

Works by alumni of the Technology and Applied Composition program at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music

The **Technology and Applied Composition** program [TAC] at SFCM dynamically bridges art and technology.

May 24, 2019 at 7:30 pm, Osher Salon

This is a Flower; not a gun — by Daniel De Togni,
performed by Tin Yi Wong and McKenzie Camp

Magic — by “Sky” (Jim Schuyler), performed by the ensemble — video based on natural loops by Jeff Goldsmith
— in four movements: **Fire | Water | Ice | Forest**

Mejiabi — by Hélène Choyer, performed by the ensemble
— video by Binsen Mejia

Off to Brunch — by “Sky” (Jim Schuyler), performed by the ensemble — from his original score for the film *Indulgence* by Leo Maselli

El Diablo — by Helen Tanubrata, sung by Helen, with the ensemble
— *El Diablo* video game sequence by Cody Mosblech

— INTERMISSION —

Meu by Radix Motion — music by Niko Korolog — *Meu VR* by Sarah Hashkes, Matt Hoe, Isaac Cohen

Intangible — by Ziyi Fu, performed by Ziyi Fu — visuals by José Soberanes

Four by Andrew Levin — performed by Andrew Levin

In a Void (instrumental)

If I Died Today

Adeline (instrumental)

Orchids

Wings — an animation by Casey McDonald — original score by Colin Andrew Grant

So Help Me God — a short film by Rebecca Maddalo — original score by Kyle Randall

Video footage from tonight's concert will appear at WritingMusic.org

Program notes

This is a Flower; not a gun — Daniel De Togni

I wrote *This is a Flower; not a gun* as a sort of poem-prayer to find the beauty in things while living in a violent and dissonant world. It is a series of short musical moments that bounce from one to another in order to create a sonic environment in which the listener can dwell in a state of reflection.

Magic — “Sky” (Jim Schuyler)

Frequently when I begin writing music I form and work from an image in my mind. Then I try to evoke the spirit of my mental image. In this case my images were seeded by wilderness backcountry Yosemite, where I've spent considerable time over many summers.

The visuals are from video loops created by Jeff Goldsmith. Each image is of a natural phenomenon, which is then processed, looped, accelerated, and sometimes colorized. These video loops were then further processed in MadMapper by Sky for tonight's performance.

Mejiabi — Hélène Choyer

This work is an invitation to a threshold where the trauma of past life is forgiven, released and incorporated into a new self.

Combine two senses, the sense of sight and the sense of hearing, to reach a third one: the sense of touch. Everything is about textures.

Off to Brunch — “Sky” (Jim Schuyler)

The short indie film *Indulgence* by Leo Maselli tells a story of transformation. A young woman returns to San Francisco to find the house in which she grew up. A house now overrun by hundreds of clocks on the walls and an old man with a secret past. This track accompanies the upbeat final scene of the film in which the heroine and the old man walk off to have their first brunch together as newly-reconnected kin.

El Diablo — Helen Tanubrata visuals by Cody Mosblech

El Diablo is a musical story about an outlaw who makes a deal with the Devil—for the sake of a loved one. However, he runs off before paying off his end of the deal.

The visuals, by Cody Mosblech, were drawn pixel-by-pixel, and inspired by retro 8-bit western games. Animation and implementation were done in Unity 2018.

Intermission

Meu by Radix Motion — Niko Korolog

Meu is an embodied messenger platform that lets people connect on a deeper level. Choose and customize a template emotion. Unique synesthesia algorithms connect movement and heartbeat to avatars, visuals, music and haptic vibrations.

Intangible — Ziyi Fu

Intangible is an experimental electronic music piece that explores connections between body movement and music. In this piece the composer will “play with the air” by moving her hands to create diverse sounds. The computer designs and converts sounds based on her movement and the data from five proximity sensors.

Four by Andrew Levin

In a Void (instrumental) — This short piece was written as an exercise in simplicity. As the title suggests, it is a part of a series of instrumental works written for the electric guitar.

If I Died Today — I'd like to leave some of the lyrics up to the listener's interpretation on this one. It's not just about death.

Adeline (instrumental) — This is the second part of my instrumental guitar series. This particular song was written for the San Francisco-based guitar manufacturer, Blackbird Guitars. I will only be playing a portion of the longer piece.

Orchids — I have always found the idea of underground flowers to be fascinating, so I wrote a song about them.

Wings — score by Colin Andrew Grant

A friendship takes flight as a mouse who wants to fly and an injured bird cross paths. Animated in TVPaint, with hand-painted watercolor backgrounds, *Wings* tells a story of kindness, acceptance, and the fear of being left behind. — Casey

This being my second collaboration with Casey, I've been able to work with her on the project since the beginning stages. For *Wings*, we really wanted to explore how we could musically touch upon the themes and feelings of chasing goals, loneliness, and ultimately the joys of friendship. — Colin

So Help Me God — score by Kyle Randall

A hapless guy tries to make it through his day with the help of an unlikely friend. Director Rebecca Maddalo adds "It was a joy to work with Kyle, and his music is wonderful, so I'm thrilled it's being shown!"

The TAC alumni

Andrew Levin

Andrew is a composer, session guitarist, and sound designer based in Oakland, CA. He is passionate about working with musicians and artists from many styles and disciplines. In addition to releasing a huge volume of his own music, he has toured the world with Grammy-Award Winner Jody Watley, and worked with many other artists including producer Terrace Martin (Kenrick Lamar, Quincy Jones), Zion i, the Oakland Symphony, Kev Choice (Lauryn Hill, Hieroglyphics), Emily Afton, Antonique Smith, Lyrics Born, and the Jazz Mafia. He is currently working with Ubisoft as a Music Content Developer, primarily on their game *Rocksmith 2014*. Online at andrewlevinmusic.com

Cody Mosblech (visuals)

Cody is a 2018 TAC Alum hailing from Fort Worth, Texas, with a B.A. in Physics as well as Music from Kalamazoo College. He currently works as a freelance composer and sound designer based in San Francisco, and is interested in game audio programming. This will be his exclusive performance visual arts debut. Online at codymosblech.com

Colin Andrew Grant

Colin Andrew Grant is a New Jersey born composer, music editor, and sound designer for animation and interactive media, based in San Francisco and Los Angeles. He is currently working as an associate sound designer at Playstation, where he was previously a music intern working on multiple AAA games. Online at colinandrewgrant.com

Daniel De Togni

Born in St. Louis and raised an Arkansas native, Daniel De Togni is currently a composer living in the San Francisco Bay Area. His works have been performed in Japan, at the Hot Air Music Festival in San Francisco, New Music on the Point, as well as being performed throughout the United States.

Daniel's music cross-pollinates genres and styles, exploring sonic environments and the musical organisms that dwell in them. He creates moving listening experiences, constructed with rich, compelling musical architectures. Online at DanielDetogni.com

Daria Novo (conductor)

Music director and composer Daria Novoliantceva adds her creativity as our conductor for the ensemble tonight. Daria's musical works appeared on both of our 2018 programs and may be viewed online at WritingMusic.org. Online at darianovo.com

Helen Tanubrata

Helen Tanubrata is a composer, vocalist, and producer currently based in San Diego. She's primarily interested in experimenting with popular music and multimedia collaboration. An SFCM TAC '18 alum, she also holds a B.A. in Music Composition from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Online at helenoftroyofficial.com

Hélène Choyer

Hélène Choyer is a composer from France. Before earning a professional diploma in the technology and applied composition program in May 2019, she studied piano performance and

musicology in Paris. In her compositions, she creates new sounds and textures based on her various influences: classical music, jazz, electronic, heavy metal, and music of West Africa, where she partly grew up. She is proud to have earned several first national awards in France. Always passionate about cinema, she directed a short movie and a documentary and started to write soundtracks at the age of 14; since then, she has scored numerous movies, documentaries, advertisements, and TV shows. Online at helenechoyer.com

Kyle Randall

Kyle C. Randall — Born and raised in the forests of New Hampshire, Kyle Randall is a composer, orchestrator, and sound artist who currently lives in San Francisco. His work often revolves around strong notions of color, motion, and landscape.

After completing a Masters in composition at SFCM and a PSD in the TAC program, he went on to develop his career in many directions at once, from concert hall commissions to major video games to sound and music for podcasts. He recently held the composer-in-residence position for the Empire City Men's chorus, and won the American Prize for the Kyrie of his New Gothic Mass. He also sings in and co-conducts the Renaissance choral group, Tactus. Online at KyleRandall.com.

Niko Korolog

A graduate of San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Niko Korolog has a background in classical and electronic music composition and game audio implementation. His clients have included Oculus, Razer, and a slew of independent game developers and filmmakers. Niko is also an accomplished pop producer. Niko's music is online at soundcloud.com/nikokorologmusic. Check out his most recent game project — Avaloki, Available now for Oculus Rift on the Oculus Store. Online at nikokorologmusic.com

“Sky” (Jim Schuyler)

James A. Schuyler, but call me “Sky” is a pianist turned computer scientist turned composer. At age 18 he had to decide between pursuing conservatory study with his teacher in Chicago, and a career in engineering. His PhD in Computer Science is from Northwestern University. He has founded a number of software companies. He is currently scoring and collaborating on short indie

films, and is Showrunner for this series of concerts and events. Online at www.skyHi.digital

Ziyi Fu

Ziyi Fu is a composer and new media artist based in San Francisco. She works in multiple music genres, including contemporary concert music, film scores and experimental electronic music. As a new media artist, she has focused on interactive audio visual installations. Online at ziyi-fu.com

Musicians & Performers

(in order of appearance)

Musicians

Tin Yi Wong (Chelsea), piano

An active advocate of contemporary music, Hong Kong native Tin Yi Wong (Chelsea) premiered composer Ilya Demutsky's "Skomoroshina", a work commissioned through the SFCM Hoefer Prize and choreographed and performed at SF Ballet; she is also one of the original members of Mouthscape Choir from SFCM. Locally, she has worked with such notable pianists as Leon Fleisher, Jereome Lowenthal, and Garrick Ohlsson. A versatile pianist, she is fluent in "free improvisation," has hosted an Airbnb concert "Piano Parlor", and invented the Harmonic Capo to expand the instrument's potential on extended technique. Online at tinyiwong.com

Mckenzie Camp, percussion

Mckenzie Camp is a percussionist in San Francisco where she has played with leading Bay Area ensembles including the San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, Berkeley Symphony, Island City Opera, and is a member of a Wild Rumpus. She received her Bachelor of Music and a Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music and her Masters in Music at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Mckenzie grew up a farm girl on a vineyard near Bakersfield, CA; she currently teaches and gives private

piano and percussion lessons to many young musicians, enjoys playing drums at Hillsong Church SF, and loves the outdoors and scuba diving. Online at mckenziecamp.com.

The Ensemble Musicians

Samuel (Sam) Weiser, violin

Samuel Weiser is a member of Del Sol Quartet, as well as a student currently pursuing a masters degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in chamber music performance, studying with Ian Swensen. He graduated from Tufts University with a degree in computer science and the New England Conservatory with a degree in violin performance. His past teachers include Patinka Kopec, James Buswell, and Lucy Chapman. Online at delsolquartet.com

Kyle Bruckmann, oboe

Oboist and composer/performer Kyle Bruckmann tramples genre boundaries in widely-ranging work that extends from Western Classical foundations into gray areas encompassing free jazz, post-punk rock and the noise underground. Since relocating to the Bay Area from Chicago in 2003, he has performed as a substitute with the San Francisco Symphony and most of the area's regional orchestras while remaining active within an international community of improvisers and sound artists. He teaches at UC Berkeley, Santa Cruz and Davis, and is a member of ensembles including SFCMP, Splinter Reeds, Eco Ensemble, and Quinteto Latino. Online at kylebruckmann.com

Andrew Friedman, clarinet

Andrew Friedman is a clarinetist, educator, and composer whose freelance credits include symphony, ballet, and opera orchestras. He holds teaching positions in clarinet and saxophone at the San Francisco Music City Academy and the Inspire Music Center. He graduated from the University of Puget Sound with Bachelor's degrees in English and music and received his Masters in Performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, with additional training at the Eastern Music Festival, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and the Round Top Festival Institute..

Andrés Vera, cello

Andrés Vera is a soloist, chamber, and orchestral musician, who has performed in countless venues throughout the United States, Europe, the Caribbean and Asia. He is the cellist of the Grammy-nominated Quartet San Francisco, joining in the summer of 2015. He is currently

working towards bringing awareness for gay rights, free education, and solutions to Climate Destabilization. Online at andresveracello.com

Sharon Lee Kim, piano

Sharon Lee Kim is a solo and chamber pianist, vocal coach, music director, choral and vocal accompanist, and a highly demanded piano instructor. In recital she collaborates with top instrumentalists and opera singers. She has been an Adjunct Associate Professor at Saint Mary's College since 2008. At St. Mary's College she is Assistant Director/Accompanist of the choral program, Lecturer in piano, chamber music, and music history, and Director of the Faculty Concert Series. Sharon is also the pianist of Ensemble Ari, the co-founding member of Duo Camaraderie, a collegiate staff pianist at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and maintains a thriving private piano and vocal studio. She holds degrees from UC Berkeley (BA) and New England Conservatory (MM and GD). (online at sharonleekim.com).

Ziyi Fu, Helen Tanubrata, and Andrew Levin are performing their own works tonight

Artistic Collaborators

Jeff Goldsmith, photographer, videographer, designer

Jeff Goldsmith is a Bay Area photographer, videographer, and user-experience designer by day, and a mad scientist - inventing products of all kinds - by night. Several of his videos included here were taken along the Tuolumne River in Yosemite, which he reveres as sacred. Jeff believes that ambient video uniquely captures the timelessness of all things natural. As you read this, that river continues to flow, and those trees continue to waver in the breezes that never really stop.

Leo Maselli, writer and producer (for Indulgence)

Leo began writing, directing and producing films during the last 10 years of his career as a San Francisco stockbroker. His wonderfully complex characters, provocative endings and non-tragic themes strive to present humankind as they seek to reinvent themselves in the complex world around them.

Morgan Russell, photographer (for Indulgence)

On-set photography for *Indulgence* is by Morgan Russell, who studied at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England. It was there that he realized photography was a medium that could change perceptions.

Binsen J Gonzalez Mejia, cinematographer (for Mejiabi)

Binsen JG Mejia's practice incorporates sculpture, video, and installation; all are informed by his ongoing exploration of the collective imagination through the incorporation of his indigenous origins. His objects often use organic materials and shapes traditionally associated with Native American art; his spiritually-influenced installations design thresholds through the use of the medicine wheel, where seekers of the inner life may find a rite of passage. Through his studies of metaphysics and shamanic ritual, mesoamerican geographies, and colonialism he examines ideas of forgiveness, purpose, rebirth, beauty, and love. Mejia is an American artist from Miami born to Nicaraguan parents.

José Soberanes, visuals

Jose Soberanes is a multi-disciplinary artist whose work ranges from interior design to audio engineering. Jose has worked with Kanye West's DONDA company, audio engineered Minecraft & The Walking Dead, and has successfully launched his own fashion line, "Soberseason: 1" — Tonight he is creating projected visuals.

Sarah Hashkes, Matt Hoe, Isaac Cohen, Atley Loughridge

MEU - Experimental VR Social Platform

Sarah Hashkes — Hacking the brain body connection using expertise in cognitive neuroscience and academic research into VR's influences on movement/sense of self.

Matt Hoe — Full stack software engineer with a background in VR, media and interactive characters.

Isaac Cohen — VR Wizard - simulation artist bending reality one byte at a time.

Atley Loughridge — Engineer designing experiences that analyze the psychological systems we are embedded in.

Casey McDonald, animator (for WINGS)

Casey McDonald is a girl with a frog hat who really likes to draw! She majored in animation at the School of Visual arts, and during her time there was a recipient of the Silas H. Rhodes Scholarship Award, the Animation Department Pre-Production Grant, and the Alumni Scholarship Award. Her works include her third-year film, *Wobbly*, about dealing with anxiety, and her thesis film, *Wings*. She has worked as an animator and cleanup artist at Cartuna and Hornet on projects such as *Liverspots and Astronots*, *Megablok*, and several other upcoming Facebook Watch animated series. Her favorite part of the animation process is storyboarding! Casey is on twitter @caseyannemcd and on the web at caseyanneanimation.myportfolio.com.

Rebecca Maddalo, Filmmaker (for So Help Me God)

A graduate of Harvard University's filmmaking program, Rebecca Maddalo began her career in documentary, examining sexual subcultures on the East Coast and folkloric performance in Italian heritage communities. Having received her MFA in Directing from the American Film Institute, her work ranges from narrative explorations of identity, queer culture, and trauma, to music videos for upcoming folk and pop artists. Online at rebmadpictures.com



Follow our series of concerts and events at WritingMusic.org online.

You may help financially support tonight's performance at WritingMusic.org — all donations go directly to fund the performers.

skyHi Digital: Tonight's works-in-progress event was produced by skyHi Digital, Inc. Online at www.skyhi.digital

José Soberanes coordinated logistics, sound, recording and engineering for tonight's performance.

Andres Vera coordinated the ensemble musicians for this event.

Daria Novo is our conductor.