

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

conTemplum SoundPrints II

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 • 7:30 PM
Rock Hall Auditorium
1715 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122



Program

Dreams of Holy Places (2021)

Morgan Moss

Mădălina-Claudia Dănilă, piano

Marimba Quartet (2017)

Oladipo George

Jonathan Sayage, Emma Cullum, Julia Baker,
Elijah Nice, marimba

“M”iniature (2021)

Negar Ghasemi

Wendy Bickford, clarinet
Negar Ghasemi, piano

A Piece for Sean (2021)

Harrison Cohn

Sean McLaughlin, piano

Sleepless Sunrise (2021)

Dan Virgen

Merritt Leidy, marimba
Nick Demkowicz, vibraphone
Dan Virgen, double bass

Songs from Lewis Carroll: Part I (2019-2021)

Alex Glass

Prologue: The Walrus and the Carpenter

I. How Doth the Little Crocodile

II. The Lobster Quadrille

Interlude

III. Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Bat

IV. Jabberwocky

Andrew Shaw, baritone

Alex Glass, piano

The use of photographic, audio, and video recording is not permitted.

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.

Ninety-first performance of the 2021-2022 season.

Program Notes

Dreams of Holy Places

Morgan Moss

Dreams of Holy Places is a multi-movement work for solo piano. The first movement, which you will hear tonight, is based on a recurring location in my dreams. I am fortunate that I frequently have dreams, and I almost always remember them. In the dream, I was a child, and I would climb up onto a white stone bench and look out at a scene that was not always exactly the same...sometimes it was the ocean, sometimes it was a garden, sometimes it was rolling hills of wildflowers, but the scene always seemed to be sparkling in silver and gold. Most importantly, there was a presence next to me that was much older and wiser than I was (hence the title of this work) and the presence calmed me completely. It is not often that I hear anything specific in my dreams, but in this dream I always heard distant church bells. In the couple of days before I started writing this piece, I visited that location three consecutive nights. I felt it was a sign that I needed to do something with these dreams, and decided to write a piece about them. In the music, I wanted to capture the shimmering scene with the dissonances, the majesty of the presence next to me with the large moving gestures, and the chordal motif to signify the bells in the distance.

Marimba Quartet

Oladipo George

Marimba Quartet is a minimalist-esque piece I wrote over a few months some years ago.

“M”iniature

Negar Ghasemi

I may start all of my program notes with the idea that I would love to talk about my experiences as a person, but not always about my pieces in general. That may explain enough about my personality right now, which then is represented through what I create. This entire collection is centered around M, whose presence has shaped my perspective on exploring the world around me, building my lifestyle, and discovering my identity during the past three years. This collection could be about M, but also more about the qualities within the experience that this presence has shaped. That even expands to my mixed feelings toward my home country and Middle Eastern

culture. Talking about culture, this piece was composed during the time that I was fascinated by watching the *Hezar Dastan* series directed by Ali Hatami, with music composed by Morteza Hannane, which eventually made a reunion between me and Persian traditional music and visual art. I experienced deep emotions throughout the series, a lot of which were carried by a deep grieve and exhaustion. Perhaps a lot of Iranians in my generation are gradually feeling confused about their culture and country, and I cannot, nor do I want to describe it in words anymore, at least for now. At last, this piece like any other of my crafts is *Negar* and is rather to be sensed and felt than to be explained.

A Piece for Sean

Harrison Cohn

A Piece for Sean is a piece of music.

Sleepless Sunrise

Dan Virgen

Sleepless Sunrise is a piece that tries to depict the feeling of laying awake in bed, trying to fall asleep, and seeing the sun start to rise as no sleep was attained.

Songs from Lewis Carroll

Alex Glass

Songs from Lewis Carroll is a dramatic song cycle based on poems from Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*. This cycle is set within the larger narrative of the poem "The Walrus and The Carpenter," realized as a spoken drama that provides the cycle's backdrop. The other poems form the cycle's seven songs, which are organized in a way that reinforces the narrative arc of the whole work. This performance comprises four of the seven songs: "How Doth the Little Crocodile," a sordid and slimy ode to the malicious creature; "The Lobster Quadrille," a spirited patter aria oozing with superfluous romanticism; "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Bat," a sardonic parody that mimics the flying bat with repetitive piano gestures; and "Jabberwocky," a lighthearted and nonsensical adventure that was the inspiration for the full cycle.

About the Artists

MORGAN KELLY MOSS has been playing piano and studying music since she was three, and is currently a composition and piano performance double major at Temple University Boyer College of Music and Dance. Recently, Moss's *The Brook* for flute, clarinet, piano, and voice was selected in a call for scores by the Allentown Symphony Orchestra. She was also recently accorded Emerging Composer by Tribeca New Music Competition for her piano trio, *Storks*. Moss studies composition with the highly respected composers Dr. Maurice Wright and Professor Jan Krzywicki, and additionally studies piano under world-renowned pianist Sara Davis Buechner. She loves to perform, and was most recently featured in a solo piano recital at the Tenri Cultural Institute in New York City. Moss is also very active in scoring music for film, and has composed for five award-winning short films in her career so far at Temple University, the most recent nomination being for best music in a short film. She is also very proud to be a teacher of piano, composition, theory, and voice at the Music Studio of Patricia Keith in Boyertown, PA. Moss is very passionate about her music and would like to share this joy with as many people as she can, whether it is through listening, teaching, or collaborating. Moss plans to graduate from Temple University in 2022 and continue her studies as a composer and pianist at the graduate level.

Originally from the Pocono Mountains in PA, **OLADIPO GEORGE** currently studies composition in Philadelphia at Temple University. His music explores the elements of a variety of genres, especially popular, electronic, and dance music, into the classical art music setting.

Born in Iran, **NEGAR GHASEMI** is an undergraduate student, studying piano performance at Temple University. She began her studies in piano at the age of four in her mother's music school. By the age of eight, she began to attend festivals overseas, including Syria, Slovakia, and Hungary where she took advantage of the master classes. She then entered a music high school in Karaj. Followed by her immigration to the United States, she continued her education as a music major and clarinet player at the FLC school in Philadelphia. During that time, she was invited by Hugh Sung to be featured in an episode for the Cunningham Piano Show. She furthered her studies in music by taking music lessons with teachers including Kayoko Segawa, Emiko Edwards, Meng Hao, and Sean Bailey. In addition,

she had the opportunity to play as a member in the Philadelphia All-City concert band and PMEA District 12 concert band, under the instruction of musicians such as Deborah Confredo and Joseph Conyers, while taking advantage of performances with musicians such as Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Don Liuzzi. After entering Boyer College in 2019, under the instruction of Sara Davis Buechner as her primary piano professor, she began to further her experience in piano performance and piano pedagogy. Followed by her experience, she founded Pianozi, a piano pedagogy team providing lessons for Iranians around the world. She serves as a director and teacher for the team, with the hope to bring a new mindset into the piano teaching system within Iran and to offer piano lessons using a structure that follows the global standards. She is also very passionate about composing, the field in which she wants to expand her experience to share her ideas.

HARRISON COHN smiles
like the piece that you will hear
he hopes you enjoy

DAN VIRGEN is an undergraduate music composition major who enjoys films! Dan is from Weehawken, NJ and has performed in the pit with various theater groups as a bassist. Dan is a low brass doubler, as well as a bassist, and is very fond of jazz. Dan currently studies with Professor William Dougherty.

ALEX GLASS (b. 2000) is a composer and pianist from Cherry Hill, NJ. He started composing at the age of seven and has since written for chamber orchestra, voice, jazz big band, solo piano, and numerous chamber groups. In his compositions, Alex draws heavy inspiration from classical piano repertoire, jazz harmonic and melodic language, odd rhythms and meters, and innovative textures and timbres. As a performer, Alex can be seen playing his own piano compositions as well as those of other students, and he can also be found playing in various jazz ensembles in the Philadelphia area. He can also be seen playing keyboard in the Sonorants, a Bollywood/jazz fusion group based in South Jersey. Alex will receive a Bachelor's Degree in Music Composition in 2022 from the Boyer College of Music and Dance at Temple University, where he currently studies with Professor William Dougherty.

Boyer College of Music and Dance

The Boyer College of Music and Dance offers over 500 events open to the public each year. Students have the unique opportunity to interact with leading performers, composers, conductors, educators, choreographers and guest artists while experiencing a challenging and diverse academic curriculum. The Boyer faculty are recognized globally as leaders in their respective fields. Boyer alumni are ambassadors of artistic leadership and perform with major orchestras, opera and dance companies, teach at schools and colleges and work as professional music therapists, choreographers and composers. Boyer's recording label, BCM&D records, has produced more than thirty recordings, three of which have received Grammy nominations.

boyer.temple.edu

The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts

The Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts consists of the Boyer College of Music and Dance, School of Theater, Film and Media Arts, the George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater and the Temple Performing Arts Center. The School of Theater, Film and Media Arts engages gifted students with nationally and internationally recognized faculty scholars and professionals. A hallmark of the School of Theater, Film and Media Arts is the Los Angeles Study Away program, housed at historic Raleigh Studios. The George and Joy Abbott Center for Musical Theater engages visiting performers, guest artists, set designers, playwrights and other Broadway professionals. The Temple Performing Arts Center (TPAC), a historic landmark on campus, is home to a state-of-the-art 1,200 seat auditorium and 200 seat chapel. More than 500 concerts, classes, lectures and performances take place at TPAC each year.

arts.temple.edu

Temple University

Temple University's history begins in 1884, when a young working man asked Russell Conwell if he could tutor him at night. It wasn't long before he was teaching several dozen students—working people who could only attend class at night but had a strong desire to make something of themselves. Conwell recruited volunteer faculty to participate in the burgeoning night school, and in 1888 he received a charter of incorporation for "The Temple College." His founding vision for the school was to provide superior educational opportunities for academically talented and highly motivated students, regardless of their backgrounds or means. The fledgling college continued to grow, adding programs and students throughout the following decades. Today, Temple's more than 35,000 students continue to follow the university's official motto—*Perseverantia Vincit*, or "Perseverance Conquers"—with their supreme dedication to excellence in academics, research, athletics, the arts and more.

Temple University 2021-2022 Season
Upcoming Events

Thursday, November 18 at 12:00pm

Jazz Ensemble Recital: John Swana Ensemble
Art of Bread Café

Thursday, November 18 at 1:00pm

Jazz Ensemble Recital: Miceli Mallet Ensemble
Art of Bread Café

Thursday, November 18 at 1:30pm

Chamber Music Recital
Kathryn Meyer, oboe; Marissa Harley, oboe; Matthew
Culbertson, piano
Rock Hall Auditorium

Thursday, November 18 at 2:00pm

Jazz Ensemble Recital: Whitney Covalle Ensemble
Art of Bread Café

Thursday, November 18 at 2:45pm

Chamber Music Recital
Saxophone quartet: Jorcina Zhang, Liam Lang, Billy Van Veen,
Ian McDaniel
Rock Hall Auditorium

Thursday, November 18 at 4:00pm

Chamber Music Recital
Bolun Zhang, piano; Sam Divirgilio, cello
Noah Gordon, trumpet; Dan Hein, trumpet; Aiden Lewis,
horn; Riley Matties, tbn; Jason Costello, bass tbn
Suhan Liang, violin; Congling Chen, violin; Jasmine Harris,
viola; Harris Banks, cello
Rock Hall Auditorium

Temple University 2021-2022 Season
Upcoming Events

Thursday, November 18 at 4:30-6:30pm

Rite of Swing Jazz Café: Anthony Aldissi Ensemble

Anthony Aldissi, piano

Stanley Ruvinov, bass

Ryan Devlin, tenor saxophone

Walter Krissel, guitar

Max Cudworth, alto saxophone

Eric Bailey, drums

Temple Performing Arts Center Lobby

Thursday, November 18 at 5:30pm

Master's Recital: Maria Nacouzi, soprano

Rock Hall Auditorium

Thursday, November 18 at 7:30pm

Temple University Symphony Orchestra

José Luis Dominguez, conductor

Lisa Willson DeNolfo, soprano

The Temple by José Luis Dominguez

Four Last Songs by Richard Strauss

Symphony No. 2 by Johannes Brahms

Temple Performing Arts Center

Friday, November 19 at 12:00pm

Jazz Ensemble Recital: Chelsea Reed Ensemble

Art of Bread Café

Friday, November 19 at 1:00pm

Master Class: David Shifrin, clarinet

Rock Hall Auditorium

Temple University 2021-2022 Season Upcoming Events

Friday, November 19 at 7:30pm

Temple University Wind Symphony

“The American Experience”

Morton Gould: *American Salute*

Schlyer Adkins, graduate student conductor

Jennifer Jolley: *Ash*

Omar Thomas: *Come Sunday*

Adam Schoenberg: Symphony No. 2, “Migration”

Patricia Cornett, conductor

Temple Performing Arts Center

Friday, November 19 at 7:30pm

MFA Thesis Concert II

Featuring work by Amelia Martinez

Tickets: \$20 General Admission, \$15 students/senior citizens,
\$10 Temple employees, \$5 Temple student with OWLcard.

Available at boyer.temple.edu, 215.204.1122, in-person at the
Temple Arts Box Office (Tomlinson Theater lobby, 1301 W.
Norris St., Mon-Fri 12-6pm), or at the venue 45 minutes before
each performance. Credit, debit and checks only. Cash not
accepted.

Presented Virtually

Saturday, November 20 at 2:30pm

Music Prep: Student Recital Hour

Featuring individual lesson students and chamber ensembles.

Temple University Center City, Room 222

Monday, November 29 at 1:30pm

Chamber Music Recital

Rock Hall Auditorium

All events are free unless otherwise noted. Programs are subject to change without notice.

For further information or to confirm events, please call 215.204.7609

or visit www.boyer.temple.edu.

