



Connecticut Summerfest
Contemporary Music Festival

2024 Season
Concert Program Booklet
June 6th–12th, 2024

Aaron N. Price
Artistic Director

Gala Flagello
Festival Director

About Connecticut Summerfest

Our Mission

Connecticut Summerfest brings together talented emerging composers with some of the country's most inventive chamber music ensembles for a week-long festival of artistic exchange culminating in nine world premieres. The festival provides the Greater Hartford community with contemporary music concerts of the highest caliber through a nightly concert series featuring three ensembles-in-residence and brand-new pieces written by festival composition students. Connecticut Summerfest is proud to amplify voices of composers from historically underrepresented groups, specifically gender diverse composers and composers of color, through our Composition Program and concert programming.

*Connecticut Summerfest, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
All donations are tax deductible.*

We Proudly Present Our 2024 Season:

Ensembles-in-Residence

Black Moon Trio

Haven Trio

~Nois

Composition Faculty

Ivette Herryman Rodríguez | SUNY Potsdam

Gilda Lyons | The Hartt School, University of Hartford

Sponsored by the University of Hartford

Jeff Scott | Oberlin College and Conservatory

Christopher Theofanidis | Yale University

Dave Lake & Linda Wright Distinguished Composition Faculty

Festival Composers

Daniel Cui

Max Eidinoff

Spencer Gravel

Indigo Knecht

Nicole Knorr

Charlie Kreidler

Edward Lu

Yeeun Sim

Jaylin Vinson

Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for Connecticut Summerfest's noteworthy ninth season!

By the end of our 2024 season, Connecticut Summerfest will have engaged 25 composition faculty, presented 19 chamber music ensembles, and premiered over 80 new works. In 2023, we garnered over 800 concert series views from both our in-person and online audience members. This past winter, 110 composers applied to Connecticut Summerfest's 2024 Composition Program—the most applicants we've ever had! Nine composers from this pool were selected as our 2024 festival composers, whose stellar new pieces you'll experience at our Evening of Premieres.

Connecticut Summerfest is proud to serve the Greater Hartford community through outstanding artistry in our nightly concert series. When you enjoy something that you hear, we encourage you to speak to the performers and composers after the concert! Be sure to check out their websites, find them on social media, and tell your friends and family about them. We are proud to be a formative step in the careers of many emerging composers and ensembles, bringing artists together every year to collaborate in West Hartford, Connecticut.

A resounding thank you to everyone who has contributed to Connecticut Summerfest through their monetary gifts, donations of goods and services, and volunteering. Your support of Connecticut Summerfest makes a significant difference in the lives and careers of contemporary musicians and aids in the creation of new art.

And now, enjoy the music!

Sincerely,



Aaron N. Price
Artistic Director



Gala Flagello
Festival Director

Artist Residency Showcase

~Nois

Friday, June 7, 2024 | 8:00 PM | Berkman Recital Hall

Julian Velasco, soprano saxophone

Hunter Bockes, alto saxophone

Jordan Lulloff, tenor saxophone

János Csontos, baritone saxophone

Shakespeare's Jesters

Augusta Read Thomas

Shelf Life

Kari Watson

Perihelion

Elijah Daniel Smith

Intermission

Sun Thrower

Darian Donovan Thomas

I Tell You Me

Annika Socolofsky

Lindsay Kesselmann, soprano

Eternal Present

Shelley Washington

I. Now

Take your preconceived notions of 'noise' and toss them out the window. Equal parts "fiendishly good and fiendishly goofy" (Chicago Tribune), **~Nois** is a Chicago-based saxophone quartet dedicated to connecting with diverse audiences through the creation of new work. Since its founding in 2016, "~Nois continues to legitimize the saxophone quartet as a premiere ensemble formation for classical music" (Brutal New Music) through commissioning repertoire that is thought-provoking, engaging, and honestly just really good, by some of today's most inspiring compositional voices.

Hailed as "technically superb and musically brilliant" (Cleveland Classical) the ensemble has been awarded top prizes at numerous prestigious chamber music competitions including the M-Prize International Arts Competition, the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and have presented over 130 performances spanning 24 states. With more than 100 world premieres to date, the members of ~Nois have had the privilege of working closely with some of the world's leading voices in composition including Nico Muhly, Augusta Read Thomas, Shelley Washington, among others.

~Nois' recorded output boasts a wide variety of genres and styles, including their debut album "Is This ~Nois", which was heralded as "fresh and intense" (The Whole Note) The group's highly anticipated sophomore album, "Kinds of ~Nois", will be releasing in March of 2024 on the label Bright Shiny Things, in collaboration with the composer collective Kinds of Kings.

~Nois is János Csontos (he/him), Julian Velasco (he/him), Jordan Luloff (he/him), and Hunter Bockes (he/him). For more information, visit www.noissaxophone.com

Artist Residency Showcase

Haven Trio

Saturday, June 8, 2024 | 8:00 PM | Berkman Recital Hall

Lindsay Kesselman, soprano
Kimberly Cole Luevano, clarinet
Midori Koga, piano

Nonsense Songs*	Aaron Price
I. The Sun	
II. Second Movement	
III. Purple Cow	
Dragon Hymn from Trust Falls	Gilda Lyons
Gather Summon Offering	Gilda Lyons
DE OTRO MUNDO	Ivette Herryman Rodriguez
Comments by Computers**	Gala Flagello
all we are given we cannot hold	David Biedenbender
3. Watching My Daughter Through the One Way Mirror of a Preschool Observation Room	
5. Model Nation	
7. Cuttings	

**World Premiere*

***World Premiere (Trio Arr.)*

Established solo artists soprano Lindsay Kesselman, clarinetist Kimberly Cole Luevano, and pianist Midori Koga joined as the **Haven Trio** in 2011 around performances of Abbie Betinis' hauntingly beautiful song cycle Nattsanger. Haven released its first album, Bright Angel, (Fleur de Son, Ltd.) in 2013 to critical acclaim: "...amazingly performed works...performances are exquisite as is their ensemble chemistry." (Sequenza 21)

Now in its 12th season, Haven has commissioned a compelling body of repertoire from its extended family of composers. Their recordings: all we are given we cannot hold (Blue Griffin, 2023), Twinge (Blue Griffin, 2019), Atonement (Fleur de Son, 2015), and Bright Angel (Fleur de Son, 2013) can be found on all streaming platforms. Haven believes in commissioning people, not pieces of music, and enjoys ongoing relationships with composers such as Abbie Betinis, David Biedenbender, Evan Chambers, Roshanne Etezady, Lee Kesselman, Amy Beth Kirsten, Gilda Lyons, Kieren MacMillan, Jon Magnussen and Ivette Herryman Rodriguez.

Recent and upcoming performances include: premieres of all we are given we cannot hold by David Biedenbender and poet Robert Fanning, DE OTRO MUNDO by Ivette Herryman Rodriguez, Hardwired for Optimism by Roshanne Etezady and poet Carolyn Petit Pinet, as well as premieres of new arrangements of David Biedenbender's Shell and Wing and Amy Beth Kirsten's to my own heart). They were featured in performances with Chamber Music International and the Fine Arts Chamber Players in Dallas, TX, and also in a residency with the Jackman Humanities Institute at the University of Toronto.

Kim, Lindsay and Midori are all passionate teachers and actively seek out opportunities to work with student performers and composers. Haven has recently engaged in performing/teaching residencies at Michigan State University, the Hartt School, University of Texas - San Antonio, Sam Houston State University, Emory and Henry University, Abilene Christian University, St. Mary of the Woods College, College of DuPage and as an Ensemble-in-Residence at the Connecticut Summerfest in June 2022 (and also upcoming in June 2024).

Whether in a living room, an art gallery, a school, or a concert hall, Haven harnesses the power of vulnerability...inviting its audiences into an intimate and personal experience of contemporary music. Through their composers, they aim to create artistic experiences which allow audiences to feel welcomed, included, and connected to one another through poetry and musical storytelling.

Artist Residency Showcase

Black Moon Trio

Sunday, June 9, 2024 | 3:00 PM | Berkman Recital Hall

Khelsey Zarraga, violin
Parker Nelson, horn
Jeremy Vigil, piano

Suite for the Duo

II. Freely, Mournfully

Billy Strayhorn

Walden Trio

Daniel Schnyder

Filter

Daniel Bernard Roumain

Blackbird

Nina Simone

Un Abrazo para Sharon

Jeff Scott

Linda Delia

George Butcher and Julius Watkins

“Pop Construction”

Leo Brouwer

from ***Pictures from Another Exhibition***

The Chicago-based **Black Moon Trio** was founded in 2022 by Parker Nelson, Jeremy Vigil, and Khelsey Zarraga. Harnessing the experience from years of professional chamber music performance, music-making in social service settings, facilitating workshops at universities, developing curriculum for youth in schools, and leading community development through music, Black Moon Trio is excited to provide a classical music experience that resonates far beyond the vibrations of a final chord. By engaging with diverse audiences, youth, and artists of every type, Black Moon Trio works to prove that classical music is for everyone.

New Works Concert

Evening of Premieres

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 | 8:00 PM | Berkman Recital Hall

All pieces on this evening's program were composed specifically for Connecticut Summerfest 2024! Festival composers have collaborated with Black Moon Trio, Haven Trio, and ~Nois in preparation for these exciting premieres.

Black Moon Trio

submerged mirror

Indigo Knecht

Orbit of Breeze

Yeeun Sim

Boxers, Bullies, and Pugs

Jaylin Vinson

Haven Trio

Underwater

Spencer Gravel

waiting to speak

Nicole Knorr

i. breath study

ii. passion fruit

iii. waiting to speak

**The Chatter of a Death-Demon
from a Tree-Top**

Charlie Kreidler

~Nois

Refle(cts)x

Daniel Cui

Colliding Tones, Relentless Waves

Max Eidinoff

leaf litter

Edward Lu

2024 Festival Composers

Daniel (Jingyang) Cui, a Chinese-born composer, draws inspiration from his rich Chinese heritage, encompassing culture, history, and contemporary social issues. Having spent considerable time abroad, he passionately shares his unique perspectives on China through his musical compositions. His creativity is not confined to grand themes alone, as he finds inspiration in the subtleties of daily life, be it the charm of animals or a whimsical anecdote. Cui's diverse body of work spans from chamber pieces to orchestral compositions, reflecting the breadth of his artistic expression. Currently pursuing a master's degree in composition at Indiana University, Jacobs School of Music, under the mentorship of David Dzubay and Aaron Travers, Cui has been honored with the JSOM Supplemental Fellowship and the Irving & Leno Lo Scholarship Fund.

Max Eidinoff is a composer, improviser, and educator whose music is marked by creative audacity and dramatic flair. He incorporates avant-garde styles and rock music sensibilities into soundscapes characterized as both absurd and surreal. Max writes in a variety of genres including art songs, opera, concert music, computer music, film scores, and studio mixes. It is through a body of work which prioritizes storytelling and engages with cross-genre stylistic blending and ironic subtext that he aims to convey the complex adversities of the world we live in. Max is currently pursuing his MM in composition at The Peabody Institute.

Spencer Gravel is a composer and percussionist from Michigan. His music addresses a variety of issues, including interpersonal connection, the social role of art, and his relationship with nature, frequently exploring unconventional approaches to form as a means of expression. Also an improviser, Spencer incorporates improvisation into his work both as a precompositional tool and to empower performers' expressivity. Recently, Spencer has been working on writing and setting his own texts. He has studied at Western Michigan University and Michigan State University.

Indigo Knecht is a composer fascinated with the challenges people face as they navigate this world. Their music explores themes related to emotional turmoil, mental illness, and self-realization. Indigo's pitch material focuses strongly on the use of set theoretical methods, employing chromaticism and dissonance to convey musical ideas. Indigo has a BM in Music Composition

from Bowling Green State University and a MM in Composition from University of Michigan. Indigo is currently pursuing a DMA in Composition from University of Miami. They have studied with Mikel Kuehn, Marilyn Shrude, Elaine Lillios, Kristin Kuster, Roshanne Etezady, Lansing McLoskey, and Dorothy Hindman.

Nicole Knorr (b. 1999) is a musician and artist based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She is pursuing her Master's degree in Composition at the University of Michigan. Upcoming collaborations include a commission from the Michigan Music Teacher's Association to be premiered at their 2024 conference in October, a new work for the 2024 Plucomp Festival, and her piece for Haven Trio at Connecticut Summerfest this June.

Charlie Kreidler (b. 2002) is a composer who hails from Oak Park, Illinois, and currently studies in New York. Charlie's work has been showcased at various venues such as the "Cernan Space Center" in Chicago, "the cell theater" in Chelsea NYC, and the "Centre National de la Danse" in Paris. His favorite aspect of composition is the personal journey and tribulations that accompany the completion of each new piece. Currently, Charlie is studying composition with David T. Little at The New School.

Edward Yuwei Lu (he/him) (b. 2003) is a Chinese-American composer and saxophonist based in upstate New York. Primarily deriving musical inspirations from nature, visual art, and literature, Lu's works have been described as "painstakingly researched" and "texturally and rhythmically charming" with "fantastic notation and score presentation." He is an avid composer of chamber music and seeks to put out works that harbor collaboration and that performers can find challenging yet idiomatic for their instruments. He enjoys tinkering with extended techniques and unique timbres to bring his imagination to life. As a second-year undergraduate composition student at the Setnor School of Music, Lu has studied with Loren Loiacono and Nicolas Scherzinger. He is excited to attend Connecticut Summerfest 2024 and to write for ~Nois!

Yeeun Sim (b. 2002) is a Korean composer and pianist. She aims to create various musical atmospheres, inspired by nature, paintings, books, and imaginative spaces to draw emotions from her audience. Sim's main objective as a musician is conveying her messages through her music while considering its influence for diverse audiences. Yeeun has won the Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra Composition Competition, Call for Scores by

Liminal Space Ensemble, and more. She participated in the RED NOTE New Music Workshop, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival New Music Workshop, and Brevard Summer Music Festival and has worked with prominent ensembles such as Hub New Music, Tacet(j) Ensemble, Neave Trio, and Earspace. Yeeun is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in Composition at the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, studying with Dr. Kevin Puts and Dr. Alyssa Weinberg.

Jaylin Vinson is an African-American composer who explores the intrinsic beauty in human connection. His work, often collaborative in nature, focuses on narrative story-telling, the complexities of identity, and embracing a sense of unadulterated joy. With performances at prominent venues such as Carnegie Hall and The Kennedy Center, Vinson has collaborated with various organizations across the country. Some of his recent collaborators include the Brevard Music Center, Columbia Civic Orchestra, Heifetz International Music Institute, and the US Navy Band. Including a distinction from Brevard Music Center as a Fromm Foundation Fellow, Vinson has earned awards from the International Tribeca New Music Ensemble and the Texas New Music Ensemble Composition Competition. Currently, Vinson is pursuing a BM in composition from the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

Festival Staff

Aaron Nathan Price	Artistic Director, Co-Founder
Gala Flagello	Festival Director, Co-Founder
Maria Paterno	Development Manager
Nicholas Felder	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator
Pete Williams	Technology Manager
Will Jones	Recording Engineer, Kinsmen Sound Studio
Brandon Keogan	Recording Engineer, Kinsmen Sound Studio
Alfredo Cabrera	Media Manager
Michael Stubblefield	Technical Coordinator
Aidyn Connor	Development Coordinator
Nicole Knorr	Arts Management Intern
Jason Zhang	Data Analyst
Samantha Williams	Development Advisor
Rj Dion	Technical Assistant

Thank you to the entire Connecticut Summerfest team for all their hard work on our extraordinary ninth season!



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Just a Theory Press is proud to partner with Connecticut Summerfest to continue our support of composers everywhere!

To learn more about Just a Theory and our mission, or to check out some of the pieces below, visit www.justatheorypress.com.





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