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2020-21 Season
Digital program



College of Music
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

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2020-21 Digital Programs

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Photo courtesy Boulder Daily Camera

Celebrating resiliency and committing to justice: ***Colorado Music Magazine***

By Jessie Bauters

Just in time for a virtual Homecoming, the College of Music released a special Centennial edition of Colorado Music Magazine this October. In addition to highlighting trailblazing alumni, legendary faculty, outstanding students and dedicated supporters, the college's annual publication shined a spotlight on two aspects of the past year that none of us can ignore: the COVID-19 pandemic and the movement for racial justice.

The music of resiliency

As coronavirus upended plans all over the globe, the performing arts on the CU Boulder campus were no different. But as a college, our artists have dug deep to find a way to keep our educational mission alive against extraordinary odds.

Students and faculty used on-screen meetings to their unique advantage. The Trumpet and Horn studios produced virtual performances, along with the keyboard faculty and the bands. Distinguished Professor and Helen and Peter Weil Faculty Fellow David Korevaar challenged himself to record all of Beethoven's sonatas in single takes during the stay-at-home period earlier this year. Finally, the college held a distanced commencement ceremony, with a group of alumni recording a tribute to the class of 2020.

As we look ahead, we're reminded that nothing can be taken for granted. But as the college has proven so far in 2020, these trials give us opportunity to grow, to be resilient and to show who we really are.

A movement for change

As the world has come to grips with the COVID-19 pandemic, the other undeniable headline of 2020 has been the Black Lives Matter movement. The

College of Music stands as a community of artists and educators against racism and in support of inclusivity for all our students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members.

With that goal, new Diversity and Outreach Coordinator Alma Ramos joined the college this fall to resume the important work of bringing greater diversity to music study at CU Boulder. “Classical music is very much seen as a White industry, and when looking at the demographic, it is,” says Ramos. “It is the responsibility of the college to acknowledge how it has played a part [in that], as well as discover methods and skills to create a more inclusive field and challenge the privileged norms of classical music.”

Ramos recently completed a master’s degree at the University of Colorado Denver. While there, she worked as a graduate assistant at the Peer Advocate Leaders (PAL) Program and at the Center for Identity and Inclusion under the Department of Diversity and Inclusion.

“I’m excited about this position because it combines my two passions: music and social justice,” she says.

Read these stories in their entirety and check out all the coverage in the **[2020 Colorado Music Magazine](#)**.

Pendulum New Music

Annika K. Socolofsky, artistic director

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020

Piano Sonata No. 2 (2019) – 6:30

James Morris

II. “The Homecoming,” Lento

J. David Reid, piano

1001 Nights: and Then, Something Different

(2020) – 5:30

David Yazbek

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov

Isabel Burgos Goodwin

Annie Carpenter, voice

Isabel Burgos Goodwin, bassoon

Indigo Farmer, piano

Spencer Stepanek, percussion

Boppin’ (2020) – 1:00

Spencer Stepanek

I. Twist It! Pull It!

Natural Barrier (2020) – 1:00

Conor Abbott Brown

Semi-Simple Rondo (2020) – 1:00

Kevin Gunia

Smolder (2020) – 1:00

Dianna Link

Pando, the Trembling Giant (2020) – 1:00

Ben Morris

The Empty Box (2020) – 1:00

Nelson Walker

2020, An Anthology (2020) – 1:00

Logan Dougherty

autumn fragmenta (2020) – 1:00

Chase Church

A Tango, Maybe? (2020) – 1:00

Emily Zalevsky

Wolfish Devotional (2020) – 1:00

David P. Landon

One-Liners (2020) – 1:00

Max Wolpert

III. How About This Weather?

IV. Well, That's Your Opinion...

The Blog of Dr. John Watson (2020) – 1:00

Isabel Burgos Goodwin

normal life as an increasingly distant memory

(2020) – 1:00

Sam C. Henderson

Ambivalence (2020) – 1:00

Rain Michael

HOCKET

Sarah Gibson

Thomas Kotcheff

Program notes

1001 Nights: and Then, Something Different

Text by David Yazbek

Is this a hymn?

Is this a love song?

Something ancient by a poet,

Maybe Hafiz? Maybe Rumi?

Is she singing about two hearts

Searching in the darkness?

Or is she singing about fishing?

The tune seems sad

But are the words sad?

What's she saying?

Is she praying?

And why does it get to me?

Is she lonely, maybe reaching out for someone?

Look at me, maybe I'm the one who's fishing.

Ev'ry day you stare,

to the West, to the South.

You can see for miles, but things never change.

Then honey in your ears, spice in your mouth.

Nothing's as surprising as the taste of something strange.

And there she is right here beside me.
Kind of deep and kind of cute
in her Sergeant Pepper suit.
Is this my sheik?
Is this my Omar Sharif?
Well, I know it's something different.

Who is this girl right here beside me?
Closer by a breath or two
My cheek would touch her ear.
What is she thinking?
What does she wish for?
Is she singing about wishing?
Something new I've never seen before.
Through these walls I've built,
these gates I protect,
something new I didn't notice I was hoping for.
Nothing is as beautiful
as something that you don't expect.

Look at those hands,
so far from my hands,
but they move like they are swimming
through the music, through the music.
And I don't know what I feel,
And I don't know what I know.

All I know is I feel something different.

Ev'ry day you stare,

to the West, to the South.

You can see for miles, but things never change.

Then honey in your ears, spice in your mouth.

All I know is I feel something different.

She makes me feel something different.

Personnel

Conor Abbott Brown's music is informed by the sweeping prairies, big sky and jagged peaks of the American West. Their compositions often feature complex, driving rhythms, sustained tension and ornamentation inspired by folk music from around the world. Brown has had works commissioned by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Albany Symphony Orchestra, groundbreaking amplified chamber orchestra Dogs of Desire, clarinet virtuoso David Krakauer and many others. They are a member of the Code Switch Composers Collective. As a performer, Brown has appeared as the guest principal clarinetist of the American Symphony Orchestra and is the clarinetist of the Boulder Altitude Directive, a chamber ensemble dedicated to performing the works of living composers. Brown holds an MM in music composition from the University of Colorado at Boulder as well as a BA in dance and a BM in music composition from Bard College and the Bard College Conservatory of Music.

Annie Carpenter is a sophomore student here at the College of Music pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Musical Theatre. She is incredibly passionate about theatre and voice, and has spent her entire life in the performing arts. Carpenter has extensive training in ballet and acting study, and has been taking voice lessons for years. She played Logainne Schwartzandgrubennierre in the College of Music's production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* this past February, and is currently recording *#Life*, a new musical revue being

previewed by the College of Music this fall. Carpenter is thrilled to be a part of this performance and cannot wait to share it with you!

Logan Dougherty graduated with a BA degree in astrophysics in 2015; analysis of space plasma data from the Voyager spacecrafts lead to an academic research paper in the Journal of Geophysical Research. From this analytical perspective, Dougherty became obsessed with the intricacies of both classical music and technical progressive metal. In 2014, Dougherty learned guitar, helping form the metal band Endlight with fellow students. The band offered many opportunities for musical composition but Dougherty desired to focus on the composition aspect. He returned to the University of Colorado Boulder in 2018 to pursue a BM in Music Composition. Dougherty has written for both chamber ensembles and large orchestras. He has studied with composition professors Mike Barnett, Daniel Kellogg, Carter Pann, John Drumheller and Annika Socolofsky at CU.

Indigo Farmer: “I am a piano performance major, and I also enjoy hiking and composing. I have one brother who lives in Durango, Colorado (where I’m from). Playing this piece last year for the DIMA concert, I became very fond of the bassoon. It is so much fun for me to play music with my friends.”

Sarah Gibson is a composer and pianist who has been called “a serious talent to watch” (Atlanta Journal Constitution). Her works have received recognitions such as the American Composers Orchestra Underwood New Music Readings, Victor Herbert ASCAP award, NFMC Marion Richter American Music Composition Award and first place in the Percussive Arts Society Composition Contest. Her Left-hand Piano Concerto was selected as a winner of The University of Southern California’s (USC) New Music for Orchestra competition and was premiered with Gibson at the keyboard. She has received commissions from the Aspen Summer Music Festival and School, L.A. Signal Lab, the Bennington Chamber Music Conference and soprano Lindsay Kesselman, among others. Gibson’s music has been performed by members of Eighth Blackbird, the American Composers Orchestra, USC Thornton Edge, the USC Symphony, the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble, HOCKET, L.A. Signal Lab, Aperture Duo and at various venues across the United States and in Europe. As a pianist, Gibson is a founding member of HOCKET and has also performed with wildUp, the Bang on a Can All-Stars and the Atlanta Symphony where she debuted under the direction of Donald Runnicles in 2005. Gibson holds degrees in piano and composition from Indiana University, and a master’s and Doctorate of Musical

Arts degree in composition from USC where she is currently faculty in theory and analysis. Alongside Artistic Director Andrew Norman, she is the teaching artist for the esteemed Los Angeles Philharmonic Composer Fellowship Program.

Kevin Gunia is a composer, pianist and organist. He has composed solo and chamber works, large ensemble music and collaborative pieces such as opera scenes and works for dance. His work has been recognized through the NJ Music Educators Association and the National Association for Music Education, as well as through the Mason Gross Extension Division. He has been commissioned by ensembles such as the Boulder Altitude Directive. Gunia is currently a graduate student at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he studies with Michael Theodore. He is also an aural skills instructor at the institution. He completed undergraduate studies at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University, where he studied with Charles Fussell, Robert Aldridge, and Scott Ordway.

With a BM in both Composition and Vocal Performance from Southern Methodist University, **Sam C Henderson** exhibits a fervent passion for making music in multiple senses of the phrase. Inspired by the versatility of vocal production, Henderson's compositional voice heavily emphasizes timbral interaction and textured sonority within and between individual voices. This is most prevalent in his dense yet intimate choral work *Twofold Silence*, his playfully ambient two-piano piece *Interstices of Moonlit Trees* and his ventures into electro-acoustic music, including his operetta *Coming to This* and French horn solo *Romance*. Henderson has also collaborated with video game education program SMU Guildhall, providing the score for Sleepless Dreamer Studio's *Lost in the Dark*. Henderson is currently pursuing a MM in composition at CU Boulder. Unable to escape music even in his extramusical ventures, Henderson currently works for the prestigious choral ensemble *Conspirare* as Gift Processing and Database Coordinator.

HOCKET is a cutting-edge piano duo based in Los Angeles. Lauded as “brilliant” by Mark Swed in the Los Angeles Times and as an “adventurous young ensemble” by The New Yorker, members Sarah Gibson and Thomas Kotcheff are both pianist-composers dedicated to commissioning and performing contemporary music. They have performed in some of the most exciting festivals and venues across the country including The Bang on Can Summer Music Festival at MASS MoCA, MATA Festival in New York City, The Center for New Music in San Francisco, the

Carlsbad Music Festival and the Los Angeles Philharmonic's "Noon to Midnight" Festival. Together, they have premiered more than one hundred chamber and solo works and have collaborated with the premier, new music ensembles Eighth Blackbird and the Bang on a Can All-Stars. They have performed concerti with the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble, USC Thornton Edge, Oberlin Sinfonietta and Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra. HOCKET has received grants from the Presser Foundation and The Earle Brown Music Foundation and has been a selected artist in Firebird Ensemble's Outstanding Young Artists Initiative and Eighth Blackbird's Blackbird Creative Lab. HOCKET is a Piano Spheres core artist and a performing artist on the Schoenhut Piano Company Artist Roster.

Thomas Kotcheff is a Los Angeles based composer and pianist. His compositions have been described as "truly beautiful and inspired" (icareifyoulisten.com) and "explosive" (Gramophone magazine), and have been performed internationally by The Riot Ensemble, wild Up, New York Youth Symphony, Sandbox Percussion, the Argus Quartet, the Lyris Quartet, the Alinde Quartett, USC Thornton Edge, The Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble, HOCKET and the Aspen Contemporary Ensemble, amongst others. Kotcheff has received awards and honors from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Presser Foundation, the Aspen Summer Music Festival, BMI, ASCAP, the New York Youth Symphony, the National Association of Composers USA, the American Composers Forum and has been a composition fellow at the Los Angeles Philharmonic's National Composers Intensive, the Festival International d'Art Lyrique d'Aix-en-Provence, the Aspen Summer Music Festival and School, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival and the Bennington Chamber Music Conference. As a new music pianist, Kotcheff has dedicated himself to commissioning and premiering new piano works. He is the pianist and founding member of the Los Angeles based piano duo HOCKET and he holds degrees in composition and piano performance from the Peabody Institute and the University of Southern California.

David P. Landon is a performer, composer, architect and software engineer who explores the role of each facet as the author of a complex set of interactions, and enjoys blurring the roles of the individuals involved at all levels. In each echelon, they seek to understand the human response to those interactions in regards to intellect, emotion and physiology. Landon has interests in ontology, cosmology, music semiology and music cognition. Their compositions have been performed at events such as the Long Beach Sound Walk, venues such as Work Evolution Laboratories in Long Beach, in galleries such as SPUR

in San Francisco and as part of performances hosted by the Kansas City Electronic Music Association and New Ear in Kansas City. Landon studied music composition at California State University in Long Beach (bachelor's) and at the University of Missouri in Kansas City (master's), and is currently a doctoral candidate at University of Colorado Boulder.

Colorado-based composer **Dianna Link** (b.1999) first ignited her passion for music at the age of three while singing in her church choir. Since then, Link's music has been performed by numerous ensembles including the Colorado Symphony, Denver Young Artists Orchestra and the Ivalas Quartet. Link's music has been performed at places such as the National Flute Association Convention, the Pendulum New Music concert series, the Galway Flute festival in Wiggins, Switzerland, CU NOW and CPR Classical. Recent awards include being a semifinalist for ASCAP's 2020 Morton Gould young composer awards and an honorable mention/alternate distinction from the American Composers Forum in the 2018 Next Note composition competition. Link is currently a Senior at the University of Colorado pursuing a BM in composition and a minor in business. Her teachers include Daniel Kellogg, Carter Pann, Jeff Nytech and Annika Socolofsky.

A native of Colorado, **Rain Michael** is a multi-instrumentalist and composer. Michael began taking piano lessons before he turned 4 and has since picked up over a dozen instruments, both classical and of foreign traditions. He has performed with jazz, wind, orchestral and marching ensembles, all of which have served to cultivate a passion for composition. His work has been performed by the Colorado Wind Ensemble at their 2018 Season Finale Concert. 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.

Ben Morris is a Colorado-based composer and jazz pianist whose music tells unconventional stories and crosses genre boundaries. His projects include music for chamber groups and large ensembles, theater and film scores and intermedia works. He recently lived in Oslo, Norway on a Fulbright Grant, composing an extended big band work inspired by his Norwegian heritage. His accolades include attending the Aspen Music Festival, studying traditional music in Korea, and receiving ASCAP Morton Gould and Herb Alpert Awards and commissions from the Washington National Opera and the American Composers Orchestra. Morris graduated from Rice University and University of Miami and is currently pursuing his doctorate at the University of Colorado Boulder.

James H. Morris is a classical pianist pursuing his MM in piano performance at the University of Colorado Boulder. He currently studies with Jennifer Hayghe, the last student of the legendary artist-teacher Adele Marcus. Morris recently graduated cum laude from Westminster Choir College of Rider University, earning BM degrees in both piano and theory/composition. There, he studied piano with James Goldsworthy and theory/composition with Stefan Young. In 2017, 2018 and 2019, he placed first in the Westminster Piano Competition. Additionally, he placed first in the Westminster Composition Competition in 2019 and second in 2018. He was a recipient of The Damien Dixon Memorial Scholarship in 2018 and was named the alternate for the New Jersey MTNA Competition Young Artist division in 2019.

J. David Reid is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he started his musical studies at the age of four. He is currently a DMA candidate at the University of Colorado Boulder, studying with Jennifer Hayghe. He received his MM from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he was an associate instructor (secondary piano), teaching both class piano and private lessons to both music majors and nonmajors. He completed three undergraduate degrees in piano performance (BM), voice (BA), and business finance (BS) at Louisiana State University, for which he was awarded full endowed and academic merit scholarships. Among these awards, Reid was chosen to represent the LSU School of Music as the 2013-2014 Presser Undergraduate Scholar for academic and musical excellence. He has won a variety of prizes in competitions both at local and national levels. Reid made his solo debut abroad at many performance halls throughout Italy and Ireland in the summer of 2013. He enjoys both vocal and instrumental collaboration and has played extensively with singers and instrumentalists. His primary teachers are Jennifer Hayghe, Evelyne Brancart and Gregory Sioles.

As a composer and performer, **Nelson Walker** (b. 2000) values honest expression over all. Through his impassioned performance and composition style, he aims to foster human connection, promote awareness of social issues and generally tell a good story to his audiences. He currently studies composition with Annika Socolofsky at the University of Colorado, and has previously worked with Carter Pann (a 2016 finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Music), Nathan Hall and Michael Theodore. In 2019, Walker's work *Shadows of Clouds* was selected for performance by the Carpe Diem String Quartet at the Accademia Chigiana in Siena, Italy. Walker's compositions have also been

selected for performance three times for the Colorado Composers Concerts by the Playground Ensemble in Denver, as well as in the Pendulum New Music concert series at CU Boulder.

Fiddler, composer, and storyteller **Max Wolpert** conjures up monsters and myth where the traditional, classical and theatrical meet. Whether built upon the verve and bounce of an Irish jig, the endearing asymmetry of a Welsh pipe tune or the drive of a Virginian breakdown, Wolpert's pieces are crafted with taut detail and a flair for the dramatic honed over years as a pit musician, conductor and orchestrator for theatrical productions. Wolpert's work has been performed by the Colorado Symphony, Pro Musica Chamber Orchestra, Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra, Musique sur la Mer Chamber Orchestra, Breckenridge Music Festival Orchestra and others. His music appears on Naxos Records and Yellow Sound Label.



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