

COMPOSERS CONCERT

Tuesday, September 17, 2024
Hatch Recital Hall
7:30 PM



EASTMAN
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER

PROGRAM

Toward the Surface (2023)

II. In the Throes

Julian Stuart-Burns

(b. 2000)

Wenbo Xing, piano

Ethereal Oasis (2024)

Bo Huang

(b. 2001)

Zihua Ma, violin

One Saturday Morning (2024)

Irene Huang

(b. 2006)

Cristian Yohannes, viola

Irene Huang, piano

Basilisk 3.0 (2024)

Nattakon Lertwattanak

(b. 2006)

Nattakon Lertwattanak, expanded violin

PROGRAM NOTES

Toward the Surface (2023)

Julian Stuart-Burns

Toward the Surface was written in my first semester at Eastman as a kind of warm-up for my time as a master's student. It is a cycle currently undergoing revisions, and it will premiere in full soon enough. However, Wenbo has been kind enough as to whet your appetites with a performance of an energetic piece from the cycle.

Ethereal Oasis (2024)

Bo Huang

Ethereal Oasis explores the mental state of those trapped in the urban grind, constrained by the obligations of salaries, loans, and other responsibilities. Despite their overwhelming circumstances, they long for tranquility and dream of escaping into nature. Is there really an escape from the endless cycle of urban demands? The answer becomes clear as the music progresses: the hope for such an escape is ultimately illusory.

One Saturday Morning (2024)

Irene Huang

It was May of this year when I graduated from my beloved music school, the Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists in Toronto, Canada. For our graduation recital, my best friend asked me to compose a short duet we could play together. Written for viola and piano, *One Saturday Morning* is inspired by having to get up at the ungodly hour of 6 or 7 every Saturday morning to attend the Academy's orchestra rehearsal. While everyone's moods started off tired and slightly irritable, we gradually began to appreciate and even bask in the beauty of creating music together to kick off our weekend. Hopefully, this piece is able to convey these contrasting sentiments and express the pure and unadulterated joy I and many others associate with high school music-making!

PROGRAM NOTES

Basilisk 3.0 (2024)

Nattakon Lertwattanakruk

There's an old joke, it goes something like this: A snake walks into a bar. The bartender says, "How'd you do that?"

Anyways, *Basilisk 3.0* revisits one of my older works, *Basilisk*, which was performed twice in Summer 2023. The idea of *Basilisk* is simple: a violin player is given a set of instructions on how to modify their instruments. Each new performance should be different and the performer may add their own elements to the modification, but the core remains the same: the violin, along with the performer, becomes a serpent. With the apparatus they are given, they must embody the *Basilisk*, living inside and bridging its two sound worlds: slithering and hissing. The violin becomes a body, an organism and respires, rattles, and weaves through all kinds of surfaces.

MEET THE COMPOSERS

Julian Stuart-Burns is a composer and pianist based in Rochester, New York whose music focuses on the juxtaposition of discrete musical objects, sharp and unexpected contrast, and the evocation of memory and reminiscence. Julian's work has been performed by loadbang, Mivos Quartet, and the Eastman Graduate Composers' Sinfonietta. His music has been premiered at the Paul Hindemith Center in Blonay, Switzerland, Kilbourn Hall and Hatch Recital Hall in Rochester, Field Recital Hall in Chicago, and Pickman Concert Hall in Cambridge, MA. He has attended festivals in the U.S and abroad, including VIPA, soundSCAPE Performance and Composition Exchange, and the Longy School of Music's Divergent Studio. Along with his formal compositional work, Julian loves writing music for games and films, and he hopes to build a career in video game sound design.

Bo Huang, composer originated from Changsha, China. She attended the Central Conservatory of Music Middle School in Beijing majoring in music composition. In 2016, Bo continued her studies at the Juilliard School Pre-College division. During her time in New York, she was an active participant in the New York Youth Symphony's composition program for two years.

Bo entered the undergraduate composition program of the Eastman School of Music in 2019. After she graduated from Eastman, she participated in the Lucerne Festival Academy composers seminar, where her commissioned piece was performed by the IEMA ensemble and Ensemble Modern. In 2024, She participated in the ManiFeste-2024 Academy Solo & Amplification Composition Workshop. The academy-commissioned work was performed by Hae-Sun Kang, soloist of Ensemble intercontemporain in June 2024. Later this year, her brass quartet was performed by Ensemble Musikfabrik. Bo is currently pursuing her Master of Music in composition at Eastman.

Irene Huang is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in composition at the Eastman School of Music. She earned her piano ARCT First Class Honors with Distinction and received RCM's Gold Medal for achieving the highest ARCT violin mark in Ontario. Irene also served as the pianist in the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra, the collaborative pianist for

MEET THE COMPOSERS

the North Toronto Songbirds, and the composer-in-residence for the CAST Youth Orchestra.

Irene's background in instrumental music has fueled her passion for becoming a professional composer. Her piece *Face the Music* won first place in the United Nations' Pitching Peace Youth Music Challenge and was featured during their International Day for Disarmament. Another work, *Deaf Pillows*, was selected by the Musical Life Foundation to premiere at Carnegie Hall. Recently, Irene was appointed as the creative resident by Morningside Music Bridge, where her new composition *Still Small Voice* received its world premiere at Jordan Hall.

Originally from Bangkok, **Nattakon Lertwattanak** (b. 2006) is a Thai composer and performer whose musical works primarily explore ecological dichotomies between anthropogenic and natural environments through stark juxtapositions of sonic extremities, the extension of instruments, and gradually-paced transmutations of musical gestures. Prior to his undergraduate studies, he primarily studied composition with Thai composer Dr. Piyawat Louilarpprasert. He is a Distinguished Prize recipient of the 2022 SCG Young Thai Artist Award and has collaborated with ensembles such as Tacet(i) Ensemble, the Thai Youth Orchestra, and Kul-Gänte Ensemble. His works have been performed at festivals such as Thailand New Music and Arts Symposium, IntAct Festival, Princess Galyani Vadhana International Music Festival, and China ASEAN Music Festival. Nattakon is currently pursuing a B.M. in composition at the Eastman School of Music, where he studies under Dr. Mikel Kuehn.

We acknowledge with respect the Seneca Nation, known as the "Great Hill People" and "Keepers of the Western Door" of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We take this opportunity to thank the people whose ancestral lands the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester currently occupies in Rochester, New York.

UPCOMING EASTMAN SERIES CONCERTS

Tickets for all series concerts can be purchased at EastmanTheatre.org

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES & GEORGE WALKER CENTER RECITAL SERIES

Crystal Sellers Battle

Kilbourn Hall

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 7:30 PM

*Tickets are free but must be reserved

Music of Burleigh, Barber, Hoiby, and Carter

KILBOURN CONCERT SERIES

Endea Owens and the Cookout

Kilbourn Hall

Friday, September 20, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Known as one of Jazz's most vibrant emerging artists, Endea Owens is a Detroit-raised Recording Artist, Bassist, and Composer. She has been mentored by Jazz Icons the likes of Marcus Belgrave, Rodney Whitaker, and Ron Carter. She has toured and performed with Wynton Marsalis, Jennifer Holliday, Diana Ross, Rhonda Ross, Solange, Jon Batiste, Jazzmeia Horn, Dee Dee Bridgewater, and Cyrus Chestnut to name a few.

UPCOMING STUDENT ENSEMBLE CONCERTS

All student performances are free unless otherwise noted.

Eastman Wind Orchestra

Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 7:30 PM

Music of Day, Biedenbender, Hesketh, Mackey, and Gotkovsky

Eastman's Sisters in Jazz Weekend

Hatch Recital Hall

Saturday, September 21, 2024 at 10:00 AM

*Registration required



For the most up to date information on Eastman concerts and events, scan this code to visit our online calendar.



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