

CU★PRESENTS

COLLEGE OF MUSIC 2025-26 EVENTS



College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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Photo credit: Owen Zhou.

SoundWorks

In Memory of Chris Christoffersen
Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2025, 7:30 p.m.
Grusin Music Hall

PROGRAM

Drone

Boulder Laptop Orchestra (BLOrk)

*Riley Fuller, Tomas Loya, Ben McCorrison, David Payne,
Anthony Petrocco, Leo Hall, PJ Freiermuth
John Drumheller, director*

The Mountains Over Hohenwerfen

Luka Vezmar

The Koa String Quartet:

Kisa Uradomo, Leah Pernick, violin

Devin Cowan, viola

Heewon Lee, cello

White Moon Over Water

Carter Pann

Max Warnock, piano

Humoresque for Cello and Piano

Aric Vyhmeister

Elise Cole, cello

Aric Vyhmeister, piano

[untitled] for circle-singing

Leah Porter Tracy

Leah Porter Tracy, leader

PROGRAM NOTES

Drone

Boulder Laptop Orchestra (BLOrk)

The emergence of the laptop orchestra in the last several years has given improvisers innovative tools for creating novel musical experiences. BLOrk integrates technology with improvisers in an ensemble setting, providing live interaction between the two. The ensemble consists of performers each equipped with a laptop, a hemispherical speaker and a variety of control devices, which can include traditional instruments, MIDI controllers, video game accessories, bodily movement or voice. The use of hemispherical speakers projects sound in a way similar to that of an acoustic instrument, which allows musicians to hear and interact with each other without monitors or headphones.

The Mountains Over Hohenwerfen

Luka Vezmar

The Mountains Over Hohenwerfen is a String Quartet written for Koa, the graduate string quartet in residence at CU Boulder. The piece takes us on a journey of a day of hiking in the town of Werfen, Austria, just south of Salzburg. Werfen is home to the magnificent Eisriesenwelt (Ice caves) and the *Sound of Music* hike, among other attractions of course, like the stoic castle situated on a hill overlooking the town (named Hohenwerfen). I spent a day in this town, and by far the most stunning part was hiking the mountains over Hohenwerfen and experiencing firsthand the sheer beauty this world has to offer.

White Moon Over Water

Carter Pann

White Moon Over Water is the fourth work from *The Piano's 12 Sides*, a twelve-movement volume of piano works written in 2011. The title of this movement refers to an experience I had on the Damariscotta River in Maine in the summer of 2010. I took a one-person kayak out on the great, wide river in the middle of the night. Not a cloud in the sky, my only companions were a blinding full moon, an imposing pale-white Venus, and thousands of visible stars. I am not used to creating the kind of musical expression this piece demands, so the process was both inescapable and thrilling. Without a melodic line to anchor oneself on, I ask the pianist to use the instrument like a canvas over which many different color combinations are applied evenly throughout. The amount of restraint required to achieve this is formidable. The work's interior ("The Celestial Canopy") pulls one into a timeless realm. In this section no tempo should be felt by the listener—only a sense of eternal suspension.

Humoresque for Cello and Piano

Aric Vyhmeister

This *Humoresque* is a short showpiece for the cello, envisioned as a concise encore with ample dialogue between the two instruments as they tease and compete with each other, reaching a truce at the very end. Over the course of this musical conversation the cello travels through its full range and explores a variety of effects, and at times joins the piano in creating composite rhythmic textures.

PERSONNEL

Egemen Kesikli, director

Annika Socolofsky, faculty coach

Nicholas Felder, community outreach coordinator

Luka Vezmar, stage manager

Addison Hill, social media coordinator

Carter Pann, composer; chair, composition;
Ralph E. and Barbara L. Christoffersen Faculty Fellow

Luka Vezmar

Luka Vezmar is a composer, oboist, accordionist and all around music lover. Since he was nine months old, he has gone to many concerts with his family and friends which always inspires him to write more music. He grew up playing the piano and various other instruments throughout schooling like the trumpet, saxophone and oboe. He decided to continue with the oboe and is pursuing a BM in oboe performance as well as in composition. While Vezmar's music encompasses many different fields, he specializes in classical music, with the hopes of getting accordion into the main stream classical music world. Vezmar always has a very distinct character in his music, which to him makes the music seem alive. He hopes that the audience can connect with his music and hopefully leave feeling just a little better than when they came in.

Aric Vyhmeister

Composer and pianist Aric Vyhmeister (ASCAP) earned a Master of Music in collaborative piano at the University of Colorado Boulder and is currently pursuing graduate studies in composition at CU Boulder under Carter Pann. Vyhmeister is a frequent recitalist and chamber musician in the Denver area, served as music director with the Boulder Opera Company, performed with Art Song Colorado and the SoHap Ensemble and served on the faculty at Metropolitan State University. He is also a regular guest artist at the Salt Creek Song Festival in Ashland, Nebraska.

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Photos: On this page, University Chorus, Fall 2024.

Photo credit: Erika O'Conor; On the cover, Cross-Genre Ensemble, 2025. Photo credit: Owen Zhou.

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The Drowsy Chaperone (2023).
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