

# Guest Artist Recital

## Galan Trio

Petros Bouras, piano

Babis Karasavvidis, violin

Marina Kolovou, cello

Thursday, April 21, 2022 • 5:30 PM

Rock Hall Auditorium

1715 N. Broad Street

Philadelphia, PA 19122



**Program**  
**Galan Trio - Kinesis**

Attempting to Conjure Joy

Ken Steen

Ghost Town Sounds

John Levey

I. Blacklick

II. Claghorn

III. Buena Vista

Dance Music for a Frenetic Mind

Todd Groves

A Ballad, a Groove, and a Mood

David Bennett Thomas

Chaconne from a Distance

Matthew Greenbaum

Piano Trio No. 1, "Kinematic Contraption"

David Martynuik

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

Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.

Three hundred sixty-seventh performance of the 2021-2022 season.

## Program Notes

### Attempting to Conjure Joy

Ken Steen

Throughout this time of pandemic a sense of joyfulness and optimism has been elusive. The compositional process of this work was focused on the intentional summoning and cultivation of an awareness of joy, enticing it out from a period of isolation and malaise. A musical invocation, the opening gesture of the piece, functions as an optimistic call into the void. This is the means by which joyful energy is called forth, attracted, coalesced, and uplifted into existence.

### Ghost Town Sounds

John Levey

*Ghost Town Sounds* is a set of vignettes inspired by my experiences on the Ghost Town Trail, a recreation path that passes through Indiana and Cambria counties in rural Pennsylvania. The trail follows abandoned railways lines through a corridor rich with iron-making and mining history. It runs alongside Blacklick Creek and through the sites of many 18th- and 19th-century settlements, now mostly vanished. For me, the trail has an unsettled atmosphere, something of which I tried to capture in these short movements. “Blacklick” is characterized by a whole step oscillation that evokes the flowing water of the creek. “Claghorn,” named for one of the abandoned towns on the trail, takes the form of an eerie dialogue between piano and strings. “Buena Vista” is inspired by an eponymous smelting furnace. Its materials are more rhythmic and act as “fuel” for the music. In the end, they are consumed.

### Dance Music for a Frenetic Mind

Todd Groves

*Dance Music for a Frenetic Mind* started as dance music, beginning with three types of dances: foxtrot, waltz, and some type of folk dance with a vaguely Eastern European groove. When I started to write, my ear and mind started wandering in different directions. I tried to resist and stick more closely to the original three dances, but, ultimately, I let the music wander. While the original three dances are

still in the piece to some degree, the piece is more about dancing between different motifs, moods, and thoughts. The result sounded somewhat frantic to me, but I did not want to reign that in, so I continued writing with the idea of the music spiraling into something stranger and more intense as it progresses. The final piece struck me as a kind of dance music for a (or my) frenetic mind

## **A Ballad, a Groove, and a Mood**

**David Bennett Thomas**

I composed *A Ballad, a Groove, and a Mood* in the spring of 2020 for the Galan Trio. The piece consists of three connected movements. The first movement is essentially a jazz ballad (thinking of Wayne Shorter) that has a number of sections, some with more motion than others. The second movement is a pizzicato dance in 7/4. The final movement is the most moody and atmospheric section of the piece in which I explore the various colors and textures that the instruments have to offer, fading in and out of audibility. A gently rocking pattern emerges in the piano that uses the open fifths G-D-A, while adding various intervals around those three pivot pitches. Each instrument also has a solo section dedicated to it in this final movement. The movement ultimately cadences in G Major. I hope you enjoy it!

## **Chaconne from a Distance**

**Matthew Greenbaum**

Over the years, I've unconsciously developed a symbolic approach to texture and pitch. For example, static, quiet and repetitive music - like those passages in *Chaconne from a Distance* - tend to represent sleep, the unconscious, darkness and water (specifically the East River (NYC) which, together with the Williamsburg Bridge, surrounded my early childhood). The quick, scherzoso passages invariably relate to the gigue, and other Baroque dance forms.

The Galan Piano Trio commissioned this work and their initial concept of “Kinesis” was the inspiration for the spirit, energy, and title. Cast in two movements, the work’s form is modeled on Tchaikovsky’s piano trio albeit alla breve. The first movement, in sonata form, proceeds thematically and harmonically through the exposition and development as expected, with two themes utilizing contrasting keys and modes. However, the recapitulation occurs in reverse order with the primary theme ending the movement in the incorrect mode and the second movement, a set of variations, eventually ending the entire work in the correct key.

The conceptualization and composition of this work occurred during the halcyon months of early 2020, prior to the global pandemic and other sobering national and global events. Upon reflection, the mood of the work feels somewhat anachronistic a mere two years later. Perhaps the best aphorism reconciling this disparity comes from Beethoven’s contemporary, Jean Paul (1763-1825): “Music is moonlight in the gloomy night of life.”

### ***Kinesis Project***

***KINESIS*** is Galan Trio’s attempt to explore the music of contemporary American composers by bringing their works together in an original, multifaceted concert program. The project is based on the collaboration between Galan Trio and professors of composition from selected U. S. Universities.

*Kinesis* is the undirected movement of a cell, organism or part, in response to an external stimulus. In Greek, “*Kinesis*” means movement, motion. These two concepts were the project’s point of reference.

Watching the whole music world remain still due to the pandemic, Galan Trio decided to create the stimulus for action. Discovering creative collaborators was the next step. Each of them a distinguished professor and academic, the composers of *Kinesis* represent the

present and future of contemporary classical music in the United States. Nickitas Demos, Martin Gendelman, Paul Richards, Scott Robbins and Yiorgos Vassilandonakis composed for the first part of *Kinesis*, a tour which took place in October 2021 in the southeast states. Todd Groves, David Benett Thomas, Matthew Greenbaum, Ken Steen, John Levey and David Martynuik contributed to the second part of *Kinesis* which takes place in April 2022 in the northeast states. The music these great composers created captured this “undirected movement” the trio was seeking after a long time of silence.

The Greek definition offered the main theme for the composers to work on. Motion is a fundamental characteristic of all living beings; motion is what all musicians worldwide have desired during the last couple of years; motion means continuity and it’s a promise for the future of *Kinesis* itself.

Last but not least, an exciting new collaboration has begun between Galan Trio and the New York-based non-profit organization “Greece in USA.” which focuses on research development with emphasis on cultural policy and outreach events and activities concerning Greek culture. *Kinesis* Project is under the auspice of the Greek Ministry of Culture.

## About the Artists

Known for its passionate and energetic interpretations, the Athens-based **GALAN TRIO** is active both in Greece and abroad. While focused mainly on promoting new compositions, Galan Trio creates original programs, the most recent being *Kinesis*.

In July 2016, they traveled to Gulangyu, China, the so-called “Piano Island,” for the series of concerts “Greek Inspirations in China,” the first festival in China featuring Greek music.

In 2017 they released their debut album *Switch*, a musical mix of cultures with works composed for and dedicated to Galan Trio by Thomas Bramel (U.S.A.), David Haladjian (Armenia), Vincent Kennedy (Ireland), Vasco Pereira (Portugal), Harald Weiss (Germany), and Nikos Xanthoulis (Greece). The album presentation took place in Athens at Megaron Concert Hall in December of the same year. *Switch* received critical acclaim and was broadcasted on the radio in Greece, Switzerland, the United States, Portugal, Germany and Armenia.

Other accomplished composers they have collaborated with are Dirk Brosse, Igor Vorobyov, Yorgos Vassilandonakis, Paul Richards, Arthur Aharonian, Martin Gendelman, Scott Robbins, and Nickitas Demos. Furthermore, they have also performed with musicians such as the mezzo-soprano Alexandra Gravas and the flutist Jessica Quinones.

In recent years they have made appearances in Spain, Armenia, the Netherlands, Greece, as well as the Athens & Epidaurus Festival, the Komitas Festival, and the fourth online festival of the Greek National Opera. They have also performed on Onassis Foundation’s Open Day and the Megaron Concert Hall series Music Portraits.

In December 2021, Galan Trio premiered their project *Ararat* at the Archaeological Museum of Athens, which will be presented in various countries over the next months.



## **Boyer College of Music and Dance**

The Boyer College of Music and Dance is part of the Center for the Performing and Cinematic Arts at Temple University. Students at the Boyer College have the unique opportunity to interact with leading composers, conductors, educators, performers and choreographers while experiencing a challenging and diverse academic curriculum. The Boyer faculty is 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.temple.edu](http://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. Boyer is home to the three-time Grammy nominated Temple University Symphony Orchestra, award-winning Jazz Program and research and scholarly advancements in music therapy, music theory, history, education, conducting, keyboard, voice and dance. The College also manages its own record label, BCM&D Records, which has released more than thirty recordings. 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 300 concerts, lectures and performances take place at TPAC each year.

[arts.temple.edu](http://arts.temple.edu)

## **Temple University**

Since 1884 when founder Reverend Russell Conwell began teaching students, Temple University has evolved into a comprehensive urban research and academic institution. Temple has a world-class reputation and an international presence with campuses in Philadelphia, Ambler and Harrisburg in Pennsylvania, in Tokyo, Rome and educational centers in Seoul, Beijing, London, Paris and Mumbai. Temple's seventeen schools and colleges, nine campuses, hundreds of degree programs and 35,000 students combine to create one of the nation's most comprehensive and diverse learning environments.

**Temple University 2021-2022 Season  
Upcoming Events**

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**Thursday, April 21 at 5:30pm**

Graduate Opera Scenes

3rd Floor Auditorium, Mitten Hall

**Thursday, April 21 at 6:00pm**

Senior Recital: Bell Thompson, jazz trumpet

Klein Recital Hall

**Thursday, April 21 at 7:30pm**

Temple University Symphony Orchestra

Temple Performing Arts Center

**Friday, April 22 at 12:00pm**

Temple University Symphonic Band

Matthew Brunner, conductor

Temple Performing Arts Center

**Friday, April 22 at 1:00pm**

Chamber Music Recital

Matthew Culbertson, piano; Sarah Eom, clarinet; Max Culp, cello

Bolun Zhang, piano & Samuel Allan-Chapkovski, violin

Alyssa Gerold, guitar & Congling Chen, violin

Rock Hall Auditorium

**Friday, April 22 at 5:30pm**

Senior Recital: Allison Maney, soprano

Rock Hall Auditorium

**Friday, April 22 at 5:30pm**

Senior Recital: Matthew Green, jazz bass

Klein Recital Hall

## Temple University 2021-2022 Season Upcoming Events

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### **Friday, April 22 at 7:00pm**

Temple University Wind Symphony - "Reckonings"

Patricia Cornett, conductor

Temple Performing Arts Center

### **Friday, April 22 at 7:00pm**

ENDINGS Dance Showcase

Works by Repertory classes and the Graduate Studio Research Class.

This event is free and open to the public.

Conwell Dance Theater & YouTube

### **Friday, April 22 at 7:30pm**

Senior Recital: Sendi Vartanovi, violin

Rock Hall Auditorium

### **Friday, April 22 at 7:30pm**

Senior Recital: Sydney Panikkar, jazz voice

Klein Recital Hall

### **Saturday, April 23 at 2:30pm**

Senior Recital: Jared Kirkpatrick, jazz vibraphone

Klein Recital Hall

### **Saturday, April 23 at 2:30pm**

CGYM Master Class Series: Yoheved Kaplinsky, piano dept.

chairperson of The Juilliard School, artistic director of Juilliard

Pre-College division

Music Prep YouTube channel

### **Saturday, April 23 at 3:00pm**

Master's Recital: William Nederlander, baritone

Rock Hall Auditorium

## Temple University 2021-2022 Season Upcoming Events

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### **Saturday, April 23 at 5:30pm**

First Doctoral Recital: Wendy Bickford, clarinet

Rock Hall Auditorium

### **Sunday, April 24 at 2:30pm**

Master's Recital: Luca Farrell, keyboards

Klein Recital Hall

### **Sunday, April 24 at 2:30pm**

Kun-Yang Lin Retirement Celebration

Conwell Dance Theater & YouTube

### **Sunday, April 24 at 3:00pm**

Temple University Symphonic Band and Collegiate Band

Matthew Brunner, conductor

Temple Performing Arts Center

### **Sunday, April 24 at 5:30pm**

New School Brass Quintet

Rock Hall Auditorium

### **Sunday, April 24 at 7:30pm**

New School Woodwind Quintet

Rock Hall Auditorium

### **Monday, April 25 at 7:30pm**

Temple University New Music Ensemble

Jan Krzywicki, director

Klein Recital Hall

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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](http://www.boyer.temple.edu).