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
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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