

CU ★ PRESENTS

2023-24 Season



College of Music
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

NEED TO KNOW FOR THE SHOW

- 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.



CU Boulder acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute and many other Native American nations. Their forced removal from these territories has caused devastating and lasting impacts.

[Read full land acknowledgment.](#)

SoundWorks

New electronic music by CU composers and guest artist, Angélica Negrón

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024

ATLAS B2 BlackBox Experimental Theater

Program

Los (otros) estados // The (Other) States

Boca // Mouth

Cítrica // Citric

Marchitada // Withered

Planeaciones // Glidings

Sembrar // Sow

Evaporada // Evaporated

All music written and performed by Angélica Negrón

Videos by Michael Anthony Carter

64-Bit Electronic Composition Competition Finalists

— Intermission —

Ponderosa Effigy

Alan Mackwell

Alan Mackwell, solo fujara and electronics (fixed media and live processing)

immerse (Op. 18)

Keenan Powell, 2023 Spark Award Winner

concourse part i

kitchen gun

concourse part ii

conjumorph

concourse part iii

elysium is oft elusive for the landed Gentry

concourse part iv

Fixed media

Pre/postlude: Free Flow

Abby Kellems, 2023 Spark Award Winner

Fixed media and video

Winners of the 64-Bit Competition

Program notes

Los (otros) estados // The (Other) States

Angélica Negrón

These are songs exploring shifts in states of matter and being, playing with natural and artificial elements and inspired by the in-betweens.

Ponderosa Effigy

Alan Mackwell

Inspired by a scene from Cormac McCarthy's novel *Blood Meridian*, the remains of a wildfire in Northern New Mexico, and the devastating acequia flash floods in the mountain communities during the summer of 2022, *Ponderosa Effigy* explores the ever-increasing brutality of New Mexico's wildfire season; expressing the fear and horror conjured by images and stories of affected parts of the state, and fury and anger at the growth of the fossil-fuel industry amidst a hellish climate crisis in such a vulnerable and sacred place.

Pre/postlude: Free Flow

Abby Kellems, 2023 Spark Award Winner

The Yampa River, which flows through northwest Colorado, is one of just a few undammed rivers left in the western United States. Because it still flows freely, it's able to continue to sustain critical fish and plant species that have disappeared from the other rivers in the Colorado River system that have been impacted by dams. Although dams can be a source of relatively clean power, many of those still standing in the US are obsolete, unsafe, and destructive to the environment.

As its title suggests, *Pre/postlude: Free Flow* was conceived as both a prelude and a postlude to *Dammed*, a larger work-in-progress that explores the impact of dams in Colorado. It uses field recordings that I took of the Yampa river both above and below the water, as well as snippets of music performed by myself and members of the Juniper Winds, and transforms them into a watery soundscape bursting with life and power. It's a celebration of undammed rivers, and a hope for what dammed rivers can be again.

Personnel

Text that is bold and underlined is a hyperlink; click or tap for more information.

CU Boulder SoundWorks

Egemen Kesikli, director

Annika Socolofsky, faculty coach

Nicholas Felder, outreach coordinator

Rain Michael, stage manager

Abby Kellems, Gracie Fagan and Josie Arnett, social media

Angélica Negrón

Puerto Rican-born composer and multi-instrumentalist Angélica Negrón writes music for accordions, robotic instruments, toys, and electronics as well as for chamber ensembles, orchestras, choir and film. Her music has been described as “wistfully idiosyncratic and contemplative” (WQXR/Q2) while The New York Times noted her “capacity to surprise.” Negrón has been commissioned by the Bang on a Can All-Stars, Kronos Quartet, loadbang, MATA Festival, Brooklyn Youth Chorus, Sō Percussion, the American Composers Orchestra and the New York Botanical Garden, among others. She has composed numerous film scores, including *Landfall* (2020) and *Memories of a Penitent Heart* (2016), in collaboration with filmmaker Cecilia Aldarondo. She was the recipient of the 2022 Hermitage Greenfield Prize. Upcoming premieres include works for the Seattle Symphony, LA Philharmonic, NY Philharmonic Project 19 initiative and multiple performances at Big Ears Festival 2022. Negrón continues to perform and compose for film.

Alan Mackwell

Described as “an original composer with new ideas and a command of complex symphonic writing” (BroadStreet Journal), New Zealander-American Alan Mackwell (b.1998) is a BMI award-winning young composer and banjo-player based in Boulder, Colorado. In his work, Mackwell seeks to explore a unique blend of atmospheres inspired by his experiences in the Permian Basin, northern New Mexico and Appalachian North Carolina using a highly resonant and bluegrass-influenced musical language, as well as the utilization of original

field recordings and interactive/generative digital interfaces. He earned his BM at the Boston Conservatory, where he studied with John Murphree, Eun Young Lee, Curtis Hughes and Marti Epstein, and earned an MA at Tufts University where he studied with John McDonald and Kareem Roustom. Mackwell is currently pursuing a DMA at the University of Colorado Boulder where he teaches an Intro to Music Technology course.

Mackwell's music has been played on three different continents, and several U.S. states. His compositions have been played by high-achieving groups such as The Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, The New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, The Boston Conservatory Contemporary Music Ensemble, Hub New Music and the Corvus Ensemble. He was the grand prize winner of the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra's Inaugural Young Composers' Competition in addition to being a two-time finalist for the Todd Corporation Young Composers' Awards hosted by the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

Abby Kellems

Abby Kellems is a composer, pianist and occasional tuba player based in Boulder. 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. Kellems is currently pursuing a Master in Music in music composition at the University of Colorado Boulder, where she teaches aural skills and studies with Annika Socolofsky and Michael Theodore. She is also a founding member of the Plein Air Sound Collective, an ecosystem of composers, performers, producers, and other artists with the common goal of exploring the relationship between sound and environment.

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 more than a decade. He 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!

Upcoming Events

Event details are subject to change, but the CU Presents website will always be up to date. Click or tap below to explore your options.



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