

CU★PRESENTS

2023-24 Season



College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

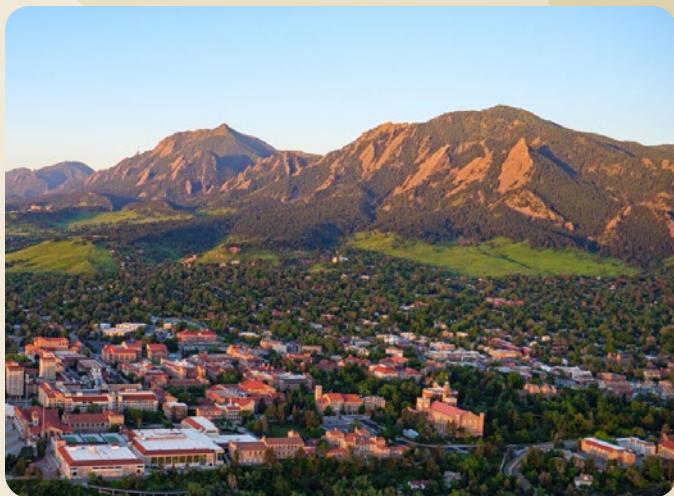
NEED TO KNOW FOR THE SHOW

- Refrain from using electronic devices **during** the performance. Feel free to view this program on your device at **any time prior to** the performance, **during intermission** or **after the performance ends**.
- Photography and video recordings of any type are strictly prohibited during the performance.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere. CU Boulder is a smoke-free campus.

CU PRESENTS is the home of performing arts at the University of Colorado Boulder.



The mission of the **University of Colorado Boulder College of Music** is to inspire artistry and discovery, together.



CU Boulder acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories and ancestral homelands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Ute and many other Native American nations. Their forced removal from these territories has caused devastating and lasting impacts.

[Read full land acknowledgment.](#)

SoundWorks

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024

Grusin Music Hall

Program

**sometimes it's nice to just feel like a noodle:
snap in half/boil the ocean/fling at a wall**

Rain Michael

Holly McMahon and Rain Michael, piano

*Madison Tallman, Karena Pruitt, Isabel Goodwin, Alex Loran and Lucy Rogers,
low winds*

Two Piano Suite, Op. 18

James Morris

I. Fantasy Waltz

II. Funeral March

Abby Terrill and James Morris, piano

Naakishchiin ana'i for flute and marimba (adapted for violin and piano)

Raven Chacon

Michiko Theurer, violin

Abby Kellems, piano

Living Space

Michiko Theurer

*Guided by Nicholas Felder, Abby Kellems, Egemen Kesikli, Holly McMahon,
Rain Michael and Michiko Theurer*

—Intermission—

Musica Ricercata

György Ligeti

I. Sostenuto – Misurato – Prestissimo

V. Rubato. Lamentoso

VI. Allegro molto capriccioso

VII. Cantabile, molto legato

VIII. Vivace. Energico

XI. (Omaggio a Girolamo Frescobaldi) Andante misurato e tranquillo

Keenan Powell, piano

Broken Reef

Blake Clawson

Er-Hsuan Li, piano

Pancake Opera

Libretto by Blair Snyder

Music by Holly McMahon

Camila Rodriguez, voice

Holly McMahon, piano

Program notes

sometimes it's nice to just feel like a noodle: snap in half/boil the ocean/fling at a wall

Rain Michael

Originally conceptualized as a piece for great bass recorder with piano accompaniment, *noodle* grew into an exploration in aleatoric techniques, group improvisation, and variations for any combination of low winds and piano(s).

Living Space

Michiko Theurer

Living Space was born at a Tiny Studio Salon, one of the parties I hosted in an apartment that was definitely not intended to hold twenty-plus people. I invited my friends to hum the resonance for any sound that caught their ears, and played a little improvisation that echoed back to me from our densely packed studio apartment like the sound of a cathedral.

Your invitation for this piece:

Listen around you and inside you for any sound that resonates with you.

*On your next exhalation, hum that sound for the full length of your breath.
(Don't worry if the sound you make is different from the sound you heard.)*

Repeat as often as it brings you joy.

In this iteration, I've invited the performers to reimagine beloved sounds as constellations of stars, and to offer these sounds to all of us as an invitation to resonance. We would be honored if you would join us in bringing this space to life.

Broken Reef

Blake Clawson

The germinal idea for *Broken Reef* came from an unfinished sketch in one of my composition journals. I had drafted a few phrases for solo piano several years ago, but never developed the music further. One of the shorthand harmonies in the sketch was a double polychord: D-sharp/F-sharp/G-sharp. This caught my attention, and eventually developed into the harmonic language of *Broken Reef*.

Alongside the musical construction of this piece came its conceptual development. The first phrases conjured the image of an underwater scene, and after some consideration, I felt that the harmonic language and motivic material were evocative of the plight of coral reef bleaching. The music is sometimes shimmering, contemplative, and colorful, and at other times tense, pale, and desolate. This parallels the state of many reefs worldwide: often called the “rainforests of the sea” on account of the biodiversity they foster, reefs are beautiful and teeming with life when healthy, but as the effects of the climate crisis cause environmental stress, they fade and die. This death causes a ripple effect across oceanic ecosystems. My aim in the development of this piece was to blend the contrast of beauty and death into a unified sonic space to represent the tenuous survival chances the reefs face, and further, what this means for the biodiversity of the oceans.

Pancake Opera

Libretto by Blair Snyder

Music by Holly McMahon

Writing *The Pancake Opera* was a profoundly joyful experience, and it could not have happened without the support of my good friend Camila Rodriguez, who told me she was willing to perform anything with me as long as it was as a pancake, and Blair Snyder, whose lyrics made this piece what it became: an oddly touching, dramatic account of the entire life cycle of a pancake, from its perspective.

Text:

The primordial ooze of my being is poured from the ladle. My form pools in the griddle, heated by the fire lit by the spark of life.

From near white to faint gold to tan - I stay like this for a moment too long, and fear I may lose my flavor, I may burn, and become almost crystalline.

The spatula is my salvation. It scrapes across the griddle and finds purchase beneath me, ripping and snapping the parts of me that are too slow to give way to its gentle pressure. Those parts are left behind, to burn and grow brittle from the unrelenting heat.

I am flipped and laid back down. The welcoming, welcoming heat, embracing me. Embracing me as the process begins anew.

Again and again and again, my siblings surround me. Our siblings. Greedy hands reach for us. My sibling and I are divided. My siblings and I are divided. Blades rain down, blades rain down around me as my siblings are torn apart. Torn apart by blades and brown liquid.

Thirty two. Thirty two chattering pearls grind down upon me. Again and again and again and again and again, they peel me from my impalement. My life, poorly spent, must end.

There is nothing. Nothing. The fear of the past is replaced with tranquility. Tranquility. It is done; this was my destiny, to become energy. My destiny. Destiny. Destiny. Destiny. Destiny. Destiny. Destiny. Destiny.

Personnel

Text that is bold and underlined is a hyperlink; click or tap for more information.

CU Boulder SoundWorks

Egemen Kesikli, director

Annika Socolofsky, faculty coach

Nicholas Felder, outreach coordinator

Rain Michael, stage manager

Abby Kellems, Gracie Fagan and Josie Arnett, social media

Raven Chacon

Raven Chacon is a composer, performer and installation artist from Fort Defiance, Navajo Nation. As a solo artist, Chacon has exhibited, performed or had works performed at LACMA, The Renaissance Society, San Francisco Electronic Music Festival, REDCAT, Vancouver Art Gallery, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Borealis Festival, SITE Santa Fe, Chaco Canyon, Ende Tymes Festival and The Kennedy Center. As a member of Postcommodity from 2009-2018, he co-created artworks presented at the Whitney Biennial, documenta 14, Carnegie International 57, as well as the 2-mile long land art installation Repellent Fence.

A recording artist over the span of 22 years, Chacon has appeared on more than 80 releases on various national and international labels. His 2020 Manifest Destiny opera *Sweet Land*, co-composed with Du Yun, received critical acclaim from The LA Times, The New York Times and The New Yorker, and was named 2021 Opera of the Year by the Music Critics Association of North America.

Since 2004, he has mentored over 300 high school Native composers in the writing of new string quartets for the Native American Composer Apprenticeship Project (NACP). Chacon is the recipient of the United States Artists fellowship in Music, The Creative Capital award in Visual Arts, The Native Arts and Cultures Foundation artist fellowship, the American Academy's Berlin Prize for Music Composition, the Bemis Center's Ree Kaneko Award, and in 2022 will serve as the Pew Fellow-in-Residence.

His solo artworks are in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Smithsonian's American Art Museum and National Museum of the American Indian, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Getty Research Institute, the University of New Mexico Art Museum, and various private collections.

Blake Clawson

Blake Clawson is a composer, conductor, pianist and vocalist based in Boulder. Clawson's music spans many genres, but he specializes in contemporary classical and jazz. He has collaborated with both filmmakers and choreographers, and his award-winning pieces *Matara* and *Fantasy Arabesque* have received performances around the state of Washington, including a performance and award by Seattle-based Opus 7 Vocal Ensemble. In 2020, Clawson received a Bachelor of Arts in music composition from Whitworth University, where he studied with Brent Edstrom. Clawson is currently pursuing a master's degree in music composition at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he teaches aural skills and studies with Carter Pann.

Rain Michael (they/them)

Multi-instrumentalist and composer Rain Michael is interested in subjective experiences around music performance and perception. Michael's music—which pulls from their studies in psychology, linguistics, leadership, and cognitive science—has been performed by the Colorado Wind Ensemble, and HOCKET, ~Nois, Duo Cortona, and others at CU Boulder SoundWorks concerts. Their piece *seeds to plant (in an unmarked grave)* was selected for performance in the 2023 Nief-Norf Call-For-Scores. Michael's current focuses surround aleatoric techniques alongside questions such as “How do I make a single note groove?” (with saxophones!) and “How many keyboards can I fit on a stage?” (at least 10). Outside of music, they enjoy hanging with friends and collecting stickers.

Holly McMahon

Throughout her life, Holly McMahon has worked with and connected countless musicians across several genres including film, theater, dance and contemporary music performance. She continues to explore the use of new instrumentations and stylistic choices through her studies of music composition, music technology and piano performance at the University of Colorado Boulder. She is most celebrated for her works for solo piano, which typically feature carefully sculpted, running lines and evocative yet comfortable rhythmic textures.

James H. Morris

James H. Morris is a pianist pursuing his DMA 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 from CU Boulder with his MM (2022) and Westminster Choir College of Rider University, earning BM degrees in both piano and theory/composition (2020). At Westminster Choir College, he studied piano with James Goldsworthy and theory/composition with Stefan Young.

Morris has attended festivals such as Interlochen Arts Camp studying with Robert Satterlee (2015), and Brevard Music Festival studying with Jihye Chang-Sung (2018). He was named alternate for the New Jersey MTNA Competition Young Artist division in 2019. An active composer, he participated in the inaugural season of the NATS Mentoring Program for Composers in 2020. He completed the second book of *12 Little Preludes* which were premiered by Jennifer Hayghe.

Michiko Theurer

Michiko Theurer (pronounced toy-rer) is a multimedia artist and performer who received her DMA at CU Boulder in 2017, where she studied with Harumi Rhodes and Ed Dusinberre. She is currently living in Boulder and completing her PhD in musicology (broadly defined) at Stanford. She loves hosting creative sharing parties, dancing around her apartment, and dogs.

CALL FOR ELECTRONIC MUSIC

The annual **64-Bit Electronic Music Composition Competition** is soliciting original electronic music that lasts 64 seconds from non-composition major CU students.

Three finalists from each category will be chosen, and their music will be played at the SoundWorks concert at the ATLAS Black Box Theater. The audience will pick the two winners.

COMPETE FOR \$200 IN TWO CATEGORIES: EDM and SOUND ART

Open to:

Current CU graduate and undergraduate students
(non-composition majors)

Online Submission deadline:

11:59 p.m., Wednesday Jan. 31, 2024 at 11:59 pm.

Performance and live voting:

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024
ATLAS Black Box Theater

Apply at:

tinyurl.com/Soundworks64

Event details are subject to change, but the CU Presents website will always be up to date. Click or tap below to explore your options.



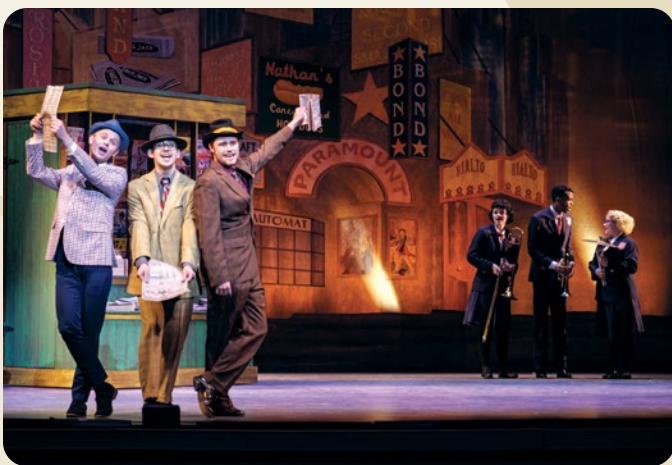
Artist Series

Tickets start at \$20



Eklund Opera

Tickets start at \$15



Bachelor of Music in Musical Theatre Program

Tickets start at \$17



Faculty Tuesdays and Guest Artist Recitals

Free, no tickets required



Student Ensembles

Free, no tickets required



Student Recitals

Free, no tickets required



Educational Events

Free, reservation requirements vary



Visit the College of Music website



Today and every day, **your support matters.**

The **Dean's Annual Fund** provides critical support for programs throughout the College of Music. It enriches student and faculty experiences through diversity, equity + inclusion initiatives, faculty and staff professional development, student performances at Boettcher Concert Hall, distinguished visiting lecturers ... and more!

**Click or tap
to give online**

OR

**Call to make a gift
303-492-3054**

Dean's Annual Fund Supporters



\$50,000+

Maria Johnson
David Turner*

\$10,000-\$49,999

Paul and Kristina Eklund
Ken and Ruth Wright

\$5,000-\$9,999

Chris and Margot Brauchli
Dave Fulker and Nicky Wolman
Laurie Hathorn
Rudy and Margaret Perez
Becky Roser and Ron Stewart in
memory of Charles Wetherbee
Lynn Streeter
Jack and Sophie Walker

\$2,500-\$4,999

Dave Bowers
Katherine and Hassan Dayem
Doree Hickman in memory of Bruce
Ekstrand
Suzanne and Dave Hoover
Grace and Gordon Gamm
Barbara and Michael Gerber
Ben and Pattie Nelson
The Seaver Institute
Daniel Trump

\$1,000-\$2,499

Anonymous (1)
Sue and Barry Baer
Cathy and Richard Berman
Marda Buchholz
Bob Bunting

Marty Coffin Evans and Robert
Trembly in memory of Berton Coffin
Mary and Lloyd Gelman
Sara and David Harper
Charlotte Kilpatrick*
Bonnie Kirschenbaum
Kimberly and Matthew McCabe
Barbara Nichols
Susan Olenwine and Frank Palermo
Vivianne and Joel Pokorny
Mikhy and Mike Ritter
Firuzeh and Navid Saidi in honor of
Dean Emeritus Daniel Sher
Gail and Michael Shimmin
Frank Spaid
Mary Tyler
Tyler Little Family Foundation
Lucinda Waldron and Paul Ward
Mary Webber and Gerald Grammens

\$500-\$999

Karen Connolly
Barbara Dixon and Timothy Caldwell
Sandra and Bruce Dudley in honor of
Louise B. Steineck
Jonathan and Shari Fox
Thomas Godfrey
Herman Goellnitz
Ruth and Richard Irvin
V. R. Hoisington
Judith and Jeffrey Kremen
Kay and Daryl James
Joan McLean Braun
Normie Morin-Voillequé and Paul
Voillequé

Chris and Linda Paris

Lawrence Robins in memory of
Florence Robins

Tana and Joe Rocco, Jr.
Becky and John Shockley
Robert Short in memory of
Virginia Short

Maria Vouras and Vasilios Lekkas
Anne and Peter Wood
Carol and William Young

\$300-\$499

Anonymous (1)
The Boeing Company
Laura and John Courier
Connie and Allen Hayden
George Kiteley
James and Donna Klausman
Jeff and Lois Linsky
Patricia and Thomas Miner
Debbie and Rob Phillips
Pamela Rafferty
Madalynn Schmidt
Cindi and John Stetson

\$150-\$299

Anonymous (1)
Terri Albright and Howard Bittman
David Becher
Timothy Brown
Sylvia and Charles Coats
Elvis Coble
Elisabeth David
Nancy and Martin Egelhoff
Beverly and Bruce Fest



Jon Finson
FM Global Foundation
Roberta and Cliff Goldstein in
memory of Herb Millmann
Edward Kellenberger
Ellen and Stephen Kort
Lydia and Geary Lerrick
Harold and Joan Leinbach
Gretchen and James Lewis
Donna Meckley
Heather and Brian O'Neill
Carol and Alvin Rivera
Sarah Royall
Jan Schiff
Suan and Russell Schnell
Susanne Skyrn
Ann Johnson and Robert Sprinkle
Heidi and Scott Vangenderen

\$50-\$149

Ball Corporation
Steven Board
Barbara and Myron Caspar
David Chadwick in memory of
Donna Grayson
Judy Congdon in memory of
Don Vollstedt
Charlotte Corbridge in memory of
Susan Peterson
Alexandra Cramer
Valerie and Thomas DellaPenna
Ithiel Frame
Windy and Terry Gallagher, Jr.
Derek Gulley
Gayle and Lynn Gunderson

Lynn and Bruce Haines in memory of
Josephine Haines
Wei Wang and Eric Hintsa
Kelli and Geoff Hirsch
Jonnie and Virgil Hoffman in memory
of Helen and A. Glenn Miller
Intel Foundation
Hans Jordan and J. Mulcahy
Diana Kahn in memory of Ruth Kahn
Lenna and Jon Kottke
Judy Cisel and Andrew Kramer
Joyce and Stewart Kull
Janie and Craig Lanning in memory of
Berton Coffin
Kim and Bob Larsen
Nancy and Paul Levitt
Kerry Lightenburger
Bill Lockhart
Marian Matheson
Cathy and Byron McCalmon
Janie and Harry McDonald, Jr.
Kevin McKenzie
Katherine Mead
Kathleen and Gregory Merilatt
Deborah and Brian Mooney
Karen Musick in honor of Ray and
Diane Phillips
Usha and Ramkumar Narayanswamy
Hien Nguyen
Diane and William Reuler in memory
of Berton Coffin
Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated
Carmen and John Roebke
William Roettker
Janice Sanders

Rojana Savoye
Sarah Seggerman
Christy and Terry Smith
Gayle and Thomas Smith
Vivienne and Stephen Smithers
Rose Terada
Carol Thieme
Cynthia Thompson Grubb and
Richard Grubb
Janet and Terry Venard
Jean Wainwright
Nancy Whittemore and Michael
Bendure
Patricia and Jim Wilmore
Gandasari and U. Kyaw Win
Dorothy Young

** Deceased*

Thank you to all individuals who have
contributed. This list comprises all
gifts of \$50+ made to the College of
Music Dean's Annual Fund between
June 1, 2022 and Nov. 30, 2023.
If you are interested in making a
donation to the Dean's Annual Fund,
please contact Assistant Dean
for Advancement Andrew Todd at
atodd@colorado.edu.

Personnel

As of Jan. 10, 2024

CU PRESENTS

Executive Director

Joan McLean Braun

Marketing and PR Director

Laima Haley

Operations Director

Andrew Metzroth

Marketing Manager

Elise Zabala

Multimedia and Content Manager

Lara Minichiello

Publications Manager

Sabrina Green

Senior House Manager

Rojana Savoye

Ssenior Marketing Assistant

Emma St. Lawrence

Marketing Assistant

Dana Cutti

Video Assistant

Tyler Moffat

Box Office Manager

Adrienne Havelka

Box Office Services Coordinator

Dylan Thierry

Box Office Assistants

Caitlin Amero

Roman Bailey

Macy Crow

Grant Hollis

Morgan Ochs

Lily Valdez

MACKY AUDITORIUM

Director

Rudy Betancourt

Assistant Director for Administration

Sara Krumwiede

Assistant Director for Production

Trevor Isetts

Assistant Director for Patron Services

Amanda Wells

Production Managers

Richard Barrett

Chris Evans

Senior House Manager

Rojana Savoye

House Manager

Devin Hegger

Communications and Programs Assistant

Kathryn Bistodeau

Communications Assistant

MarieFaith Lane

Program Manager for Stewardship and Donor Relations

Shih-Han Chiu

Assistant Director of Development

Elise Collins

Development Assistant

Rachelle Dizon

Director of Development

Kelli Hirsch

Senior Program Manager for Events

Mikaela Rich

Operations Manager and Head Piano Technician

Ted Mulcahey

Scheduling Coordinator

Brooke Balbuena

Lead Piano Technician

Mark Mikkelsen

Piano Technician

Phil Taylor

Recording Engineer

Kevin Harbison

Operations and Facilities Assistant

Peggy Hinton

Media Specialist

Dustin Rumsey

COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Dean

John Davis

Executive Assistant to the Dean

Lauren Petersen

Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

Margaret Haefner Berg

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies and Enrollment Management

Matthew Roeder

Assistant Dean for Concerts and Communications

Joan McLean Braun

Assistant Dean for Strategic Initiatives

Kate Cimino

Assistant Dean for Budget and Finance

Carrie Howard

Assistant Dean for Advancement

Andrew Palmer Todd

Senior Director of Communications

Sabine Kortals Stein

Photo/image credits: Glenn Asakawa, CU Boulder Photography, Patrick Campbell, Casey Cass, John Mac, Patrick Wine