

Hearing the Future

2021

New music from the
Young Composers Project

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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 II

Torin Repasky is a sophomore at Ida B Wells High School where he enjoys history and art. He has been studying the piano for eight years with Nancy Stone. He also plays trumpet in the school band and is looking forward to making music with of the rest of the band during the High School football season once post-COVID normality resumes. He also enjoys playing soccer as a defender on the JV team

and likes to play videogames. This is his third year participating in the Young Composers Project.



COMPOSER NOTES: My piece: "Swing in E" Is a swing tune written in E major. The piece develops multiple themes while never staying too long with a single one. With the piano keeping the beat throughout the first half of the composition, later gives that role to the snare, which becomes the backing for the second half, allowing the strings to sing and define the entire score. Each

instrument gets its own time to shine, keeping the song fresh and unique.

Kara Taylor is a junior at Valley Catholic High School, where she directs and sings in a choir she assembled. The choir will be recording an original piece Kara wrote during the Covid pandemic. Outside of school, Kara sings soprano in the Pacific



Youth Choir and plays flute in the Metropolitan Youth Symphony. In her freshman year of high school, Kara placed 4th at the OMEA Solo competition for flute, and this year placed 3rd for Mezzo Voice. In October 2020, Kara was featured on All Classical Portland's program, On Deck with Young Musicians. When she is not playing or composing music, Kara enjoys playing golf and reading. This is Kara's third year with the Young Composers Project, her parents are David and Howcy Taylor, and she studies composition with Dr. Ryan Francis.

COMPOSER NOTES: My piece is called "Anticipation." The piece starts off with a simple, light theme that gets developed as the piece evolves. The theme grows more intense as the anticipation builds. The pent up excitement and tension is finally released at the big ending when resolution is reached. I hope you enjoy "Anticipation."

Haladar Wright is in his Junior year of high school, and this is his third year of YCP. He likes building computers, playing games with friends, and runs his own Dungeons and Dragons campaign. He plays violin, taking private lessons with



Nathan Givens, and is in his school choir as well. He recently wrote a variation on a theme for the Metropolitan Youth Symphony, and hopes to find similar opportunities in the future.

COMPOSER NOTES: My piece, "Polka in A Minor," was a challenge I set for myself. My previous pieces that I've written for YCP have been rather broad and expansive, and I wanted to work on a piece that felt more "zoomed in" and homey. I figured a polka would be a good fit for that, and I was especially excited to use the double bass to lay down a fun bass line. I especially had fun with researching and experimentation to find that unique polka "sound," especially in relation to a couple Finnish polkas I took inspiration from.

Maxwell Evans-McGlothin is a 13 year-old native Oregonian who will be an 8th grader at Sunnyside Environmental School in Portland, Oregon in the fall of 2021.



Max began composing in Brooklyn, NY at PS39 when he was in 4th grade and was selected to participate in the New York Philharmonic Young Composers program under the guidance of Daniel Felsenfeld. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Max has managed to stay virtually connected with friends & family but is looking forward when we can enjoy each other's company, vaccinated & in-person. While he has spent the last year in distance learning for school and Fear No Music, Max has continued exploring new foods, creating recipes, reading comics & books, watching Marvel & Disney plus, tending his garden, looking for memes & having Friday night home-made pizza. His parents are Ms Chanda Evans and Mr Shannon McGlothin. Max studies composition with Dr Ryan Francis and piano with Mr Stephen Lewis. This is Max's third year in Young Composers

Project.

COMPOSER NOTES: My first piece is called *The Doom of your Tympanic Membrane*. In this movement, I wanted to venture outside the "box." I took my inspiration from Classic Rock n' Roll from the 1980's and 1990's. Instead of using the same repetition, I altered each repeating stanza slightly by changing the tempo and the rhythm to reflect the Rock n' Roll variations. My inspiration for the second movement, *Double Up Triple Up*, was Jazz. For my research I listened to Jazz 24 on a daily basis, primarily as background music so Jazz was unconsciously on my mind all the time. I attempted to use more flats and sharps in this movement. This illustrated a jazzy B Flat & A Flat as well as a bit of a swing.

Jackson Grace is 17 years old and a Junior at Franklin High School. His favorite subjects in school are mainly math and physics, but he also likes history. Jackson



plays piano in the Franklin Jazz band and outside of school plays piano in the Metropolitan Youth Symphony jazz ensemble. Jackson has participated in Young Composers Project for 5 years now. He recently wrote a variation which will be performed by the Metropolitan Youth Symphony. In his free time, he likes to design roller coasters in a roller coaster simulator called NoLimits 2; he has participated in a few NoLimits2 competitions for roller-coaster design. Jackson studies jazz piano with Bryn Roberts and his parents are Margaret and Rondi Grace.

COMPOSER NOTES: My piece is called "Palindromica." It follows a palindromic form (hence the name) with repeated sections being variations upon their previous selves. The center of the piece also contains a piano solo meant to serve as the bridge between each side of the piece, acting almost as a small independent composition.

Joseph Young is a junior at Mountain View High School in Vancouver where he performs in the Chamber Orchestra, and is involved in the school's Science Olympiad team, the National Honor Society, and the organization Youth Hand in



Hand. He also played with the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, MYSfits, and the Camas-Washougal Community Orchestra. He has been selected to the LCRMEA Honor Orchestra and the WMEA All-State Orchestra. Joseph studies composition with Elizabeth Blachly-Dyson and viola with Dr. Tatiana Kochanova. This is Joseph's first year in Young Composers Project. His parents are Andrew and Jan, and he has an older brother Jay and two older sisters Ashley and Amy.

COMPOSER NOTES: My composition is called "Fun Quintet in B flat." It's in Sonata-Allegro form with a slow introduction and coda. The introduction uses elements from the first theme. The first and second themes are relatively "fun", which are followed by a more mysterious development that grows into the peak of the piece. In the recapitulation, the first and second themes are slightly altered and reorchestrated. The coda starts similar to the introduction, then takes off for a powerful ending.

Manu Isaacs is in seventh grade at ACCESS Academy. He plays the violin, and his non-musical hobbies include chess, soccer, and math. This is his fifth year in the Young Composer's project. Manu's piece for string ensemble was performed by



the Vivaldi Ensemble of the Metropolitan Youth Symphony. He lives in Portland with his parents, Michael, Rajashree and his brother, Rahul. He studies composition with Dr. Ryan Francis

COMPOSER NOTES: My piece is called "String Trio". It is a flowing, connected piece that is constructed from minimal material. The piece builds slowly towards a climax, and tapers off in the last few measures. My goal with this piece was to only a few motifs and to keep it consistent, and I think it worked out pretty well.

Aidan Bagby is a sophomore at Cleveland High School. He plays guitar, drums, and piano, and studies composition with Dr. Stephen Lewis. Aidan had written



compositions for band and orchestra, along with numerous piano compositions. Aidan hopes to attend college on the east coast when he graduates from high school. Aidan's parents are Edward Bagby and Eryn Berg, and he has a brother, Austin, and a dog, Nita. This is his first year in the Young Composers Project.

COMPOSER NOTES: My music piece is called Choice because you get many choices in life and I wanted my piece to represent that. My piece is in B major because that key seems like the most energetic key.

Adrian Valenzuela is a freshman at Jesuit High School. He enjoys his choir class because it has an engaging atmosphere and is a way to express his musicality towards others in school. He shares his musical talents throughout the school

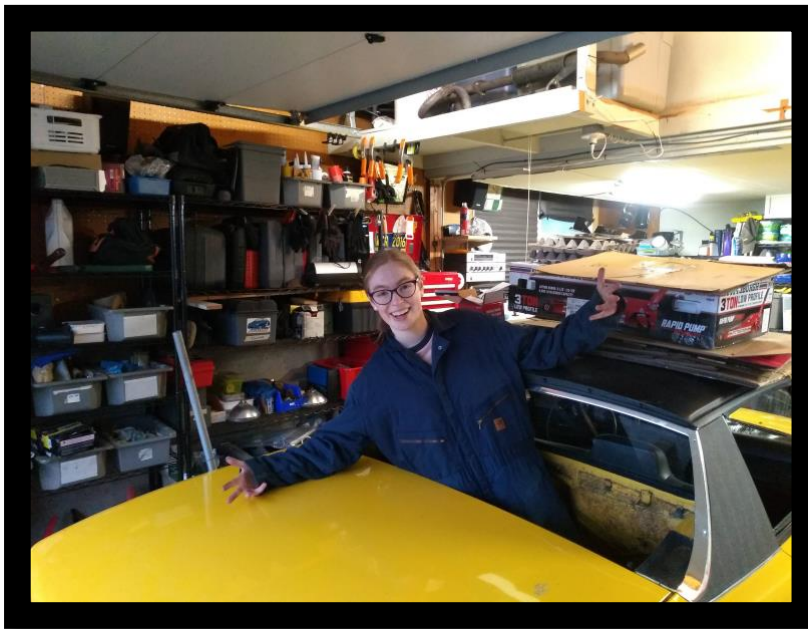


year by performing in seasonal school coffeehouses and recitals organized by his teachers. After in-person school started, he and his homeroom classmates performed a pop song during class, leading to the principal posting their story on his blog. Adrian has earned his second Gold Cup through the Federation of Music Clubs' Festival in both Piano Solo and Piano Concerto events. He has completed Level VIII of Oregon Music Teachers Assn. Piano Syllabus. These achievements would not have been possible without his music teacher, Ruth Sadilek, who has been his piano, composition teacher, and mentor for eight years.

Adrian parents are Victor and Ruby Valenzuela, who encourage him to participate in programs such as YCP. This will be his second year participating in this program. YCP has helped Adrian grow as an individual and as a musician. This year, he was able to compose his first ever song and recorded it for his choir class project. He is grateful that his YCP experience guided him while he created the song. Aside from piano, Adrian enjoys playing video games, hanging out with friends, and playing his favorite sport--basketball.

COMPOSER NOTES: Adrian's piece is called Lost in Time. He took inspiration from Chopin's Nocturnes and also put his own contemporary spin on this piece. In the middle of Lost in Time, he has added slow, harmonious chords that help make the impression of being lost in space and time. These notes will reappear near the end. You will also realize that the theme has shifted into something way different from the start!

Margot Pullen is a sophomore at Ida B. Wells High School in Portland. In addition to composing, she plays the trumpet, flute, piano, and a bit of accordion. Her

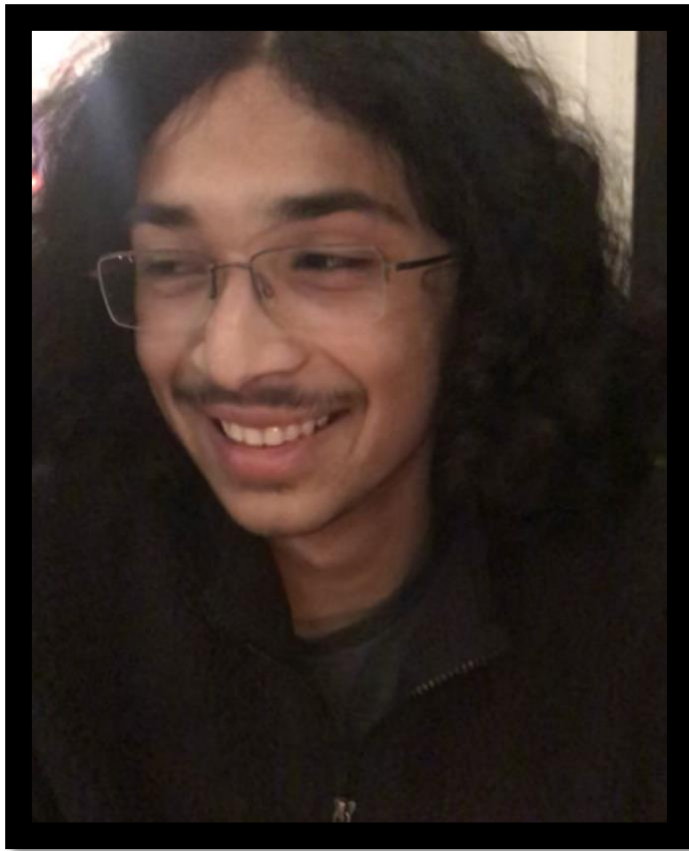


hobbies include drawing, watching motorsports, transcribing sheet music, and working with her dad on their 1975 Porsche 914. Margot currently studies flute with Jessica Bartlett, and plays trumpet in her school band and with the Metropolitan Youth Symphony, where she also takes music theory classes with Dr. Ryan Francis. Margot lives with

her parents, Shannon and Michael, and her younger sister Ada.

COMPOSER NOTES: I'm incredibly grateful for this opportunity, and I look forward to participating in Young Composers again next year. My piece is called *Elegy for a Yugo*. It features the piano, violin, and double bass, with the melody being passed between the strings above the ever-rippling piano line. When it came time to give my piece a name, I initially struggled, as I hadn't written the song about one particular thing, but I realized that the experiences I had in quarantine while composing it had become intertwined with the music. Thus, I choose the name *Elegy for a Yugo* to represent my obsession with Yugos, the much-maligned hatchbacks from former Yugoslavia. There's something kind of beautiful to me about a car so objectively terrible, and I felt that the piano part of my piece contributed to the feeling of scenery rushing past as you drive.

Rohan Srinivasan is a senior at Sunset High School in Portland, Oregon, who plays cello and drumset. He studies composition with Dr. Ryan Francis. He was a winner



in the 2020 NextNotes and Penn State competitions, and was accepted into the 2021 Young Artists Composition Program at Boston University Tanglewood Institute. Rohan is grateful to have gotten the opportunity to compose an orchestra piece for the Metropolitan Youth Symphony which will be performed in the upcoming season. Rohan will be attending the Juilliard School of Music in New York City in the fall to study composition with Andrew Norman. In his free time, he likes to go on hikes and (unfortunately!) tends to procrastinate on homework. Rohan's parents are Vinoo Srinivasan and Ramya Govindarajan.

COMPOSER NOTES: The first "section" of this piece is just a loop - the violin and viola play an ascending/descending pattern while the other instruments accent at various points - repeated 8 times. But there's a strong rhythmic pulse here, which isn't there in the next section (even though the material is very similar). Different fragments float in and out sort of unpredictably because those timings were left to the players. In other parts, the ascending/descending pattern stops being specifically notated and there's only a general melodic contour for the players to interpret. Why? Because it seemed fun, and I wanted to get away from "developing" the material like I might normally do. Maybe what I'm doing instead is "stretching" the material? That's where the title comes from, anyways!

Koharu Sakiyama is a junior at West Linn High School. She has been composing since age five and currently studies with Dr. Michael Johanson. She won 1st place



in the 2018 OMEA State Composers Contest, received honorable mention in the 2018 National Association for Music Education Composers Competition, honorable mention in the 2020 OMEA State Composers Contest, and was Co-Champion for the 2021 OMEA State Composers Contest, and runner-up in the 2021 Hayes School of Music National Composition Contest. This is her second year in the Young Composers Project. She has been playing the violin for fourteen years and has been a member of the Portland Youth Philharmonic for seven years; she was the Co-Concertmaster of the Conservatory Orchestra in 2017-18. Koharu has played the koto, a traditional Japanese

instrument, for four years and is currently a member of the Oregon Koto Kai. She also plays alto saxophone in her high school symphonic band. She enjoys ski racing and skis for her high school varsity team. She also participated in her school's International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) and has qualified for the state fair twice, placing third in her category of Cellular & Molecular Biology this year. Koharu's parents are Yuki & Miyuki Sakiyama.

COMPOSER NOTES: *Color Palette* is a gift from my mother that illustrates the beauty of blending colors. The theme was composed by my mother when she was in fourth grade, and the piece was written to symbolize the gift of music she has given to me. Putting together the blurs of the original theme she remembered, I added new colors as I wrote each new section, referring to her theme in some way at every other color. The piece opens with her theme, representing a white canvas, which recurs throughout the piece as the different colors are introduced and we fill the canvas together with colorful hues. Beginning with the white canvas, the colors go in order of pastel yellow, dark red, pale pink, sunset orange, midnight blue, light purple, forest green, gold, and finally back to the original theme as the piece closes with a brand new white canvas again, symbolizing the beginning of yet another journey through the color palette as a fresh painting begins.