



College of Music
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

MSU NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Musique 21

The Sound of Her Voice

Katherine Kilburn, conductor
Fátima Corona, guest conductor
Asieh Mahyar, guest conductor

Generously sponsored by
Sam and Mary Austin

Monday, October 18, 2021
Fairchild Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Illumine (2016)

Anna Thorvaldsdottir
(b. 1977)

Starburst (2020)

Jessie Montgomery
(b. 1981)
arr. Jannina Norpoth

Asieh Mahyar, conductor

You Are Free (2015)

Sarah Kirkland Snider
(b. 1973)

Fátima Corona, conductor

Vestigia Flammae (2014)

Nina C. Young
(b. 1984)

Nabunum's Water (2017)

As Normal
Tiddalik takes the water
Barren land
Negotiating with Tiddalik
Water Spills

Melody Eötvös
(b. 1984)

Katherine Kilburn, conductor

PROGRAM NOTES

Illumine (2014) The inspiration for Illumine is based on the notion of dawn and the relationship between light and darkness – in particular the ignition of the first beams of light and the subtle rhythms that appear through the pulsating dance of light emerging.

- Anna Thorvaldsdottir

Starburst (2020) This brief one-movement work for string orchestra is a play on imagery of rapidly changing musical colors. Exploding gestures are juxtaposed with gentle fleeting melodies in an attempt to create a multidimensional soundscape. A common definition of a starburst: “the rapid formation of large numbers of new stars in a galaxy at a rate high enough to alter the structure of the galaxy significantly,” lends itself almost literally to the nature of the performing ensemble who premiered the work, the Sphinx Virtuosi, and I wrote the piece with their dynamic in mind.

- Jessy Montgomery

You Are Free (2015) In 2015, Grand Valley State University New Music Ensemble, in a project called “Music in Their Words,” commissioned nine composers, including me, to create works that utilized the speaking voice of a significant 20th-century composer, one who’d had a strong impact on their own work. I chose Arvo Pärt; when I first encountered contemporary music, he was one of the living composers whose music genuinely moved me. I had read a description of Pärt’s music as “both infinite calm and a house on fire,” which struck me as poignantly apt. The field recording of Pärt’s voice comes from a delightfully earnest video interview he did with Icelandic experimental pop star Björk in the late ‘90s. As I listened to their conversation about the ways in which music affects a listener, I heard a simple F major triad undulating in marimba, piano, and clarinet. From there, I tried to let the piece unfold relatively free of agenda or judgment, something I don’t often do. The first performance direction is “somewhere between plaintive, tender, and anxious.”

- Sarah Kirkland Snider

Vestigia Flammae (2016) In book IV of Virgil’s Aeneid, Dido – long in grief over her husband’s death – is awakened suddenly from emotional slumber by the visiting Trojan hero Aeneas, proclaiming “Agnosco veteris vestigia flammae” (“I recognize the traces of an ancient fire”).

PROGRAM NOTES (cont.)

Vestigia Flammae is not explicitly narrative in nature; like other recent works, it deals with the central concepts of lost memories, vestigial emotions, and melancholy for the passage of time. In contrast to those other works, a strain of optimism characterizes this piece: here, renewal is the driving force – the idea of recollecting, re-experiencing, and rekindling traces of old fires. This piece searches, through ritual and repetition, for remnants of vanished memories, and forgotten music. The mind has difficulty remembering – fragmented fossils are pieced together – much is lost and gained in the process. Ultimately an entirely new experience emerges, fraught with nostalgia, complexity, optimism, and simplicity. It's a new beginning.

Vestigia Flammae was written for the Nouvel Ensemble Moderne's 2014 Forum.

- Nina Young

Nabunum's Water (2017) This work is based on the Indigenous Australian story of Tiddalik the giant frog. One day Tiddalik decided to drink all of the fresh water in the world, causing him to become a giant frog. All of the other animals noticed how dry and dead everything became after that and sought out to find a way to return the water to the world. One by one they tried to get Tiddalik to laugh, hoping that that would cause the giant frog to accidentally release all of the water he had taken. No one was succeeding. Then one day Nabunum, the eel, came out of the dry mud and danced in front of Tiddalik, tying himself into all sorts of knots. Finally, this worked and Tiddalik released all of the water back into the world with his laugh at Nabunum's antics.

- Melody Eötvös

ARTIST FACULTY BIOS

Katherine Kilburn was a recipient of the Thelma A. Robinson Conducting Award and has been Assistant Conductor of the National Repertory Orchestra, the El Paso Opera, the Hot Springs Music Festival, the Bowling Green State University Philharmonia, and the St. Louis Symphony Chorus. She was Conductor of the Interlochen Arts Academy Wind Ensemble, Music Director and Conductor of the Greater New Haven Youth and Chamber Orchestras, Conductor of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Repertory Orchestra, and Interim Director of the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association's Philharmonia.

She has conducted the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra, the Lawrence University Symphony Orchestra and Opera Theater, the Green Bay Symphony, Ensemble X, Cleveland Opera Theater, and the Baldwin Wallace Symphony Orchestra.

Ms. Kilburn assisted Sir Simon Rattle for performances of Peter Grimes at the Salzburg Easter Festival and toured with world-renowned clarinetists David Shifrin and Alexander Fiterstein. She has conducted numerous world and USA-premieres and has conducted in the Cabrillo Music Festival, the MidAmerican Center for Contemporary Music Festival, the Philadelphia International Music Festival, and the Sewanee Summer Music Festival.

Ms. Kilburn has been on the faculty of Cornell University, Kent State University, and Baldwin Wallace Conservatory, and is now Assistant Director of Orchestras at Michigan State University.

Ms. Kilburn studied conducting at the Conservatoire Darius Milhaud in France and at the Royal Academy of Music in London. She holds the DMA in Contemporary Music from Bowling Green State University, the MM in Orchestral Conducting from the University of Michigan, the MM Choral Conducting from Indiana University, and the BA in Music and French from Wellesley College.

Born in Mexico, **María Fátima Corona del Toro** began playing violin at the age of eight. In 2010, after graduating with honors in violin performance from the Autonomous University of Baja California, Miss Corona became a professor of music at the Autonomous University of Nayarit.

ARTIST FACULTY BIOS (cont.)

In 2011, she made her debut as the conductor of the Esperanza Azteca Nayarit Symphony Orchestra, becoming the first female conductor of this project nationwide.

In 2020, Ms. Corona pursued an Artistic Diploma in orchestral conducting at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., with Simeone Tartaglione and Murry Sidlin. She was the assistant conductor and the violin coach at the DC Concert Orchestra Society, and Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras. She has taken masterclasses with Linus Lerner, Benjamin Zander, Carlos Spierer, Ángel Garrido, Alfredo Ibarra, David Harutyunyan, and Kenneth Kiesler.

She has performed in numerous venues across the US, Mexico, Canada, and Ecuador. Currently, Miss Corona is pursuing a master's degree as a TA at Michigan State University with Octavio Más-Arocas. She is also the assistant conductor of the Opera, M21, Concert, and Symphony ensembles from MSU.

Asieh Mahyar holds a master's degree in orchestral conducting from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Asieh Mahyar is currently pursuing her D.M.A. in orchestral conducting at Michigan State University with Octavio Más-Arocas. Ms. Mahyar holds a TA position and serves as Assistant Conductor for Symphony Orchestra, Musique 21, and Concert Orchestra.

Previously, Ms. Mahyar has served as TA at UMass-Amherst, assistant conductor at UMass SO, and co-director of UMass All University Orchestra. She had been appointed Assistant Conductor at Tchaikovsky Music School of Yerevan and assistant conductor at Sorayesh choir. Asieh has attended masterclasses with Miguel Hart-Bedoya, Kenneth Kiesler, Hovhaness Mirzoyan, and Antanina Kalechyts, among others. Her other mentors include Morihiko Nakahara, Kristo Kondakci, Ruben Asatryan, and Loris Tjecknavorian.

MUSIQUE 21 PERSONNEL

Violin

Emelyn Bashour
Sage Rosales
Fátima Corona

Viola

Zhen Huang
Yi-Pei Lin

Cello

Mira Cheng
Imjeong Choi

Bass

Wen Peng

Flute

Elva Tang: Young
Dustin Deao

Oboe and English Horn

Asako Furuoya

Clarinet

Tiago Silva
Taewoo Kim

Bassoon

Sierra Watson

Horn

Madeline Steffke

Trumpet

Michael Gause

Trombone

Michael Peebles

Percussion

Michael Giunta
Evan Moore

Piano

Joanne Jiang

Harp

Katelynn Ehlert

Librarians

Tess Peckman
Catherine Lee
Ursula Glasmacher

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THANK YOU TO OUR 2021-2022 SPONSORS

- **Brenda and Floyd Akins, Jr.**, (MSU Professors of Jazz, September 10, 2021)
- **Anonymous Donor Family** (MSU Symphony Orchestra and Choirs, *Songs of Comfort and Joy*, December 4, 2021)
- **Arts Midwest Touring Fund** (Westerlies)
- **Sam and Mary Austin** (Musique 21 concerts)
- **Lorie Seitz Barbieri and Chuck Barbieri, in loving memory of Midge Seitz (MSU '52)** (Alumni Chapel New Organ Dedication)
- **Ken and Sandy Beall** (Cello Plus Chamber Music Festival Series and John Clayton Residency, April 21-23, 2022)
- **James and Susan Bonfiglio** (MSU Symphony Orchestra, September 26, 2021, and Spring Opera)
- **Joanne and Bill Church** (West Circle Series and Legends)
- **April Clobes and Glen Brough** (Happy Birthday Mozart!)
- **Byron and Dee Cook** (Lift Every Voice)
- **Susan Davis** (Fall Opera)
- **Ed and Wanda Eichler** (Alumni Chapel New Organ Dedication)
- **John and Gretchen Forsyth** (Philip Sinder, January 19, 2022)
- **Thea Glicksman** (Richard Sherman, September 22, 2021, and Ralph Votapek, October 5, 2021)
- **Belle S. and Julius N. Harris Distinguished Visiting Artist Fund established by Lauren Julius Harris** (Dorothy DeLay Master Class Series)
- **Lauren Julius Harris** (MSU Symphony Orchestra, February 13, 2022)
- **Stanley and Selma Hollander Endowment for Chamber Music** (A Festival of Keys)
- **Eleanor H. and Harold E. Leichenko Opera Endowment established by Lauren Julius Harris** (Fall Opera)
- **Doug and Brenda Jewell** (Piano Monster)
- **Taylor Johnston Early Music Series Endowment established by Taylor Johnston** (Taylor Johnston Early Music Series)
- **Hari Kern and the late Ralph R. Edminster, M.D.** (Ralph Votapek and Friends, September 1, 2021)
- **Abby and Ann-Marie Lindley** (Gwen Dease and Yvonne Lam, October 13, 2021)

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021-2022 SPONSORS (cont.)

- **Ann-Marie and John Lindley** in memory of **Marian Braund** (Bach in the U.S.A. and Marc Embree, October 10, 2021)
- **Merritt Lutz** (150th Anniversary Celebration of Bands, April 30, 2022)
- **Joseph and Jeanne Maguire** (A Jazzy Little Christmas and Jazz on the Grand)
- **Patrick McPharlin** (Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer, and Protest Concert)
- **Dr. James M. Miller and Dr. Rebecca H. Lehto** (Fall Opera)
- **Mike and Midge Morrow** (Lift Every Voice)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union** (Showcase Series, Spartan Spectacular, and Music for Social Justice Video Series)
- **MSU Federal Credit Union Entrepreneurial Musical Artist-in-Residence Endowed Fund** (Westerlies)
- **Beth and the late Dr. Milton Muelder** (MSU Symphony Orchestra, October 24, 2021)
- **George Urban and Rae H. Ramsdell** (Alumni Chapel New Organ Dedication)
- **Jim and Elaine Rauschert** (Richard Fracker, March 15, 2022)
- **Nancy and Charlie Seebeck** (A Night at The Movies and A Celebration of the Beautiful Voice)
- **Brenda Sternquist** (A Jazzy Little Christmas)
- **Leonard and Sharon Tabaka** (Annual Jazz Spectacular Finale Concert)
- **Dr. Robert W. Uphaus and Dr. Lois M. Rosen** (Suren Bagratuni, November 14, 2021, and Dmitri Berlinsky, November 15, 2021)
- **Linn Van Dyne and Mike Knox** (MSU Symphony Orchestra and Choirs, *Verdi's Requiem*, April 28, 2022)
- **Provost Teresa K. Woodruff, Ph.D. and Thomas V. O'Halloran, Ph.D.** (MSU Symphony Orchestra and Choirs, *Songs of Comfort and Joy*, December 4, 2021, and *Verdi's Requiem*, April 28, 2022)
- **Worthington Family Foundation** (Opera Season)
- **Barbara E. Wagner** (Barbara Wagner Chamber Music Competition Showcase)
- **Dr. Charles and Philippa Webb** (Beacon Hill Music Series)
- **WKAR** (Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series)
- **Andrea L. Wulf** (Vox Humana)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

10/19 Tuesday

Orchestra Lecture Recital: *Sibelius's Symphony No. 2*

7:30 p.m., Fairchild Theatre, free

10/21 Thursday

Symphony Band

7:30 p.m., Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center \$

10/22 Friday

Wind Symphony

8:00 p.m., Cobb Great Hall, Wharton Center, \$

10/24 Sunday

Symphony Orchestra: The Sounds of Colors and Landscapes

3:00 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$

10/25 Monday

Joanne and Bill Church West Circle Series

Lift Every Voice

7:30 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$\$

11/2 Tuesday

Percussion Ensemble

7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre \$

11/3 Wednesday

MSUFCU Showcase Series

The Westerlies

7:30 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$\$\$

11/4 Thursday

Artist-Faculty and Guest Recital Series sponsored by WKAR

Chamber Recital with piano, violin, and clarinet

Derek Polischuk, Yvonne Lam and Guy Yehuda

7:30 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$

11/6 Saturday

Taylor Johnston Early Music Series

The Medici Ensemble: A Musical Conversation

8:00 p.m., Fairchild Theatre \$\$

TICKET PRICES

\$ \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors (age 60 and older), Students with ID and anyone under age 18 are free but require a ticket for admission.

\$\$ \$17 Adults, \$15 Seniors, \$7 Students with ID and anyone under age 18.

\$\$\$ \$22 Adults, \$20 Seniors, \$12 Students and those under age 18.

Please note: *All events scheduled in Murray Hall are general admission seating.*