

The Ph.D./D.M.A. Programs in Music

May 14th, 2021 1:00 p.m.

Baisley Powell Elebash Recital Hall



GC Composers Concert
PinkNoise

A pulso (2021)

Itzá García
(b. 1993)

Ideo - Pressure (2021)

Thanakarn Schofield
(b. 1993)

Johnna Wu, violin
Issei Herr, cello

Brightly Drawn (2021)

Scott Miller
(b. 1990)

Johnna Wu, violin
Issei Herr, cello
Simon Kanzler, electronics

This recital is given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Ph.D degree.

Notes on the Program

A pulso for violin and cello, by Itzá García

Itzá García is pursuing a Ph.D. in Composition at CUNY Graduate Center with the support of the Fulbright García-Robles Scholarship. She draws from all of her musical influences, ranging from experimental to serial techniques, to find connections and meeting points between apparently divergent compositional practices, combining structure with intuition.

“A pulso” is a one-movement piece influenced by the practice of freehand drawing. Each of its five colorful episodes presents a combination of timbre, articulation, and pitch content to create characteristic gestures. The music represents strokes produced while drawing with light, agile passages that combine the playfulness of gesture with a fixed-pitch structure.

Ideo - Pressure for violin and cello, by Thanakarn Schofield

Thanakarn Schofield is currently undertaking a PhD in Music Composition at the Graduate Center-CUNY under the supervision of Professor Jason Eckardt. His particular interest and expertise in compositional practices are focused on the use of folklores and traditional practices (ritual and non-ritual) from East/Southeast Asia, as well as the concept of sound production, involving the study of physical movements and the mechanics of the instruments.

“Ideo Pressure” is exploring the possibility of sounds through specific parts of the instruments. The players will create distortion and various gestural noises with different types of heavy bow pressure/other bowing techniques with the use of a glass bottleneck throughout the body/strings of the instruments.

Brightly Drawn for violin, cello and electronics, by Scott Miller

Scott A. Miller is currently a Ph.D. student at CUNY Graduate Center and teaches harmony, counterpoint, musicianship, and composition at College of Staten Island. Whether writing instrumental or vocal music for forces large or small, a primary concern is to establish a sound world unique to each composition, often expressed through unconventional performance techniques and evocative microtonal harmonies.

“Brightly Drawn” is a collaborative work that combines standard notation with graphic notation, inviting improvisation from the three performers. The musical material is tied together through physical gesture as it traverses and combines a highly precise microtonal pitch language, noise, and aleatoric harmony produced in the electronics.

About the Artists

Johnna Wu

Founder of PinkNoise, Johnna Wu is an active performer and improviser in North America, Europe, and Asia. In 2015, she was the only artist awarded the Fulbright scholarship to study in Germany, and was sponsored by the State Department of the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany. She graduated from Columbia University with a Bachelor of Arts with double degrees in Biology and Musicology, She obtained a Masters of Music degree in violin performance at The Juilliard School under the tutelage of Joseph Lin. The study of improvisation has allowed her to fuse her strong interests in contemporary music, East-Asian folk music, jazz, tango, and musical theatre with classical music. Her most recent appearances include performances for the Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres at the General Assembly Hall, the Berlin Philharmonie, Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, Paris Philharmonie, the Banff Centre in Canada, and Carnegie Hall in New York.

Issei Herr

Cellist Issei Herr is committed to a diverse array of music both old and new. A compelling soloist and a dedicated collaborator, Issei performs a scope of repertoire that ranges from the music of Bach, Babbitt, and Berio to Schubert, Schoenberg, and Stravinsky. Highlights of the 2020 season included the premiere of a new solo cello work by Nico Muhly, the development of a collaborative project with composer and visual artist Julie Zhu, a solo performance tour in Oregon, and digital concerts with Unheard-of Project. Past highlights included a series of duo concerts with distinguished violinist Rolf Schulte in Mexico and New York, a collaborative performance art project with choreographer Mary Armentrout in San Francisco, performances in Guangzhou and Shanghai with PinkNoise, and a recording of the complete solo cello suites of Bach. Committed to musical collaboration and cross-disciplinary endeavors, Issei is an active member of PinkNoise, a chamber ensemble dedicated to the juxtaposition of works of the core repertoire with musical improvisation. Issei recently completed studies at The Juilliard School, where he was a student of distinguished cellist Fred Sherry.

Simon Kanzler

Simon Kanzler is a composer, electronic artist, and vibraphonist based in New York and Berlin. He seeks to transcend boundaries by integrating multifarious idioms of music and other art forms within his work. His involvement in Berlin's jazz and contemporary music scene, have led to projects working with a broad range of musicians including contemporary ensembles, jazz bands, improvisers, heavy metal and rock musicians. He has studied both contemporary composition with Mauro Lanza at the UdK Berlin and jazz vibraphone with David Friedman at the Jazz-Institute Berlin. His most recent band project Nodía Es combines a heavy metal band and a female vocal ensemble. The „hardcore opera“ project was recorded at the rbb studios Berlin in 2017, produced by Wolf Kampmann, and will soon be released on CD. His contemporary works have been performed by the ensemble mosaik and the modern art ensemble among others. He has released two albums with his long-term band Talking Hands which has been touring throughout Germany, Austria and Switzerland and performed at the Festival Jazzdor Berlin in 2015. His project Double Identity, that combines a jazz quintet and a chamber ensemble, was premiered at the Konzerthaus Berlin and a recording of the music was released on the Berlin-based label WhyPlayJazz. The project was funded by the ElsaNeumann Stipendium Berlin. Kanzler is also the founder of the KIM collective Berlin that organizes a yearly festival for experimental music, the KIM Fest.

Spring 2021 Online Events

March

- 8 Ari Livne, piano
- 12 Han Chen, piano

April

- 7 Kirsten Jermé, cello
- 16 Audrey Chen, cello
- 23 Carrie Frey, viola
- 26 Federico Diaz, guitar
- 28 Antonio Valentin, piano
- 30 Austin Lewellen, double bass

May

- 3 Thapelo Masita, cello
- 5 Clare Monfredo, cello
- 12 Julia Danitz, violin
- 14 GC Composers
- 17 Isabel Fairbanks, cello
- 19 Jeremy Kienbaum, viola
- 21 Fifi Zhang, piano

All events begin at 1:00pm and will be live-streamed free of charge at this link:

<https://gc-cuny.zoom.us/j/95813229159>

For detailed concert information, please visit our website at: <http://gcmusic.commonsgc.cuny.edu>