

No-No Boy

With Julian Saporiti and Emilia Halvorsen

*Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of
the house manager.*

7:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 11, 2019
Grusin Music Hall
Imig Music Building



College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

Program

1. (Introduction)
2. Han Shan
3. Boat People
4. Instructions To All Persons
5. Heart Mountain
6. Down (Chinese Cowgirl Song)
7. Only What You Can Carry
8. Two Candles In The Dark
9. Imperial Twist
10. Dragon Park
11. Little Saigon

Program notes

No-No Boy is an immersive multimedia work combing original folk songs, storytelling and projected archival images, bridging a divide between art and scholarship. Taking inspiration from his own family's history living through the Vietnam War as well as interviews with World War II Japanese Incarceration camp survivors and other stories of Asian American experience, songwriter Julian Saporiti, along with a rotating cast of collaborators, has transformed years of doctoral research at Brown University into an innovative multi-media concert, turning countless hours of archival study and fieldwork into a large repertoire of folk songs and visuals all in an effort to illuminate often hidden histories for a broader audience.

NPR has described No-No Boy as “An act of revisionist subversion” and NY Music Daily wrote after a performance at Lincoln Center that “Saporiti’s tunesmithing ranks with any of the real visionaries of this era.”

In the spring of 2019, Saporiti expanded the project's scope, embarking with longtime collaborator and photographer Diego Luis and their Brown colleague Juan Betancourt on a

trip to the Mexican border. Playing concerts for asylum seekers and aid workers in Laredo, Crystal City (former home of a World War II Internment Camp), and Dilley, Texas (current home to the largest family detention center), the experience was jarring, impactful and created an eery sense of déjà vu, making music and passing through overlapping histories of oppression and incarceration, surrounded by lessons seemingly unlearned. All profits from No-No Boy have gone to supporting refugees, or have been donated to local charities while on tour.

Moving forward, Saporiti plans to finish his dissertation and record the almost 70 songs he has composed for No-No Boy. He will continue to collaborate with a wide array of musicians, artists, teachers and scholars to bring this unique combination of research and art to the public.

Personnel

Julian Saporiti is a musician and scholar, born and raised in Nashville, TN to an Italian American musician and a Vietnamese painter. In his 20s, he toured North America and Europe with an indie rock band called The Young Republic. After feeling burnt out from the road, he chose a quieter life as a scholar, investigating hidden American histories in the mountains of Wyoming. He then moved to Brown University to continue his research on race, refugees, music, memory and immigration. He has advanced degrees in American Studies and Ethnomusicology as well as a degree in music from Berklee College of Music in Boston.

Emilia Halvorsen is a musician and embroidery artist originally from Baltimore, Maryland. She graduated from Brown University with a degree in sociology. She has been a collaborator with No-No Boy since spring of 2017, providing harmonies and creating an embroidered stage jacket to visually tell the stories of the project. In addition to working with No-No Boy, she is also in the process of creating a solo album of original songs.

About the American Music Research Center

The American Music Research Center (AMRC) is dedicated to exploring and celebrating the diverse and rich traditions of American music. Jointly housed between the University of Colorado's College of Music and the University Libraries, the AMRC is home to a rare music repository that includes scores, papers, recordings and material artifacts that document the history of American music and the people who have made it.

We regularly sponsor public events and community outreach activities—such as concerts, conferences, publications and lectures—and provide grants to support both institutionally-affiliated and independent scholars working on American music research. Visiting scholars and the public are welcome to visit by appointment.

Visit us at colorado.edu/amrc.

Upcoming performances

🎫 Ticketed events 🎧 Live stream at cupresents.org

Tuesday, Oct. 15

Faculty Tuesdays

Songs We Love to Play

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 🎧

Thursday, Oct. 17

CU Symphony Orchestra

7:30 p.m., Macky Auditorium 🎧

Saturday, Oct. 19

Diverse Musicians' Alliance

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 🎧

Sunday, Oct. 20

Graduate Woodwind Quintet

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall

Monday, Oct. 21

Concert Band

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 🎧

Tuesday, Oct. 22

Faculty Tuesdays

Masterworks for Oboe and Bassoon

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 🎧

Thursday, Oct. 24

Thompson Latin Jazz Ensemble

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 🎧

Oct. 27-28

Takács Quartet

Beethoven, Bartók, Mendelssohn

Grusin Music Hall 🎫

Sunday, Oct. 27

University Singers and University Choir

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 🎧

Tuesday, Oct. 29

Faculty Tuesdays

Musical Journey with Friends

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 🎧

Wednesday, Oct. 30

Artist Series

Nobuntu

7:30 p.m., Macky Auditorium 🎫

Pendulum New Music

7:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall 🎧

Saturday, Nov. 2

Chamber Music Showcase

4:30 p.m., Grusin Music Hall

Events are subject to change:

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at cupresents.org to verify.*

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CU Presents is the home of performing arts on the beautiful University of Colorado Boulder campus. With hundreds of concerts, plays, recitals and more on our stages each year, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Find your next performance at cupresents.org.

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