



CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

# DICE TRIO

**Adeline DeBella**, flutes

**Grace Pressley**, alto saxophone

**Sam Friedman**, trumpet

With guest artist **Chen Shuhe Yue**, soprano

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023 | 7:30 PM  
WILLIAM R. AND IRENE D. MILLER RECITAL HALL

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## PROGRAM

**Sam Friedman**

*to build a fire*

for flute, alto saxophone, and trumpet

*This performance makes use of strobe lighting and other intense lighting that may be disruptive to people who are sensitive to light.*

**Jose Eduardo Muñoz**

*Entrainment*

for alto flute, alto saxophone, and trumpet

**Hsin-Yi Lisa Tseng**

*Night Music*

for flutes, alto saxophone, and trumpet

**Emily Green**

*Three Spring Songs*

for soprano, flutes, alto saxophone, and trumpets

*Intermission*

**Chen Shuhe Yue**

*Whodinger's Apple*

for soprano, flutes, alto saxophone, and trumpet

**Tongyu Lu**

*Gravitation*

for soprano, flute, alto saxophone, and trumpet

**Jianing Song**

*DICE*

for flute, alto saxophone, and trumpet

# PROGRAM NOTES

## *to build a fire* Sam Friedman

*to build a fire* is inspired by the Jack London short story of the same name, in which a man is accompanied by a husky into Yukon territory, despite its inherent risks. The musical materials of the work are formed from contrasts in the protagonist's mental disposition, which fluctuate between states of temporary safety and inextinguishable panic. This is reflected in the musical languages presented to the performers, which are constantly in flux and give the performer varying levels of flexibility depending on the mindset being represented. Ultimately the work is about the performers as much as it is about the psychological journey of the protagonist, as they themselves are pushing into the unknown with no certainty of success. Aesthetically this work captures the Yukon landscape and its paradoxes, being peacefully hostile, intensely bleak, and as the end of the story suggests, fatally divine.

## ***Entrainment*** Jose Eduardo Muñoz

1

: to draw along with or after oneself

2

: to draw in and transport (something, such as solid particles or gas) by the flow of a fluid

3

: to incorporate (air bubbles) into concrete

4

: to determine or modify the phase or period of

**All of the above. With different tempi.**

“Entrain.” Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/entrain>. Accessed 22 Sep. 2023.

## ***Night Music*** **Hsin-Yi Lisa Tseng**

Do you ever walk alone at night? Night, is always the most charming, fascinating time ever.

Darkness...?

Only when the world is dark enough, when you are forced to feel the world without brightness, that you can feel the world clearly, deeply with heart. Thus, without a doubt, dark is always the key of light.

Silence...?

Silence is a talent, a superpower, a magic. The cutest part of the world will only come out when there is silence enough.

Night music, full of darkness and silence, the fantasy of time start to move, start to dance with human beings, who walks in street alone in a footsteps of regular pattern.

Do you ever walk alone at night?



## ***Three Spring Songs*** **Emily Green**

*Three Spring Songs* presents a stark juxtaposition between the natural and the unnatural. E. E. Cummings wrote much of his poetry surrounding themes of nature, but there is almost always, as in these three selected poems, a more complicated meaning behind what he writes. As human beings, we are inherently natural creatures who inhabit an inherently natural world, but the duration of our lifetime is the furthest we will ever be from nature: only during the eternity before we are born and the eternity after we die are we truly one with nature. During our lifetime, we are separate from the world that created us, both figuratively and literally.

We create unnatural things and concepts to which we assign positive or negative moral value: money, prisons, space shuttles, art. . . We have set into motion a climate crisis and we have imposed these aforementioned concepts on ourselves as perceived obstacles preventing us from saving the only world we have, but we have also created and meticulously preserved thousands of years' worth of art and knowledge about this very same world. We are born, we live our lives, (perhaps creating other lives in the process), and then we die, returning forever to be part of the universe which we have now had a miniscule but important hand in shaping.

This song-cycle, with its nature-themed text, uses 19-Tone Equal Temperament: an inherently unnatural tuning system (according to the laws of physics) which divides the octave into 19 equal parts. This system is similar in principle to 12-Tone Equal Temperament, equally unnatural, which became common practice in the Baroque era. Though many cultures have their own different tuning systems, and contemporary composers from around the world have begun to explore a wider range of possibilities, 12TET is still by far the most widely practiced tuning system since the time when it became common practice in the eighteenth century.

What if things had gone slightly differently in the Baroque era, and we had decided to use a different tuning system: for instance, 19TET? How would this have changed the course of music history— changed the harmonic systems and hierarchies which we have created, taught, evolved, upheld, and subverted? After all, the decision to begin using 12TET in the first place, despite its being unnatural, stemmed from what is, perhaps, one of the most human instincts of all: to expand our horizons and explore new possibilities.

## ***Whodinger's Apple*** **Chen Shuhe Yue**

These are 8 of  $\infty$  possibilities when you hear your fate at different times.

## ***Gravitation*** **Tongyu Lu**

This composition crafted for soprano, flute, saxophone, and trumpet embodies my interpretation of the concept of “gravity.” There exists a gravitational force between all things in the world, propelling the occurrence of all phenomena.

## ***DICE*** **Jianing Song**

Uncertain.

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

## Dice Trio

Dice Trio is a proponent of the music of our time. The ensemble regularly performs innovative, boundary-pushing new music, and values the progressions of such music. In addition, Dice places an emphasis on inclusivity in regard to venue spaces, fiscal availability, and composers they collaborate with.

## Sam Friedman

Sam Friedman is a trumpet player and composer based in New York City. He is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in contemporary performance at the Manhattan School of Music, where he studies with Brandon Ridenour. He holds a BM in composition and trumpet performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he studied trumpet with Roy Poper and composition with Michael Frazier, Stephen Hartke, Jesse Jones, and Elizabeth Ogonek. Friedman is interested in expanding the range of artistic possibilities of the trumpet and other instruments and is fascinated by the roles that music and sound can play in our relationship to the environment.

## Jose Eduardo Muñoz

Jose Eduardo Muñoz (b. 1993) is a composer and guitarist born in Mexico and based in New York, who is dedicated to exploring the limits and doors of perception. He earned his bachelor's degree in classical composition from La Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, and his master's degree in composition from Manhattan School of Music.

His aesthetic pursuit is always aimed at creating conditions for the interaction between artist and audiences through art and “art-objects” in which the clash of vital perspectives happen with the potential of creating an aesthetic experience. Experiences capable of unlocking new possibilities of perceiving, knowing, remembering, comprehending, desiring, imagining, creating, and contemplating. New possibilities of awareness. New ways of creating meaning. New ways of living.

## Hsin-Yi Lisa Tseng

Hsin-Yi Lisa Tseng is a composer born in Taiwan, she is also a conductor, vocalist, and artist.

## **Emily Green**

Emily Green grew up in Ottawa, Ontario. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree in composition from the University of Toronto and is currently pursuing a master's degree in composition at the Manhattan School of Music, where she studies with Reiko Fütting. Green has been commissioned by numerous ensembles, including the Ottawa Children's Choir, the Exultate Chamber Singers, Pax Christi Chorale, and Modern Sound Collective. Being a vocalist herself, she has a particular interest in vocal and choral music and enjoys exploring the full range and capabilities of the human voice. She also strives to challenge and expand the technical boundaries and expectations as to what a vocalist is capable of, ranging from alternative tuning systems to simultaneous percussion parts played by the vocalist(s).

Emily Green is also a passionate music educator. She especially enjoys working with beginner students, and has taught voice, theory, and composition both privately, and with several organizations including Sistema Toronto, which provides free, after-school music instruction to students from low-income families. She is passionate about developing a personal curriculum which incorporates a wide variety of musical skills and concepts, to create well-rounded musicians with the necessary foundations to enter any musical discipline, whether it be performance, composition, conducting, or otherwise.

## **Chen Shuhe Yue**

Chen Shuhe Yue (Yue Chen) is a composer, soprano, and multi-genre artist. As a composer, Yue writes in various styles. Her compositions include solo, chamber, opera, music theater, electroacoustic music, and sound installation. Her music has been performed in many countries by notable musicians, such as the Jack Quartet, PHACE Ensemble, and ICE. As a soprano, Yue studied classical voice for nine years and performed in traditional operas, such as *The Magic Flute*, *Così fan tutte*, and *La bohème*. Now she is active in performing contemporary vocal music and music theater works. As a cross-genre artist, Yue has traveled to more than 20 countries and has participated in many art projects, such as street installations, performance arts, and immersive theatre.

Yue was awarded a Bachelor's degree in Opera Acting from the Central Academy of Drama in Beijing and received a Master's degree from Mannes School of Music in composition. Now she is in the DMA program in composition at Manhattan School of Music, studying with Prof. Reiko Fütting.

## Tongyu Lu

Tongyu Lu is a composer from China who is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in composition at Manhattan School of Music with Professor Reiko Fütting. Tongyu was born into a musical family and began to learn the piano at the age of five and the trumpet at the age of eleven. In 2016, he was admitted to Central Conservatory of Music Middle School with excellent results and studied trumpet with Professor Chen Guang, piano with Professor Li Xiang, solfeggio practice and music theory with Professor Wang Yusu, Associate Professor Zhang Juan, and Professor Li Tong. He also joined the China Youth Symphony Orchestra (Central Conservatory of Music Youth Symphony Orchestra). In 2020, he officially began to study composition, under the guidance of Professor Xu Zhitong and Professor Liu Kanghua.

## Jianing Song

Jianing Song is a Master's degree candidate in composition at Manhattan School of Music. She studied with Reiko Fütting, David Adamcyk, and Ashkan Behzadi. Jianing received her undergraduate degree in composition and conducting from the China Conservatory of Music in 2022.



**Council on  
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