Lamont School of Music & Theatre

Lamont Composers Concert Series

Nathan Hall
Director

Sunday, November 8, 2026
7:30 p.m.
Frederic C. Hamilton Family Recital Hall

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Robert & Judi Newman Center for the Performing Arts

Program

3 Miniatures — **Alex Quam** (b. 2006)

Alexander Quam, guitar
Silvia Miller, guitar

Sirens of a String — **Quinn Morris** (b. 2008)

Luke Pierce, clarinet
Quinn Morris, piano

Unity and Disunity — **Leo Joy** (b. 2006)

Leo Joy, spoken word & keyboard

SURVIVAL HORROR — **Karalina Marae Coates** (b. 2004)

Ryan Black, saxophone
Matthew Sousa, percussion
Karalina Marae Coates, piano

Please silence your cell phones

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Concerto for Amateur Violist and Budget Orchestra

Ronan Caci-Kukelka
(b. 2007)

I. Kinda Fast

Christian Reeseman, viola
Delaney Kottensette, flute
Alex Quam, guitar
Ronan Caci-Kukelka, cello
Luke Bridges, piano
Logan Dougherty, percussion

Dancing Across a Maelstrom

Sonia Kinra-Chen
(b. 1988)

Hannah Sonnenberg, flute
Andrew Kagerer, trumpet
Joshua Wyly, violin
Ronan Caci-Kukelka, cello
Karolina Kincinaites, piano
Ben Johnson, conductor

Program Notes

3 Miniatures by **Alex Quam**
Miniatures Suite is a collection of short “teaching pieces” for classical guitar duet.

Sirens of a String by **Quinn Morris**
This duet explores the use of extended techniques and dissonance through the piano and clarinet.

Unity and Disunity by **Leo Joy**
Unity and Disunity is a composition in two mediums, utilizing both spoken word and instrumental musics to communicate a singular message. The separate works are both to be understood through the vector of their larger shapes rather than their individual thematic content with their power coming from their unity and disunity.

SURVIVAL HORROR by **Karalina Marae Coates**
This piece was written to represent my experience with severe lifelong chronic pain that was worsened by a car accident I was in shortly before writing this piece. Sometimes life becomes more difficult for no reason at all, and it is our responsibility to ourselves to claw through our pain to continue to find joy and light in any way we can. The process may be genuinely excruciating, and exhausting, it may even take a lifetime. It is a unique kind of loneliness that never stops eating. My hope is that my music can find others who experience this loneliness in any variation and give them a little light by being understood.

Concerto for Amateur Violist and Budget Orchestra
by **Ronan Caci-Kulelka**
Inspired by the humorous qualities, wondrous orchestration and fresh tonal melodies of Poulenc, Haydn, and the ever-present P.D.Q. Bach, this mini-concerto for an amateur soloist provides fun for the whole family. If you know any beginning viola players, tell them about this piece RIGHT NOW, because they’ll instantly want to play it once they hear about it. The piece starts with a recurring theme in major and is followed by a march section, double cadenza, recapitulation and coda.

Dancing Across a Maelstrom by **Sonia Kinra-Chen**
Imagine a small group of dancers navigating a maelstrom with the shifting sands and currents at the depths of the ocean. Even as the environment and textures change, the dance does not stop. This piece explores a turbulent time in my life as I re-enter the composition space as an artist after teaching elementary school through the pandemic, witnessing my loving partner face the most difficult moment of his career, facing a tragic and excruciating miscarriage, and now weeks away from the birth of my first child — all while never letting the momentum to move forward stop. I hope that this piece connects with that inner strength in all of us to keep moving forward despite what can feel like constant inundations of challenges.

Biographies

Alexander Quam is a composer, producer, and guitarist from Minneapolis.

Quinn Morris is a first-year Music production and Composition major that has had over a decade of experience with the piano. Quinn is exploring the world of film scoring, orchestration, and plays for the jazz program, and Modern music ensemble.

Leo Joy (b. 2006) is a composer and bass trombonist from Dallas, Texas who is concerned with the intersection between modernism and the power of hundreds of years of musical tradition. Their work takes from a variety of sources including minimalism, neoclassicism, and formal understandings of musical meaning and syncretizes them into a unique blend that invites the listener to think critically not only about the aesthetics of the music they listen to but also to the structure that it takes and why. They are in their third year of a BM composition at The University Of Denver.

Sonia Kinra-Chen, a composer, flutist, educator, and recent first-time mom is currently pursuing a composition masters at Lamont and holds a post-baccalaureate B.A. in music composition and education from the University of Texas at Arlington where she studied under Dr. George Chave and a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering from Texas A&M University. Her recent compositions—primarily for instrumental chamber groups—explore modal and nonfunctional harmonies and scales, dissonance within tonality, polyrhythmic layers and textures, contrapuntal textures, voice exchange, and narrative approaches to form within the western classical framework, drawing on jazz and trans-global traditions. As a second-generation American with a Punjabi father and Scots-Irish-Texan mother , her musical language bridges the gap between both her family's culture and western classical flute and composition training with the blend of ragas, sufi sound-poems, bhangra, folk, jazz, and western classical styles constantly vying for a lending an ear.

Ronan Caci-Kukelka is a dedicated composer, cellist, and bassist from Ithaca, NY. He has been commissioned by the CCO Youth Orchestra, Ember Choral Arts, the NY Association of School Psychologists, and more. His pieces have been played by Elena Nezdahnova, the Ithaca High School String Orchestra, and the Lamont Modern Music Ensemble. His compositions have earned several accolades, including an Honorable Mention in the NYSSMA Young Composers competition and special recognition from the National Association for Music Education.

Upcoming Events

Monday, November 9, 7:30 p.m..
Liederabend
Williams Recital Salon
Free admission, no ticket required

Monday, November 9, 7:30 p.m..
Steel Drum Ensemble
Hamilton Recital Hall
Free admission, no ticket required

Tuesday, November 10, 7:30 p.m.
Classical Guitar Ensembles
Hamilton Recital Hall
Free Admission, no ticket required

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Mon-Fri, 7 AM to 5 PM
Sat, 7 AM to 2 PM
Sun, 8 AM to 2 PM

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