

Hearing the Future

2021

New music from the
Young Composers Project

Supported in part by a grant from:

The Herbert A. Templeton Foundation
The Autzen Foundation

The Young Composers Project
is a program of Fear No Music

fearnomusic.org/ycp

Young Composers Project

Director: Jeff Payne

Director of Operations: Dr. Ryan Francis

Fear No Music

Artistic Director: Kenji Bunch

Executive Director: Monica Ohuchi

Recorded April 17 and 18, 2021

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Portland, Oregon

Inés Voglar Belqigue – violin

Charles Noble – viola

Tim Gilson – double bass

Stephen Lewis – piano

Joel Bluestone – percussion

Jeff Payne – conductor

Charles Rose – conductor

Nicholas Emerson - conductor

Charles Rose – recording engineer

Nicholas Emerson – recording engineer

CONCERT I

Elaina Stuppler is thrilled to be a part of the Young Composers Project and be working with such talented musicians. Elaina recently located to Portland from Los Angeles, and is completing seventh grade online at Crossroads School for the Arts & Sciences. She studies Compose & Record with Daniel Jimenez, orchestra with Emily Stewart, jazz band with Tony Hundtoft, and music theory with Jarod



Sheahan. She has performed in the cast of “Annie” at the Hollywood Bowl with Tony-nominated director, Michael Arden. Elaina was one of two seventh-grade trombonists to be accepted into the California All-State Symphonic Honor Band. Awarded first place from the California Junior Classical League’s talent show, she was selected from middle and high-school students across California. She also won second place in California for the Pentathlon in Latin. When not occupied with music, Elaina loves spending time with her best friends, mountain biking, and dancing.

COMPOSER NOTES: “Rae of Light” is filled with joy, bounce, and energy. Inspired by the popular song, “Hit the Road Jack” by Ray Charles, I incorporated his artistic flair into the main theme of the piece. At the beginning of the piece, you will hear the strings play pizzicato in a lively manner. The piano, vibraphone, and percussion embellish them with unique rhythms and melodies. As the song progresses, the pizzicato turns into arco, and the piano envelops the violin, viola, and cello. There are a variety of different styles and textures throughout the composition, and the original theme vigorously returns at the end.

Even before preschool, **Johann Mohnen** was eager to learn piano and drums. He has been composing since middle school, and plays guitar and trombone, and enjoys producing and recording music on his computer. A number of his

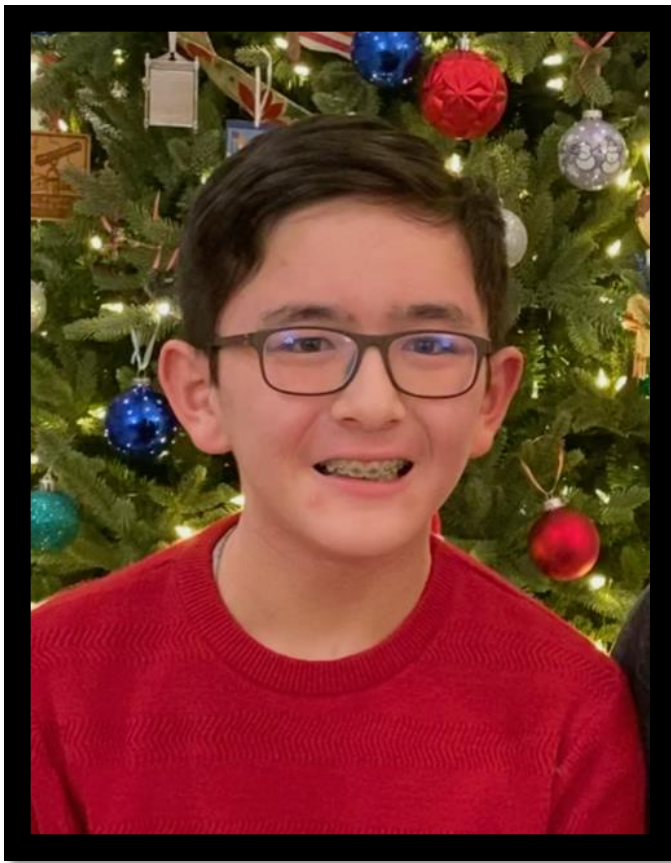


compositions have been awarded 5-stars from the Colorado Composers program, as well as a first and second place award from NFMCC's Oregon competition. He was recently invited as a guest composer for the Metropolitan Youth Symphony and is excitedly awaiting the concert recording of his two new pieces. This is Johann's second year in YCP. The piece he wrote last year, "Valzer Dolce," won first place in NFMCC's competition for Oregon and is currently competing at the national level. Johann is a senior at Westview High School in Portland, and plans to major in Music Composition and minor in Computer Science as a Duck at U of O. He hopes to become a composer for film and video games. When not working on music, Johann enjoys working as a lifeguard, swim instructor,

and camp counselor. He has also enjoyed playing baseball for his high school and local club teams. He also volunteers for homeless programs around Portland, serving at Night Strike, the Blanchet House, and is an active youth leader in his church. Johann's studies piano with Claudia Reinsch, his parents are Mark and Fam Mohnen, and he has a younger brother.

COMPOSER NOTES: "Theme for Spring" is a melodic-focused piece first written on piano. I was inspired by the pink cherry blossoms that I can view from my window. The calm piano reflects the falling petals, while the strings remind me of the soft breeze. My piece is in F major, but flows freely between Bb major and D minor throughout.

Isaac Dryfuse has been a student at Valley Catholic Middle School in Beaverton, but recently moved with his parents to Worthington, Ohio to be closer to family,



and is now settling into his new class in the seventh grade at St. Michael School. This is Isaac's third year with YCP. He has studied piano with Jan Mittelstaedt since 2nd grade, and currently studies music composition with Dr. Steve Lewis. Isaac performed in his school orchestra in Beaverton, and now plays in the band in Worthington. His compositions have been winners in competitions sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs and the Music Teachers National Association. Besides school and music, Isaac enjoys cross-country, track and field, and Boy Scouts activities. His parents are Mark and Hao Dryfuse.

COMPOSER NOTES: My piece is based on an old composition of mine, Rhapsody in C minor. I took the original piano piece, and turned it into a chamber music piece. It is in an ABCA form. The piano piece was short, so I added a lot of new material into this piece, developing into the B and C sections. I named it Lazy Morning because to me it felt slow and relaxing, with some fun and exciting moments. It's instruments are strings and piano.

Lillian Karns is a freshman at Oregon City High School. In her free time she likes to play my trumpet, oboe, and piano, or play games such as Dungeons and Dragons and Magic the Gathering. Lillian has been awarded a Gold Cup, which requires achieving three Superior ratings from adjudicators. She studies piano and composition with Laura McMillan, whom she says has made an immense impact on her life, giving her strength and courage to let her emotions show through the writing of music. Lillian lives with her parents, Marie and Shawn, along with a little sister and two cats.



COMPOSER NOTES: My piece, Colors of Emotions, was written to symbolize my struggles with anxiety and depression. The minor chords in the song highlight the frustration and misery, while the major chords resemble some happiness peeking in.

Amir Avsker was born in Israel in 2006, and has since lived in Japan and the United States. He is in the eighth grade at Springville K-8. Amir's passion for music began when he was eight years old. His mother knew how to play Für Elise,



and that inspired him. Soon after he started playing piano, Amir began improvising short pieces and thinking of melodies in his head. He began formally studying composition when he was 11. In 2018, Amir won the Oregon Music Education Association Student Composition Competition with a violin sonata, and in 2019 he was interviewed on the All Classical Portland radio station. Amir's composition style is that of the Classical era, a style that is rarely composed today. He has written almost 60 compositions, and he is now working on his first opera.

Amir studies composition with Dr. Steve Lewis, piano with Elena Istratova, violin with Kevin Lefohn, and voice with Matthew Hayward. His parents are Efrat and Mark Avsker.

COMPOSER NOTES: The first movement of my first piano quartet was composed between October 2020 and January 2021. It is written for a traditional piano quartet combination of violin, viola, cello, and piano. The movement is in Eb Major and is composed in a traditional sonata form. In the secondary key area of the exposition, the melody quickly changes from Bb Major to Bb minor. This leads into a section that uses many different chords that are all related to Bb minor, until the closing section begins with a cheerful but simple melody in Bb Major. The development section begins with a descending fourths sequence that goes through many chords until finally arriving in C minor. The rest of the development section consists of a melancholy melody in C minor that uses both a half diminished seventh chord and a French augmented sixth chord to add suspense. A short modulation leads back to Eb Major and the recapitulation.

Jason Hale is a senior at Sherwood High School and will be attending the Berklee School of Music in Boston in the fall. In addition to composing, Jason plays piano, bassoon, clarinet and percussion. He has won numerous awards for his

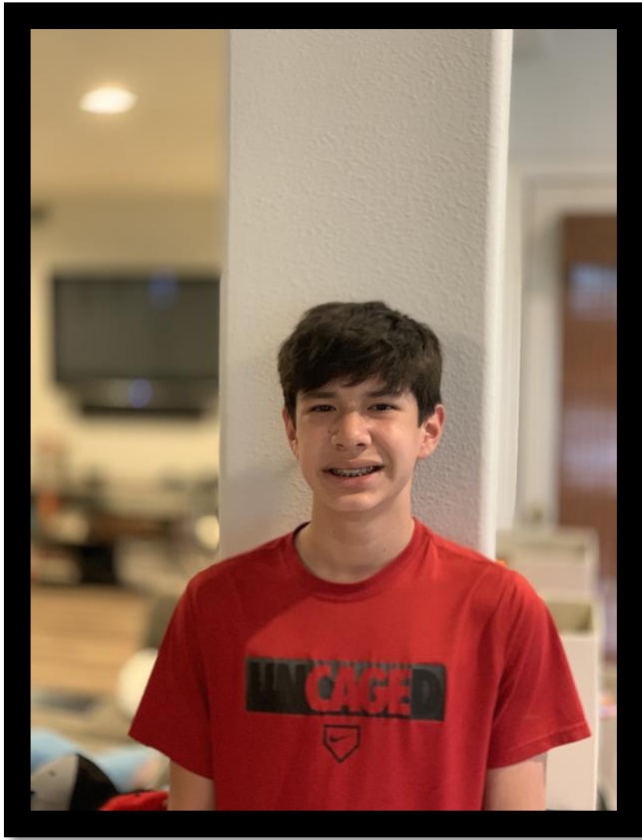


compositions in the Golden Key International Piano Composition Competition (including 1st place in 2018), the United States Open Music Composition Competition, and the MTAC Composers Today Competition. He has also won awards at the Oregon Music Educators

Association District Solo and Ensemble Competition for his marimba performances. He performs in many of his school's ensembles including marching band and winter percussion. Jason studies piano with Jean-David Coen and composition with Dr. Gary Noland. Jason's parents are Jared and Suzanne Hale, and he has a brother and sister.

COMPOSER NOTES: Out of all the pieces I've written, this was the easiest one to title for me: "Breeze of Something Anew." At this point in my life, I'm literally going to be entering a new chapter, and I did my best to convey that through what I wrote. This also happens to be the first full piece I've written for something that isn't piano. In many ways, including what I just mentioned and experimenting with many different techniques, you could call this a first.

Jacob Grass is in the eighth grade at the International School of Beaverton. He plays violin in the Metropolitan Youth Symphony orchestras, and has earned his



second Gold Cup through the National Federation of Music Clubs' Festival, participating in both Violin Solo and Violin Concerto events. He has also completed Level VII in Oregon Music Teachers Association Violin Syllabus. When not at school or practicing violin, Jacob enjoys playing tennis with his dad, unicycling and juggling with his grandpa, and playing video games with his friends. He lives with his parents, Paul and Anna, two older brothers, Caleb and Andy, and dog Sparky, and has been joined by his aunt, uncle, and cousin during the pandemic. This is Jacob's first year in the Young Composers Project. He studies violin and composition with Ruth Sadilek.

COMPOSER NOTES: *Verdant Pastures* is a piece inspired by the emotions evoked from a warm and sunny day. The recurring melody highlights the idea that, though the sun may disappear for a time, it will always return. Usually the bass does not carry the melody, but in this piece it does for a short period, to represent the rich textures of nature.

Liam Andrews is a 13 year old percussionist, pianist, and composer who attends Whitford Middle School. He studies percussion with Gordon Rencher and piano



with Zachary Meyers. This is his second year in the Young Composers Project, and his piano teacher was very helpful in the creation of Liam's piece. Liam plays percussion with the Metropolitan Youth Symphony, and fences as a hobby. His parents are Beth Katona and William Andrews.

COMPOSER NOTES: "Vibrations" follows a general video game story arc. The first fast and chipper section is the music for the title screen. The next section is dark and gloomy, making it the perfect music for the sad and dark introduction story. Next, we transition into the gameplay music. We have the main character fighting their way through the levels. The music slowly builds and builds in drama until we finally reach the main boss fight. The character defeats the boss, and we have the final few winning sounds. I have begun developing a game to go along with the music, called "Lightning Boy".

Skye Neal is an 11-year-old homeschooled student, and this is her third year in YCP. Along with composing she plays piano, violin, and sings. Her music theory and composition teacher is Mátti Kovler. In 2019 and 2020 Skye won first place in



Oregon Music Teachers Association's elementary composition competition and went on to receive honorable mention in the NW division. In 2020 her composition won first place in the Oregon Federation of Music Club's junior composer competition, and in 2021 won 2nd place. Skye has been interviewed on All-Classical Radio as part of the "On Deck" program. In her free time, Skye enjoys reading, writing, drawing, birding, cryptography, and playing with her pet parakeet. Her parents are Shirin and James Neal.

COMPOSER NOTES: "Waltz in Bb Major" combines my love of waltzes with an exploration of different melodies and techniques. In the past I've written sections of my songs to be waltzes and really liked them, so I challenged myself to write a whole piece like that. I also wanted to try something new and write for just two instruments. When I listen to it, I try to imagine people dancing. I can picture motions that are simple and sweet, getting more and more complex as the piece goes on.

Frazar Henry won the ASCAP Foundation 2018 Morton Gould Young Composer Award, and the 2020 Winner for both Florida and the Southern Division MTNA

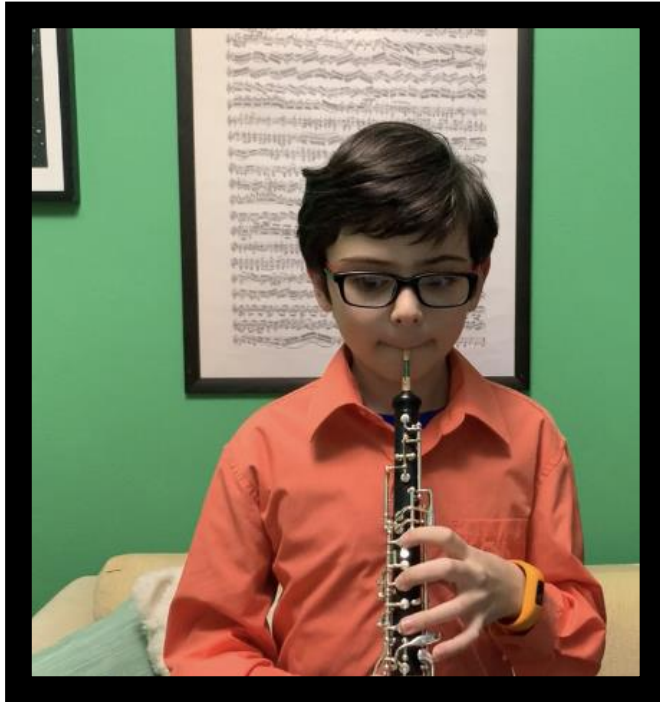


Composition Competition. He was also awarded 2nd Place in the 2020-2021 Webster University Young Composer Competition and 1st Place in the 2020 Miami Music Teachers Foundation Composition Contest. As a pianist, Frazar won the 2020 Frost Int'l Young Artists Piano Concerto Competition and the Frost Int'l Young Artists Solo Piano Competition. In addition to winning 1st Prize for Piano in

the 2019 Music Foundation of Greater Naples Scholarship Competition, he has also garnered notable awards and recognition from the Tribeca New Music 2020 National Young Composer Competition, the 2020 HeartOut Piano Competition, the 2019 Tampa Bay Symphony 4th annual Call for Scores Composition Competition, and the 2019 Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of New York's Emerging Composers Competition. Frazar is a home-schooled ninth grader living in Bonita Springs, Florida. He wishes to thank his parents Robert & Sara Henry for all the sacrifices they have made so he may devote so much to music. Also, he has had wonderful composition teachers and mentors along the way, including his current team: Drs. Charles Norman Mason, Dorothy Hindman, Juraj Kojš, Jeffrey S. Leigh and—of course—the gifted and generous Fear No Music family.

COMPOSERS NOTE: *Lamentation #4* was inspired by musings at the piano during the coronavirus pandemic lockdown. It starts subdued, with descending half-steps in the piano and vibraphone, reflecting feelings of despair and lament. The tension gradually builds with overlapping melodies in the piano and vibraphone, while the strings periodically interject with pizzicato complaints. The tension peaks when all the instruments suddenly outburst in unison. After this outburst, the music slowly dies to a whisper, punctuated by an enigmatic—yet hopeful—chord.

Alejandro Belgique is in the 4th grade at Markham Elementary School. He likes to read, play Minecraft, and build stuff with LEGOs and K'NEX.



Alejandro won 1st place in the 2020 OM/NI competition and the Oregon Federation of Music Clubs' Junior Composers Contest of 2021. He also won the National Federation of Music Clubs' Junior Composers Contest, Western Region. In addition to composing, he plays the piano and oboe. His parents are Ines Voglar and Joel Belgique, and he studies composition with Dr. Michael Johanson, piano with Monica Ohuchi, and oboe with Karen Wagner.

COMPOSER NOTES: My piece is called "Three Somethings." It's in three movements, each movement being one "something". My dad actually came up with the title. We were trying to come up with a title but couldn't come up with anything, so my dad just put "Three Somethings" as a temporary title, and I actually liked it. The first movement features an instrument called the *kalimbon*, which is basically a big kalimba. My mom was cleaning up the studio where she teaches, and she moved each of the wooden key type things out of the way so she could get all the dust off of the kalimbon, and when she put the key type things back and plucked them or something, it somehow made this cool little groove that I based the first "something" on. The second and third "somethings" were both based off of random improvisations that I did on the piano. (I like to do a lot of improvisations on the piano and oboe.) The tempo of both the second and third "somethings" is also ♩ = 168. Weird.

Somesh Yatham is an all-state percussionist and composer attending Round Rock High School in Round Rock, Texas. Organizing a concert for his first composition at



14, Somesh, now a certified Texas Young Master by the Texas Commission on the Arts, has gone on to have his work performed and/or commissioned by the Walsh Middle School Percussion Ensemble, Round Rock High School Rock Drums section, Tetractys, Panoramic Voices, Austin Soundwaves, and the Austin Symphony Orchestra. His compositions have now achieved regional and international recognition from 16 different

organizations and competitions. He has participated in Fear No Music's, Birmingham Conservatoire, and Golden Hornet's Young Composers' Programs, serving as a student board representative for the latter. He was also selected to attend Berklee's and NYU's composition and screen scoring workshops respectively this summer. Somesh aspires to become a film composer, working on all sorts of media. His parents are Naga and Sandhya Yatham, and his teachers include Brian Satterwhite, Keith Allegretti, and Sean Harvey.

COMPOSER NOTES: "Apollo" was the 3d place winner at the national level of the National Federation of Music Clubs competition. It is a 5 minute chamber quintet that portrays the development of the 17 space Apollo missions, starting with the catastrophic fire in Apollo 1 to the rapidly transforming technology that categorized not only the missions leading to the Moon landing, but the endeavors in current day that vie for further space exploration. These significant pieces of history served as a small piece in the much larger story that is the cold war. To properly represent not only the tension, but the national pride of many citizens at the time, this composition relies on multiple themes and melodies that require the performers to utilize both strict and more free flowing dynamics (depending on which section of the piece is being played).