New Music Recital

Norfolk Chamber Music Festival | Friday, July 2, 2021, 7:30 pm

arborealisms (world premiere)  

Endless Nothingness (world premiere)  

Exquisite Corpse (world premiere)  
Part 1 — fold over fold (after Brahms)  
Part 2 — zone out  
Part 3 — ...a fugue?

Please love me love me love me (world premiere)

Waiting (world premiere)

An object of some concern (world premiere)

Martin Bresnick  Director, New Music Workshop

Mammoth Trio
Elly Toyoda  violin — Ashley Bathgate  cello — Lisa Moore  piano

New Music Workshop

In keeping with a 100-year plus history of contemporary music in Norfolk, CT, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival’s acclaimed New Music Workshop is a 10-day summer program designed to provide young composers and instrumentalists the opportunity to work together preparing new works for performance. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2021 Workshop was held virtually. Directed by composer Martin Bresnick, the Workshop included virtual seminars and lectures by prominent American composers, as well as virtual workshopping and recording of each Fellow composer’s composition with Festival Artists the Mammoth Trio culminating in this streamed concert event.

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The **MAMMOTH TRIO** formed for a performance of Martin Bresnick’s masterpiece *Trio* (1992) at the MoMath Museum of Mathematics in New York City. Its origins began in 2010, as the dynamic commissioning cello and piano duo TwoSense – the “new music equivalent of a special ops team” (*New York Magazine*). Both Bang on a Can All-Stars alumni, cellist Ashley Bathgate and pianist Lisa Moore commissioned fifteen new works for TwoSense. They began collaborating with the virtuoso violinist Elly Toyoda in 2016. In early 2020, the trio were featured in the debut of *Tales of Hopper* with the Cherylyn Lavagnino Dance Company at the DiMenna Centre in NYC – a live music and dance representation of Edward Hopper’s paintings. Most recently “The Mammoths” have recorded David Lang’s *shade*, written for the NYC Ballet. The trio shares a daring passion for exploring new music while enjoying independent solo and chamber music careers – performing and recording diverse repertoire in a range of settings.

A native of Osaka, Japan, violinist **ELLY TOYODA** (NCFM ‘15) has performed in festivals throughout Asia, Europe, and North America. She was awarded the *Prix de Musique Contemporaine* by the Fontainebleau School and has appeared on programs at National Sawdust, (le) Poisson Rouge, and the Elb Philharmonie in Germany. Toyoda has recorded for Cantaloupe and premiered new works through the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Lucerne Festival, Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts, and Talis Festival. Recently Toyoda has been performing with Eighth Blackbird, the 4-time Grammy award-winning contemporary music ensemble. She holds music degrees from Oberlin Conservatory, the Yale School of Music and Rutgers University. Her teachers include Marilyn McDonald (Oberlin), Syoko Aki (Yale), and Yura Lee (Rutgers). Dr. Toyoda is Visiting Assistant Professor of Violin at the Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College.

Cellist **ASHLEY BATHGATE** has been described as an “eloquent new music interpreter” (*The New York Times*) and “a glorious cellist” (*The Washington Post*). She was a member of the Bang on a Can All-Stars from 2009-2019. Bathgate’s recordings can be found on Albany Records, Cantaloupe, Innova, La-Là Land Records, Naxos, New Amsterdam, Nonesuch, Starkland and Uffda Records. Her solo albums include *Stories For Ocean Shells* – works by Kate Moore, *ASH*, a six-movement suite by the ‘composer collective' Sleeping Giant, and *8 Track* – multitrack works by Alex Weiser and Emily Cooley. Upcoming discs include a new rendition of Steve Reich’s *Cello Counterpoint*, and Michael Gordon’s *House Music*, which she premiered at the 2018 Cello Biennale in Amsterdam. Originally from Saratoga Springs, NY, Bathgate studied with Rudolf Doblin, Ann Alton (Skidmore), Luis Garcia-Renart (Bard) and Aldo Parisot (Yale). | ashleybathgate.com

**LISA MOORE** is a multifaceted Australian-born pianist and avid collaborator. She has released 11 solo CDs as well as over thirty collaborative discs – in works ranging from Leos Janacek to Philip Glass and Julia Wolfe. The founding pianist for the Bang On a Can All-Stars from 1992-2008, she has been described in the *The New Yorker* as ‘visionary’ and ‘New York’s queen of the avant-garde piano’. Based in New York City since 1985, Moore has performed throughout the globe on some of the world’s greatest stages – Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Sydney Opera House, La Scala, Royal Albert Hall, and the Musikverein. This coming season Cantaloupe Music will release her second disc of solo works by Frederic Rzewski. | lisamoore.org

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Fellow Biographies

**Benjamin Beckman** is a composer seeking to create intellectually stimulating and emotionally charged works of art for a 21st century landscape. His music has been notably presented on the BBC Proms, the Tanglewood Music Festival, Concertgebouw Presents: Summer Concerts, the Long Beach Opera’s 2020 Songbook, the HearNow Festival, NPR’s From the Top, YoungArts Los Angeles, and Yale College New Music by ensembles such as Frost School of Music Ensemble Ibis, Triton Brass, the Lyris Quartet, Opera Elect, and the Thornton Edge. Beckman is currently majoring in music at Yale College where he studies with Kathryn Alexander. He also teaches composition for Through the Staff, an organization dedicated to offering free music lessons to young musicians who may not otherwise have access to them. | benjaminbeckmanmusic.com

**Sam Friedman** is a composer and trumpet player from New York City who currently lives in Oberlin, Ohio. He is pursuing a B.M. in composition and trumpet performance at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he studies with Elizabeth Ogonek, Jesse Jones, and Stephen Hartke. He has previously been a composition fellow at Cortona Sessions for New Music and highSCORE Festival, and was a Northeastern semi-finalist in the Rapido Composition Competition. He has participated in master classes with Kaia Saariaho, Missy Mazzoli, and Billy Childs. His works have been performed by ensembles such as JACK Quartet, Boston Musica Viva, De Capo Chamber Players, Talea Ensemble, PUBLIQuartet, unassisted fold, and the Oberlin Contemporary Music Ensemble. Friedman is fascinated by artistic translation and the failures thereof, as well as the roles music and sound can play in our relationship to the environment.

Currently working in France as an English teacher, **Dayton Hare** is a composer and writer who often draws inspiration from elements of the natural world around him. Interested in exploring gradual change and slow evolutions of sonic texture, his music relies heavily on shimmering timbres and shifting colors, while still maintaining a strong sense of lyricism. A lover of both music and literature, Hare received bachelor’s degrees in both music composition and English from the University of Michigan, where he also minored in French. Fascinated by literary modernism, his English honors thesis focused on the work of Samuel Beckett. Outside of his studies, Hare has worked extensively as a journalist. He served as Managing Editor of The Michigan Daily, where he previously worked as a Senior Arts Editor and Classical Music Columnist. Over the last several months of lockdown in France he has been teaching himself guitar and working his way through the novels of Virginia Woolf. | daytonhare.com

**Ljaying Li** is pursuing her bachelor’s degree in composition with Dr. Ruo Huang at Mannes College The New School of Music. Her string quartet Gray Zone was performed in Carnegie Hall in November 2019. In February 2020, her piece Catch the Light for clarinet trio inspired the talented and creative fashion designer Gabrielle Nti to design a dress, which perfectly expressed a brand-new combination of hearing and vision in the concert. In addition to composing, Li also likes to play the piano, write music for electronic music, pop music, and film scoring. She is also a makeup artist. Li believes that music is not just a hearing enjoyment but also a combination with art and other media. | ljayingkatyli.wixsite.com/website

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**Liza Sobel** is a Chicago composer and soprano whose compositions are often influenced by current social issues. Her music has been performed in numerous worldwide venues including: Carnegie Hall, Le Poisson Rouge, Symphony Space, Bang on a Can, Aspen Music Festival, Eighth Blackbird’s Creative Lab, Aldeburgh Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme, Brevard Music Institute, and Bowdoin’s International Music Festival. Her works have been performed by the Orchestra of St. Luke’s, the Minnesota Orchestra, Ensemble Dal Niente, Spectral String Quartet, Cygnus Ensemble, Third Coast Percussion, Nouveau Classical Project, and Ekmeles Vocal Ensemble among others. Current commissions include new orchestral works for the New York Youth Symphony to be performed at Carnegie Hall and for Texas State University’s Symphony Orchestra. Her Ticking Time Bomb was selected for the 2020 Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute. Sobel was a Fulbright scholar to the UK. She is a doctoral candidate in composition at Northwestern University. | lizasobel.com