

# CU ★ PRESENTS

2022-23 Season



College of Music  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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**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.



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# SoundWorks

## Colors

Egemen Kesikli, artistic director

Annika Socolofsky, faculty coach

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 26, 2023

S102 Chamber Hall

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## Program

### **Love Letter from a Sinking Ship (20:00)**

Abby Kellems, music

Erika Osborne, visual arts

*Er-Hsuan Li, piano*

*Gavin Kitchen, percussion*

*Elan Rochelle-Share, percussion*

*Victor Avila Luvsangenden, violin*

*Jordan Grantonic, violin*

*Chloe Ehrmantraut, viola*

*Peyton Magalhaes, cello*

*Jessie Lausé, electronics*

### **A Bird or Two (6:00)**

Josie Arnett

*Greg Barth, saxophone*

*Josie Arnett, piano*

### **How the Heart Aches (3:00)**

Keenan Powell

*Renova New Music Ensemble*

*Jessie Flasschoen, conductor*

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## **Six Dances for Wind Quintet (20:00)**

Blake Clawson

- I. Square Dance (United States)
- II. Tinikling (Philippines)
- III. Halling (Norway)
- IV. Kopanitsa (Bulgaria)
- V. Tango (Argentina)
- VI. Céilí (Ireland)

*Andrea Kloehn, flute*

*Lisa Read, oboe*

*Mark Bernard, clarinet*

*Michael Sgrecci, horn*

*Sam Macken, bassoon*

### **— Intermission —**

## **A Tactile Rainbow (10:00)**

Isabel Goodwin

- I. Red: Life
- II. Clementines (Nature's Little Gift)
- III. Fool's Gold
- IV. everything is grey
- V. frogs!
- VI. Indigo Fields
- VII. Violet (and so it goes)

*Joeli Schilling, Sam Nixon, Nova Rognerud and Lexi Nigro, flutes*

## **Codependent Cactus (3:00)**

Indigo Farmer

*Indigo Farmer and Isabel Goodwin, performers*

## **Interaction Reaction Etude No. 1: for Eliot (10:00)**

Jessie Lausé

*Steph Parnes, visual artist*

*Jessie Lausé, electronics*

## **The King (Acoustic) (3:00)**

Josh Maynard

*Josh Maynard, voice and guitar*

## **Improvisation on Location (10:00)**

Plein Air Sound Collective

*Abby Kellems, piano*

*Jessie Lausé, electronics*

*Gavin Kitchen, percussion*

*Veda Hingert-McDonald, violin*

# Program notes

## **Love Letter from a Sinking Ship (20:00)**

*Abby Kellems, music*

*Erika Osborne, visual arts*

Love Letter from a Sinking Ship is based on four paintings from Colorado artist Erika Osborne from a series called Floaters and Focal Points. In Erika's words:

“Pessimism and hope travel together.

When I am in red rock country, I sit enamored with the beauty in front of me. Then it happens... somewhere in the back of my mind, a newspaper article or Facebook post surfaces that reveals the oil and gas drilling operation being proposed for that very area. The thought taints my experience with the desert view. I can't see it without it being obscured by politics, ecologic crisis, and cultural complacency. These floaters distract me. They are ever present. They are blinding.

Sick of the floaters, I look for a cure. I make a conscious choice to hear the words, perform the actions and appreciate the beauty that makes me believe (even for just a few seconds) in humanity and in nature's ability to heal. Focusing-in takes effort and requires discipline. But I do it because I have skin in the game – literally. The sheer will that arises from giving birth has sharpened my focus and challenged my view.”

—*Erika Osborne*

The paintings that inspired this suite are about looking at the difficult realities of climate change and finding redemption. Each movement is based on a combination of the artwork itself and the concepts/events behind it. The first movement, “Hope is a Function of Struggle,” shows a logging scene in the western United States, juxtaposed with a botanical-style drawing of a flowering fireweed plant. The second and third movements, “Grief” and “Resilience,” are a diptych. Their titles are based on a Michelle Obama quote: “Grief and resilience live together.” “Grief” was inspired by wildfires raging in Colorado and Wyoming, and “Resilience” depicts the regrowth of a meadow near Erika's

home in Fort Collins after a fire. The final painting and movement, *Love Letter from a Sinking Ship*, illustrates the destruction of the 2017 hurricanes Irma and Maria. A striking sunrise shines through the wreckage.

## **How the Heart Aches (3:00)**

*Keenan Powell*

How the heart aches  
how uninvited  
how Ever-present  
how sympathetic

How the heart aches  
with limerence  
with purpose  
with malice

How the heart aches  
for warmth  
for pressure  
for embrace

How the heart aches

## **Six Dances for Wind Quintet (20:00)**

*Blake Clawson*

Over the last several years, I have enjoyed exploring folk music from around the world and learning about dance traditions associated with each style. The form of this piece is drawn from the baroque dance suite, perhaps most well-known in the cello suites of J.S. Bach. Many composers from other periods have written suites in this format—Ravel’s *Le Tombeau de Couperin*, for example—which typically contains four to six movements in various baroque dance styles. Combining a variety of folk music and dance traditions with a Western classical formal structure led to the development of this suite, which features movements inspired by music and dance from six countries.

## I. Square Dance (United States)

The American square dance has roots in various European folk dances and is the designated state dance of 31 U.S. states. It is typically danced by four couples standing in a square, hence the name. This movement has taken the place of what would typically be a prelude in a dance suite and features allusions to American music and the music of Dave Brubeck and Aaron Copland.

## II. Tinikling (Philippines)

The *tinikling* is a Filipino group dance where pairs of participants hold long bamboo rods and alternate tapping them together and against the ground in time with the music. The dancers move around and in between the bamboo rods, making sure to remove their feet from between them on the strong beats in the music, since the bamboo is clicked closed on beat one of each bar and then tapped open and against the ground on beats two and three. It is an exhilarating dance to participate in and to watch.

## III. Halling (Norway)

The *halling* is an impressive solo dance typically performed by a young man at a wedding. The dancer spins and hops while pacing in a circle, often incorporating flips, rolls and other acrobatic moves. One of the highlights of this dance occurs when another person stands on a chair and holds a hat out on a stick several feet above the dancer's head: the dancer, amid their other moves, will incorporate a spinning jump with a high kick to knock the hat off the stick.

## IV. Kopanitsa (Bulgaria)

The *kopanitsa* is one of many Balkan group dances in an irregular meter. Much of the traditional music and dance from Eastern Europe incorporates meters that are uncommon in folk music from other parts of the world, such as  $7/8$ ,  $13/8$ , and  $25/16$ . The *kopanitsa* is a line dance in  $11/8$ , which is grouped in five pulses: 2+2+3+2+2, or quick-quick-slow-quick-quick. Dancers typically stand in a line and step together while holding onto the belt of the dancers on either side. This music is quick and features active melodic gestures with lots of ornamentation.



## V. Tango (Argentina)

The Argentine *tango* is a saucy partner dance that is well-known globally. I drew inspiration from the music of Ástor Piazzolla and other well-known Argentine *tango* composers when writing this movement. Both the music and dance forms of the tango originated in Buenos Aires as the mixture of cultural influences from Cuba, Argentina, and the African community in Buenos Aires. *Tango* parallels this suite in that regard, having its origins in a wide variety of dance and music traditions from other parts of the world.

## VI. Céilí (Ireland)

The *céilí* is an Irish group dance that is accompanied by traditional Irish or Scottish music—usually a reel or a jig. Typically, a *céilí* is danced to one of several standard tunes, each of which is associated with a particular version of the dance. I chose to end this suite with a *céilí* because of its exuberant and joyful quality. This is brought to the fore using characteristic Celtic embellishments and a rondo-like form.

## A Tactile Rainbow (10:00)

Isabel Goodwin

*A Tactile Rainbow* is a 7-movement piece for flute quartet where each miniature-movement is inspired by a color of the rainbow. It is sweet, cheesy and emotional. Throughout the movements a sort of emotional world is built, ranging from exciting in *Red: Life* to silly in *frogs!* to reflective in *everything is grey*.

## Codependent Cactus (3:00)

Indigo Farmer

In my window sits a pink cactus  
that belongs to Isabel;  
it sits atop a green cactus  
that it slowly, slowly kills.

I don't want to be like that cactus,  
but I worry that I may,

so I tell myself I have control  
over who I will betray.

In my window it sits,  
like a bad friend, like a villain.  
The green cactus could live on its own  
and not face certain death.  
As it is, it won't last a year,  
giving everything it gets.  
“Have you no chlorophyll for me?”  
ask its roots;  
“have you no chlorophyll for me?”  
asks its flesh.

Like all friends I have my weakness  
and sometimes I'll need to leave,  
but I won't steal chlorophyll like that pink cactus,  
nor wither like the green.

## **The King (Acoustic) (3:00)**

Josh Maynard

“The King (Acoustic)” is a live-performance version of my 2020 work by the same name. Published on streaming platforms while I attended my senior year of high school, “The King” accompanied a dozen other student-written and mastered works in a school “originals album” -- a project which I organized and produced. Originally, this piece includes over 200 layered vocal lines, and was created entirely by my voice, guitar, and some songbird backup-singers. Written for solo baritone and guitar, “The King” is a folk and pop-inspired song about my tendency to get lost among the worlds inside my head, as well as my connection to nature. As an author and composer, I have often taken refuge inside the creations of my mind to weather the storms of life. This simple piece describes these havens of music and writing that have helped me through seemingly insurmountable personal struggles. I developed a love of the outdoors and a reverence toward its humbling majesty as an Eagle Scout, finding inspiration especially in forests and mountains. “The King” paints vivid

descriptions of these meditative environments -- a reflection of the tranquility to which I often return in this turbulent, chaotic world.

Lost in my head,  
where I want to be,  
Where the mountains softly sing,  
And I walk alone where no people go,  
Where you are queen, and I am king of nothing,

I try to find,  
Some peace of mind,  
On the sunlight path of cobblestone,  
As overgrown as the flowers  
In my crown of leaves and stone,

'Cause even in my mind,  
I am king of nothing, and you are queen of everything,  
'Cause you are no alone,  
Lost inside your head, among your dreams,

Oh, how I long to be,  
Where memories often take me,  
On an old familiar dale,  
Where the eagle cries 'neath azure skies  
And lullabies are whispered to a tender heart,

Oh, take me there and take me fast,  
This state of mind is bound to last  
For only a fleeting moment,  
Evergreens, they smile at me in waiving breeze,  
A fantasy of frozen time,

In my mind,  
Where something is my everything.

# Personnel

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

**Egemen Kesikli**, artistic director

## **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 five 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 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. Arnett's music often expands outside of traditional musical contexts by incorporating ideas of psychology, visual art, film, and nature into her music. Arnett is currently based in Boulder, Colorado, where she teaches private piano lessons and is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in composition and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology at the University of Colorado Boulder.

## **Greg Barth**

Greg Barth has a unique compositional voice across a variety of genres. He started playing the saxophone at a young age, and learned his love for jazz during his high school years at Woodside High School. He has won several awards at festivals, and helped to found the jazz combo at Woodside. Barth currently attends CU Boulder in the Thompson Jazz Studies program where he is working on a Bachelor of Music degree. He has begun to expand his voice to other instruments and is now playing a multitude of instruments in various ensembles and new genres.

## 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 music composition from Whitworth University, where he studied with Brent Edstrom. Clawson is currently pursuing a master's degree in music composition at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he teaches aural skills and studies with Carter Pann.

## Indigo Farmer

Indigo Farmer is a senior studying piano performance and taking private composition lessons.

## Isabel Goodwin

Originally from Dallas, Texas, Isabel Goodwin has been composing since she was 10 years old, beginning with short songs for the recorder. More recently, Goodwin has had works read or performed by the Austin Symphony Orchestra, the Worcester Chamber Music Society String Quartet, the Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra Wind Symphony and many others. Goodwin is pursuing degrees in both music composition and bassoon performance, and is in their fourth year. Though Goodwin prioritizes their work as a composer and bassoonist, they also pursue hobbies in crafting, teaching, and visual arts. Goodwin is also a proud parent of two pet bunnies, Olive and Monty.

## Abby Kellems

Abby Kellems is a composer and pianist based in Boulder, Colorado. Her work explores the images and intricacies of the natural world, and she focuses on creating musical experiences that facilitate a deeper relationship between listeners, performers, and the environment. She completed a Bachelor of Music in music composition at the University of Oregon, where she studied with David

Crumb and Robert Kyr. She has had works premiered by Arwen Meyers, the Delgani String Quartet and the Boulder Altitude Directive, and served as the composer-in-residence and associate conductor of the Riverside Chamber Symphony from 2021-2022. She is currently pursuing a Master of Music in composition at the University of Colorado Boulder, where she teaches aural skills and studies with Annika Socolofsky.

## 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.

## Joshua Carter Maynard

Joshua Carter Maynard is an author and composer from Colorado Springs currently studying a BM in composition at the University of Colorado Boulder. Beginning his musical experience in middle school choir, Maynard has since performed with vocal ensembles on stages from the Pikes Peak Center and Colorado Bellco Theater, to Carnegie Hall. Maynard is also the founder of the Kadet Chorale, the first honor choir at the Air Academy. After attaining an Eagle Scout at age 15, he joined the International Thespian Honor Society, performing lead roles in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Les Miserables*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Mamma Mia*. His major choral compositions and contemporary arrangements began with his first state-wide premier in January 2020 at the Colorado Music Educators Association conference. The CMEA performance of his CHSAA awarded *Lux Aeterna* for

twelve part choir and piano sparked his decision to pursue a higher education in music. Subsequent performances of Maynard's works include an orchestral debut of *Winterdove* at the University of Denver and multiple Pendulum New Music concerts at CU Boulder, including *Los Recuerdos* and the award-winning *Young Years Suite* for choir, as well as *Dragonfly Pond* for wind quintet and *Compass* for piano. Striving to tell moving stories in writing as well as through music, Maynard recently published his first fantasy novel, *The Four Sunrises*, available now in print and eBook on Amazon. He is currently writing the second novel, and as always, more music.

## **Steph Parnes**

I find relief in turning the task of thinking into physical action. I make work within an expanded definition of drawing, where to draw is to enact a process of thinking with the body. I am interested in drawing's potential as a communication tool, in its capacity to externalize inner processes through physical movement and material traces that create points of contact—between a hand and a surface or between one body and another. Through varied forms, including works on paper, sculptural arrangement, performance and video, I mark, trace and map states of indeterminacy in search of new ways to make contact. I attend to pressure and movement, compelled by the immediate, the provisional and the incomplete.

I am a multidisciplinary artist and educator from Columbus, Ohio. I studied psychology at Ohio Wesleyan University and studio art at Columbus College of Art and Design before moving to Oregon in 2015. I earned my MFA in Art from the University of Oregon School of Art and Design in 2019. I live in Boulder, Colorado with my human and dog life partners. We go outside and look at things together.

## **Keenan Powell**

Keenan Powell has been composing music since he was in middle school. He started his journey through composition with several pieces for solo piano. After that, he wrote for string ensemble, mixed percussion and symphony orchestra. Along the way, he has discovered a love for electronics in music

from live electronic processing to electronic synthesis. Powell has studied the piano for over a decade. Powell has also studied the cello, violin, voice and guitar. He uses this knowledge to inform his compositional process. If he does not have performance experience on an instrument he wants to write for, he will seek out performers to learn the ins and outs of that instrument. This serves his continuing goal of ensuring his music is fun to perform!

## **Plein Air Sound Collective**

Plein Air Sound Collective is an ecosystem of composers, performers, and producers exploring the question: What happens when we treat a physical space as a partner in a musical performance? We seek to create site-specific works that examine the relationship between sound and environment, and engage with space and each other in ways that inspire agency and trust in the collaborative process. We are currently working toward making our first album, “Weathering Steel,” which will be recorded at the Tank Centre for Sonic Arts this May. You can follow our journey at [\*\*@pleinairsoundcollective\*\*](#) on Instagram.

## **Renova New Music Ensemble**

Renova, the University of Colorado Boulder’s new music choir, was founded in December 2021. Its mission is to provide an innovative and artistic vocal ensemble for CU Boulder composers to premiere choral works. Just last year, Renova singers performed pieces by composers Ryan Flat, Sam C Henderson, O’Neil C.O. Jones, Jamie Lamers and JC Maynard. Renova strives to create opportunities for all CU Boulder students to share their voice through choral music, and hopes to spread love of new music to the community.



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As of Jan. 2, 2023

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