

KAUFMAN MUSIC CENTER PRESENTS

Solar Flare: Luna Composition Lab World Premieres



2020-2021
MERKIN HALL



Online Performance

Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center

Streamed Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7 pm ET

Kaufman Music Center

presents

Solar Flare: Luna Composition Lab

World Premieres by the 2020-21 Luna Composition Lab Fellows

Composer

VERA GJAJA

Tamar Muskal, Mentor

Quadricycle

MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC'S
PRECOLLEGE WOODWIND ENSEMBLE

Lena Jin, *flute*; Harper Love, *flute*

Helena Steger, *piccolo*; Grace Zhang, *clarinet*

Coached by Susan Deaver

JORDAN MILLAR

Valerie Coleman, Mentor

Masquerade

FACE THE MUSIC-ADVANCED CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Aidan Gottdiener-Tan, *guitar*; Isabella Carucci, *flute*

Moxé Meiri, *violin*; Oriana Hawley, *viola*

Coached by David Bloom

AZALEA TWINING

Ellen Reid, Mentor

Under Her Voices

MUSICIANS FROM SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL

Bianna Bell, *violin*; Gabriel Sipe, *cello*

Dovie Lepore-Currin, *piano*

Coached by Yi-Fang Huang

All 2020-21 Kaufman Music Center performances are online, filmed in safe, socially distanced locations observing health and safety protocols, and streamed to the safety of your home.

Steinway is the official piano of Merkin Hall

KaufmanMusicCenter.org/MH | 212 501 3330

ALISHA HENG
Kristin Kuster, Mentor

Cogito
MUSICIANS FROM THE JULLIARD SCHOOL
PRECOLLEGE DIVISION
Kayleigh Kim, violin; Hina Khuong-Huu, violin
Kayla Williams, viola; Noam Ginsparg, cello
Coached by Jia Kim

MARINA ZURITA MCKINNON
Alex Temple, Mentor

Two Way Radio
FACE THE MUSIC-ADVANCED JAZZ ENSEMBLE
Graeme Buehrer, *trumpet*; Leon Leveau, *alto saxophone*
Dorian Vaughn and Robbie Mathews, *tenor saxophones*
Joseph Brooks, *electric bass*; Titus Daniels, *drums*
Coached by Aakash Mittal

ZOLA SAADI-KLEIN
Gity Razaz, Mentor

Zafaron va Anar
SPECIAL MUSIC SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL-
FACE THE MUSIC ENSEMBLE
Benjamin Barham-Wiese, Elisha Jimenez
Christian McCarthy, Frank Bao
Coached by Amy Garapic

I CARE IF YOU LISTEN, powered by American Composers Forum, is the media partner of this performance.



About Luna Composition Lab

Luna Composition Lab, founded in 2016 by Ellen Reid and Missy Mazzoli with Kaufman Music Center, provides year-round mentorship, performances and networking opportunities to female, non-binary and gender non-conforming composers ages 12-18. Each year, Fellows are selected from across the country and paired with acclaimed female, non-binary, and gender nonconforming composers who act as individual Mentors. Throughout the season, Fellows work with Mentors via biweekly lessons on online platforms to create a new work that will premiere in New York City. The season culminates in a festival of activities including master classes and conversations with prominent composers, instrumentalists, vocalists, creators, curators, and leaders in the arts. Thanks to their participation in our program, Luna Lab alums have attended prestigious composition programs and conservatories, and received commissions from the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Louisville Symphony, Opera Omaha, and more.

About the Composers

Vera Gjaja

Vera Gjaja (age 15) is a composer and pianist from New York City, who studies in the Preparatory Division of Mannes School of Music. Vera began composition in middle school, studying with Mary Kouyoumdjian, and recently began electronic composition with David Bird. During the pandemic summer of 2020, Vera joined composers from around the world at the Virtual Young Women's Composers Camp, where her piece *Icy climb with a side of Mockingtrack* was premiered by saxophonist Kristen McKeon. Vera draws inspiration from Ravel, Tchaikovsky's *Queen of Spades*, Scriabin, Kelly Moran's *Don't Trust Mirrors* and playwrights such as Ionesco and Martin McDonagh.

Alisha Heng

Alisha Heng (age 18) is a clarinetist, composer, and multidisciplinary artist from New York City. She has been composing for a little over three years. Her works have been performed by various ensembles and performers including Ensemble Lemniscate and violinist Barbora Kolářová. Her passion for composition stems from both her instrumental study and a fascination to create works that provoke the mind—seeking to explore the relationships between music, art, and literature. Alisha attended the Curtis Young Artist Summer program in the summer of 2020. Outside of music, Alisha enjoys creating experimental short films, writing poetry, and advocating for the arts.

Jordan Millar

Jordan Millar (age 14) is a pianist and composer from Brooklyn, New York. She wrote her first composition in fourth grade and has since composed various works for the New York Philharmonic. Her piece *Boogie Down Uptown* was featured by the Philharmonic and highlighted in *The New York Times*. Jordan was honored by the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) Foundation for the same piece. In 2019 she was commissioned by the New World Symphony and debuted her piece *The Abandoned Castle*. Her most recent piece was an arrangement of "We Shall Overcome" for the New York Philharmonic. Jordan enjoys inspiring others and previously gave a TED Talk on composing. She loves writing, journalism and art.

Zola Saadi-Klein

Zola Saadi-Klein (age 18) is a violinist, singer, and composer from Los Angeles. She has been a Fellow in the LA Phil Composer Fellowship Program since 2019, where she studies composition with Dr. Ian Krouse of UCLA. Zola received the 2020 ASCAP Berlin Scholarship. At Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, she is a senior violinist in the LACHSA Orchestra. She participated in the 2020 Sunset Chamberfest, UCLA's Voice Intensive, and Walden's Young Musicians Experience, where she was invited by composer Aida Shirazi to join the Iranian Female Composers Association. A member of the National Children's Chorus since 2009, Zola's favorite performances include Dudamel's Mahler Project, and Tan Dun's AYS collaboration.

Azalea Twining

Azalea Twining (age 15) is a singer, composer, and guitarist from Harrisonburg, Virginia. Azalea has studied voice and theory with Eileen Clark since 2013, and composition with her father, Toby Twining. She loves listening to anything from Hildegard to Heart! Azalea sang the role of Mustardseed in almost 100 performances of Julie Taymor/Elliot Goldenthal's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Theater for a New Audience) and sang in Intertwining Ensemble's production, *Mountain Lectures*. Azalea composes multi-media pieces with her school's Fine Arts Academy. Her newest composition, a song cycle, takes a look at women whose stories are misrepresented: historical figures Boudicca, Cleopatra, Jeanne d'Arc, and others.

Marina Zurita McKinnon

Marina Zurita McKinnon (age 16) is a guitarist, pianist, and composer from New York City. She attends Special Music School High School, where she is a composition major. Marina has been playing classical guitar since she was five years old, adding piano at age six, and composing at age nine. She has studied composition with Murat Çolak, Robinson McClellan, and Molly Joyce, as well as at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee High School Composition Intensive. Marina's work has been performed by Momenta Quartet and The Curiosity Cabinet, other professional musicians, and Face the Music. She has collaborated with pianist Conrad Tao and contributed to "Ethereal" on Nathalie Joachim's recent album, *Transformations*.



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Pianos by Steinway and Sons. The house harpsichord was built by Eric Herz in 1985 and donated by Mr. Joseph Wronker.

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Founded in 1952 as a community music school, today's Kaufman Music Center is leveling the playing field for kids all over NYC and beyond with innovative programs making music education accessible for 4,000 students of all ages and backgrounds each year at Special Music School; Lucy Moses School, a community arts school for all ages; and groundbreaking teen new music programs like Face the Music and Luna Composition Lab. At Merkin Hall, more than 50,000 audience members each year connect with music at performances ranging from classical to cutting-edge.

Abraham Goodman House

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