compositions. A proud member of Obishikokaang Lac Seul First Nation, McKiver is currently assistant professor of Indigenous music, tenure-track, with the Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba and a member of the Mizi'iwe Aana Kwat (LGBTQ2S+ Council) within the Anishinaabe Nation of Treaty #3. They are the 2020 recipient of the Canada Council's Robert Flaming Prize, awarded annually to an exceptionally talented young Canadian composer, and a recurring invited participant in the Banff Centre for the Arts' Indigenous Classical Music gatherings.

A frequent performer across Turtle Island, McKiver has performed at the National Arts Centre, Luminato Festival, Vancouver's Western Front and the Toronto International Film Festival. They have shared stages with Polaris Prize winners Lido Pimienta, Tanya Tagaq and Jeremy Dutcher, and performed with acclaimed filmmaker and musician Alanis Obomsawin. As a composer, McKiver has a growing body of chamber and choral works. Notably, they were commissioned by Soundstreams and Jumblies Theatre to compose *Odaabaanag*, a string quartet responding to Steve Reich's *Different Trains*, drawing on interviews conducted with Anishinaabe elders. McKiver has scored several films and was invited to the Berlinale Talents Sound Studio as a music and composition mentor for the 2020 Berlin International Film Festival. Additional commissions have included Cluster Festival, Marina Thibeault, Duo AIRS, Brandon University, Megumi Masaki, Carnegie Mellon University and TORQ Percussion with the Elora Singers. Upcoming projects include a setting of Métis author Katherena Vermette's poem river woman for the Elora Singers and TORQ Percussion Quartet, and a full-length album in 2023. McKiver holds an MA in Ethnomusicology from Memorial University and a BFA in Music and Indigenous Studies from York University.

Rain Michael

A native of Colorado, Rain Michael is a multi-instrumentalist and composer. Michael began taking piano lessons before the age of 4 and has since picked up more than a dozen instruments, both classical and of foreign traditions. They have performed with jazz, wind, orchestral and marching ensembles, all of which have served to cultivate a passion for composition. Michael is currently pursuing a BM in composition, a BA in psychology, a minor in linguistics and a certificate in cognitive science at CU Boulder, which influence both their compositions and interest in the subjective, psychological experiences involved in music performance.

~Nois

Founded in 2016, ~Nois (pronounced “noise”) has become one of the premier ensembles in the United States by combining contemporary chamber music and improvisation to connect with audiences in unique concert experiences. Heralded as “fiendishly good” (Chicago Tribune) and known for their “supremely sensitive balance and control” (Chicago Classical Review), ~Nois has been awarded top prizes at prestigious chamber music competitions including the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and the M-Prize International Arts Competition.

Since their founding, ~Nois has presented more than 100 performances in 22 states. In addition to their regular concert season in Chicago, ~Nois has performed on festivals and series such as Big Ears, LONG PLAY, the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, and the University of Chicago Presents Series. In addition, ~Nois is in demand as a guest artist and lecturer at universities across the nation having held residencies and given performances at over 35 institutions including University of Southern California, the University of Colorado Boulder, the Manhattan School of Music and Princeton University. During the 2022/23 season, ~Nois has been appointed as an Entrepreneurial Musical Artist in Residence at Michigan State University alongside Imani Winds and Damien Sneed.

Dedicated to expanding and redefining the saxophone quartet repertoire, ~Nois has premiered more than 60 works including compositions by Gaudeamus

Prize winners Kelley Sheehan and Annika Socolofsky as well as 2018 Guggenheim Fellow Tonia Ko. ~Nois' recent commission, *I Tell You Me* by Annika Socolofsky was called "grotesquely gorgeous" by the Chicago Tribune and the premiere performance was included in their list of "Chicago's Top 10 moments in classical music, opera, and jazz that defined 2021."

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. Click or tap each button to explore upcoming events.

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