

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING AND CINEMATIC ARTS  
**Boyer College of Music and Dance**

conTemplum Presents  
Charlene Kluegel, violin

April 19, 2021  
Presented Virtually

Monday  
8:00 pm

Program

Big Emotion (2021)	John Kairis
Fleeting Respite (2021)	Lex Simakas
The Pale Sky (2021)	Benjamin Price
Are Fish Friends? (2021)	Harrison Cohn
Suburban Storm (2021)	Noah Slade
Meditation on 2/5 (2021)	Hannah Selin
Narrative (2021)	Sepehr Pirasteh

## Program Notes

### **Big Emotion**

**John Kairis**

*Big Emotion* is about the rush of energy that fills you with physical joy when you're falling in love. I'm speaking of ultra-romantic euphoric love. It's the first big drop of a roller-coaster, the kind of love that filters everything you see through rosy glasses. *Big Emotion* is the exciting, blissful (and a little scary) early stages of a budding romance.

### **Fleeting Respite**

**Lex Simakas**

The creative spark for this piece came when I sought it, but not in the way I expected. I was outside sitting by the Schuylkill River trying to draw musical inspiration from my surroundings. By simply sitting and observing, I experienced a brief, unexpected moment of calm and clarity. Instead of inspiration coming from my physical surroundings, it came from this experience.

### **Are Fish Friends?**

**Harrison Cohn**

Are fish friends or are they food? Is this piece really about fish? Probably not, but who am I to say?

### **The Pale Sky**

**Benjamin Price**

This piece is an impressionistic work regarding theme, allowing sufficient space for individual interpretation.

### **Meditation on 2/5**

**Hannah Selin**

*Meditation on 2/5* is part of a series of solo and duo meditations, all of which are all somehow based around numbers interpreted especially as frequencies, but also as rhythms and other musical parameters. This one draws its numbers from global warming projections, in degrees Celsius. The IPCC calls for no more than 2°C of surface temperature rise above preindustrial levels, which in itself will cause massive climate change. A 2013 IPCC report projects a rise of nearly 5°C by the year 2100 if the global carbon emissions continue on their current trajectory.

### **Suburban Storm**

**Noah Slade**

This is Noah's first solo violin piece. Inspired by the juxtaposition of the vitality and movement of nature to the order and stillness of the various neighborhoods nestled within the trees, this piece melodically and texturally explores an image of an oncoming storm hovering over the suburbs.

### **Narrative**

**Sepehr Pirasteh**

This piece consists of four movements in which each of them represents a form and/or topic in the performance and practice of Persian *Dastgahi* music. The piece represents a narrative mode to communicate different characteristics of Persian music through an object that is borrowed from a

different culture. This narration process tends to build a bridge through two different musical ideas and repertoire. The usage of the altered tuning helps the idea to create a new sonic experience that is borrowed from *Kamancheh* (a Persian stringed instrument).

## About the Soloist

Hailed for her “unsentimental verve, musical feeling and great technical skill” (New York Classical Review), violinist **CHARLENE KLUEGEL** is known for her versatile artistry that transcends the traditional boundaries of Classical music genres.

A chamber musician and soloist “with aplomb” (Chicago Classical Review) on modern and Baroque violin, her engagements have taken her to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Tonhalle Zurich, the Banff Centre, Chicago Symphony Hall, Orchestra Hall Detroit, the Ravinia Festival, and the Music Center at Strathmore. She has collaborated with members of the Chicago Lyric Opera, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and the New York Philharmonic, Cuarteto Casals, Third Coast Percussion, members of Brentano Quartet, Jason Vieaux, Robert McDuffie, and the Music of the Baroque, Washington Bach Consort, Elizabeth Fields, Cynthia Roberts, and Dorian Bandy. As a featured soloist she has appeared under the baton of Gemma New, Lee Mills, Kemal Akçag, and with the Baltimore Baroque Band and the Cornell Symphony Orchestra.

As the violinist and co-founder of Duo FAE, she tirelessly promotes the sonata repertoire as the most intimate expression of chamber music. Dedicated to the performance of new music, she has premiered works by Dan Visconti, Julia Adolphe, Stacy Garrop, Steven Snowdon, Xi Wang, Osamu Katsuki, Matthew Kennedy, and Austin Wintory, and has upcoming commissions by composers including Iranian-American composers Sepehr Pirasteh and Ramin Akhavijou. Formerly the violinist of acclaimed Fifth House Ensemble, she has recorded on Cedille and Dynamic Catholic labels and has appeared regularly on radio broadcasts. Always curious to expand her musical horizons, Ms. Kluegel collaborated on Patois’s explorative CD of Latin Jazz “Canto America” which was nominated for a Grammy for Best Latin Jazz Album in 2016.

Charlene Kluegel’s commitment to the advancement of emerging artists has taken her to education residencies and masterclasses at the Eastman School of Music, Northwestern University, the University of Texas at Austin, Bowling Green State University, the McDuffie Center for Strings, Roosevelt University, and Lawrence University and now features her as one of the Directors of Twisted Spruce Music Foundation. Her primary research is in the practical intersection between pedagogy and performance practice and has published a pedagogical handbook on style and tempo considerations in orchestral violin excerpts. She continues her dedication to research through her tenure on the Editorial Board of the American String Teacher Journal and as the Chair of the Illinois ASTA Concerto Competition. As the founder of Charlene’s String Camp-to-Go, she continues her passion of combining instrumental instruction and music history/theory in a virtual platform designed for advanced high schoolers around the world. She has previously taught at the Peabody Institute of Music and Fresh Inc Festival and currently serves on faculty at the Music Institute of Chicago.

Prior to graduating from Cornell University, Ms. Kluegel studied at the Hochschule der Künste Bern, Switzerland. She holds a masters of music and Graduate Performance Diploma from the Peabody Institute of Music and, as a recipient of the Indiana University Artistic Excellence Award she received her Doctor of Music from Indiana University. She studied under Pamela Frank, Jorja Fleezanis, Susan Waterbury, Stanley Ritchie, and Monika Urbaniak-Lisik. Charlene Kluegel is honored to receive string sponsorship from Larsen Strings A/S.

## About the Artists

**JOHN KAIRIS** is a multi-instrumentalist composer and producer with a knack for cross-stylistic blending into lush, rhythmically-driven soundscapes. He incorporates skills from classical composition training, independent electronic music production, and rock, concert, and jazz bands into a cohesive whole. He currently studies at Temple University for a MM in Composition with Maurice Wright, having previously studied under Matthew Greenbaum, Jan Krzywicki, Emiliano Pardo-Tristan, and Rene Orth.

**LEX SIMAKAS** is a pianist, composer, arranger, and technologist from Pittsburgh, PA. He received his BM in Piano Performance with a jazz concentration from Ithaca College in 2017 and is currently in his first year in the MS Music Technology program at Temple University. Having worked and performed in a wide array of musical contexts, his music draws from a similarly wide variety of sources.

**HARRISON COHN** is a composer.

**BENJAMIN PRICE** is a composer based in Philadelphia. Currently, he is completing his bachelor's degree in Composition at Boyer College, and intends to pursue school somewhat further, likely to a terminal degree.

Composer, violist and vocalist **HANNAH SELIN** juxtaposes acoustic instruments and voices with electronics and field recordings to create striking and vibrant sound-spaces. Her music delves into the inner lives of sounds: shimmering sound-masses interact in unexpectedly moving ways, and instruments merge and separate to create sounds beyond their own. Hannah's music has been commissioned and performed by ensembles and soloists including Brooklyn Metro Chamber Orchestra, S.E.M. Ensemble, Chromic Duo, One Quiet Plunge, inEnsemble, Collide-O-Scope Music, Frame Dance Productions, Xanthoria Quartet, soprano Stephanie Lamprea, percussionist Lucas Conant, and violists Kallie Ciechowski and Karen Ritscher. Her score for short film 222, directed by Delfine Paolini, was nominated for the 2018 Peer Raben Music Award at the Soundtrack Cologne Festival. Hannah is currently working on Pieces of Place, a series of chamber pieces with electronics that explore the effects of global warming on specific places she has lived. Hannah is also co-founder and lead singer with the band GADADU, which will release their third album in the fall of 2021. Hannah is based in New York, NY.

**NOAH SLADE** is a young musician and activist from New Jersey. He is currently in his second semester at Temple studying Composition and Sociology. He is deeply interested in music as a vehicle for social change and community growth, and loves to explore philosophical concepts, scenes from nature, and the overall depth of the human experience with music. He's looking forward to more collaborations and opportunities like this in the future.

**SEPEHR PIRASTEHR** is a composer and conductor born in Shiraz, Iran. His compositions draw on Persian classical and folk as well as contemporary classical music vocabularies to express his concerns and fears about the political and social realities of the world we are living in. Sepehr's works have been performed by ensembles such as Unheard-of, Orquestra Criança Cidadã, Hole in the floor, fivebyfive, and members of the Fifth House Ensemble. He has been commissioned by Detroit Composers' Project, YInMn project, Pushback Collective, Fresh Inc. Festival, Yara Ensemble, Central Michigan University's

(CMU) Percussion Ensemble, and the CMU Saxophone Ensemble. His music has been performed in Argentina, Brazil, Iran and the United States.