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PREMIERES

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PROGRAM

KIMIA KOOCHAKZADEH-YAZDI
PS 752 [2020*]

MATTHEW ARIARATNAM
KIITOS, ÄITI [2020*]

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II - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT | GRATITUDE | GRIEVING

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NATHAN PETITPAS [PERCUSSION]

ANTHONY THOMPSON [CLARINET]

ILANA WANIUK [VIOLIN]

DOBROCHNA ZUBEK [CELLO]

*world premiere commissioned with generous support from the Canada Council for the Arts, Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Arts Council and the SOCAN Foundation.

KIMIA KOOCHAKZADEH-YAZDI

PS 752 [2020]

Grief hurts. Loss of people hurts.

*Loss of people by accident hurts.
Not having control over it hurts.*

We experience grief in our own way.

*At times I try to fight it back and yet realize that once
I experience pain, it becomes part of me.*

Silver lining; one learns to live with it (hopefully).

*PS 752 is how I internalized the pain and sorrow of
January 8, 2020—flight PS752 tragedy.*

- **Kimia Koochakzadeh-Yazdi**

Kimia Koochakzadeh-Yazdi (b.1997 Tehran, Iran) is a California-based composer and performer. She writes for hybrid instrumental and electronic ensembles and performs electroacoustic music. Kimia explores the unfamiliar familiar while constantly being driven by the mechanism of the human psyche and exploring ways to manipulate it.

Her work has been featured in festivals such as The New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival [Virtual], Yarn/Wire Institute [Virtual], Ensemble Evolution [Virtual], New Music on the Point [Vermont, USA], wasteLAnd Summer Academy 2019 [Los Angeles, USA], EQ: Evolution of the String Quartet [Banff, Canada], Modulus Festival [Vancouver, Canada], and SALT New Music Festival [Victoria, Canada].

Being a cross-disciplinary artist, she has actively collaborated on projects evolving around dance, film, and theatre. Kimia has been presented by organizations such as Iranian Female Composer Association, Music on Main, Western Front, Vancouver New Music, and Media Arts Committee. She has had publicity in papers such as The New York Times, Georgia Straight, MusicWorks Magazine, Vancouver Sun, and Sequenza 21.

She has recently graduated from Simon Fraser University's interdisciplinary School for the Contemporary Arts with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Music Composition and having studied with Sabrina Schroeder and Mauricio Pauly. Kimia is currently pursuing a DMA degree in music composition at Stanford University.

MATTHEW ARIARATNAM

KIITOS, ÄITI [2020]

I - BIRTH | FOG | DISTANCE

II - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT | GRATITUDE | GRIEVING

I have been thinking about mothers – my mother. I have been thinking about all the labour she put into my life to make me who I am today. Feeding, clothing, teaching, supporting, and bringing me to and from places. I am thinking about how to deal with change. How to deal with someone who is terminally ill. What do you do? I have been thinking about the Finnish language, my mother's first language, and how it isn't natural in my mouth. How I never had a chance to learn it and understand my mother through words that reflect another way of knowing. I have been thinking about Spinoza's *Natura naturata* and interconnectedness. I am thinking about the global health of the climate, the animals, the plants, the water, and the trees near my house, and the compromised health of my mother. I am thinking about my mother as a child, dancing in her kitchen at Christmas Dinner, filmed on a Super 8 camera in the 70's. I am thinking about acknowledgment and gratitude to the present moment, to the delicate ecosystems, and to my mother whose hard labours which has given and sustained my life in this world. . – **Matthew Ariaratnam**

Matthew Ariaratnam is an interdisciplinary sound artist, composer, guitarist, and listener based on the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples of the **xʷməθkwəy̓əm** (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh [Squamish], and **Səlilwətał** (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations – also known as Vancouver, BC. He creates sensory walks, writes dumbpop and chamber music, and frequently collaborates with choreographers, visual artists, and theatre-makers.

Recent projects and commissions include: kiitos, äiti [Thin Edge New Music Collective], The View From Here [Jillian Peever/Sasha Ivanochko] Plastic Me [Naishi Wang], Body Tuning [Vines Art Festival], Creative Music Series 10 [NOW Society], Take Good Care [as dumbpop], Isolation Commission [Little Chamber Music Society], Altar :=: Source [Music on Main], and How long will these sounds sound? [Artist-in-Residence, North Vancouver Recreation and Culture]. He has an MFA from Simon Fraser University and a BMus in Music Composition from Wilfrid Laurier University.

HOMA SAMIEI

IT SEEMS GOD IS FALLING ASLEEP [2020]

Dedicated to all people who died in "Aban 98."

It was the middle of November in 2019; I Read in the news, "The price Of the Gas jumped Up in Iran." After that, the people all over Iran started a protest against the gas price.

After some hours, I figured out none of my messages were delivered to Iran; I understood that they had cut off the Internet in Iran; that was a horrible time, full of fear and stress.

Nobody has any correct news from Iran, and nobody cares about the people in Iran.

It takes more than a week, after that, we heard the news of the number of people killed on that week, it has increased day to day, hour to hour, minute to minute...

At least the statistic said 1500 people died in Aban 98 (November 2019). They are just afraid of poverty, sickness, and hunger...

And the result of their protest was the death

All the people who have been killed in protests are the son of somebody, daughter of somebody, spouse of somebody, somebody's parent

Iran's government almost killed everyone in the street. The news mentioned 18 kids have been killed in Aban 98. They were between 12 to 18. Nikta was 14; she could be my sister; Pouya Bakhtiari was just 27 same age as me...

I have written this piece in memory of them to remember them.

It is painful and dolorous to say this, but I assume God is falling asleep these days...

- Homa Semiei

Composer, Pianist, and music educator, **Homa Samiei** was born in Tehran. She is the co-founder of Najva Ensemble and Himeh Cultural House. She has graduated from the Art University of Tehran in composition and has completed a Masters' degree in Community Music Wilfrid Laurier University. With the Najva Ensemble, Homa has performed in Tehran, Amsterdam, Mexico City, Tišnov, and Budapest. Homa has attended numerous festivals as a composer and has collaborated with several ensembles such as the International Contemporary Ensemble (New York), Thin Edge New Music Collective and Art Song Collaborative Project (Toronto), Lucca Contemporary Music Festival (Tuscany), Tehran Contemporary Sounds (Berlin). Recently, she has founded Toronto based trio "Chaam," alongside Milad Bagheri and Saba Yousefi.

PAOLO GRIFFIN

FELD/FORMS [2020]

Inspired by works of artists such as James Turell and Mary Corse, I am interested in exploring how we notice, look, and listen. How do we see a field, a form, and the sounds that lie within it or on top of it? Can we notice all movement? – Paolo Griffin

Paolo Griffin is a Peruvian-Canadian composer living and working in Toronto. His works explore notions of focused and unfocused listening, microtonality, and musical process and generative forms. He focuses on close collaborative relationships with a wide range of artists, in an attempt to reconcile a practice based in process with the organicism of collaboration.

Paolo is also the Artistic Director and conductor of Freesound, a Toronto-based collective that consists of a core group of the city's most adventurous performers and interpreters of contemporary music. Freesound present concerts throughout the year with an interest in emerging composers from Canada and abroad.

Paolo's music has been featured in concerts and on the radio by the Resident Orkest [NL], The New European Ensemble [NL], Avanti! Chamber Music [FI], Duo Holz [CA], Freesound [CA], and is regularly performed across Canada and Europe. Upcoming engagements include a lecture at the Sibelius Academy in Finland, and the premiere of new work for countertenor at the Aurore Helsinki Renaissance Music Festival in early 2022.

Paolo holds degrees from the University of Toronto and the Royal Conservatoire of the Hague



THIN EDGE NEW MUSIC COLLECTIVE

Founded in 2011, Tkarón:to [Toronto]'s Thin Edge New Music Collective has emerged as one of Canada's foremost ensembles dedicated to presenting and commissioning composers of our time. Driven by an unquenchable curiosity, they've produced a vast array of innovative and intricate programs, while engaging in unique and ambitious collaborations.

In addition to their annual concert season, the "provocative, thrilling, and thought-provoking" [Musicworks] TENMC has been presented on concert stages across Canada through the University of Calgary's Happening Festival of New Music and Media, Ottawa New Music Creators, Innovations en concert, New Works Edmonton, New Music Calgary, Music on Main, The Little Chamber Music Series, Open Space in Victoria, The Music Gallery in Toronto, NUMUS in Waterloo. Thanks to generous support from the Canada Council for the Arts, they visited Argentina to perform at Ciclo de Música Contemporánea at the Teatro Nacional Cervantes in Buenos Aires, tracing connections between Canada and Argentina's respective contemporary composition communities. They were also the ensemble-in-residence at Italy's SoundScape Festival, and performed in Poland at the Stanislaw Moniuszko State Music School in Bielsko-Biała and the Academy of Music in Katowice. September 2018 saw the ensemble embarking on a tour of Japan at the invitation of composer Daryl Jamieson's Atelier Jaku. TENMC was also a resident ensemble with stalwart presenter/ensemble Arraymusic for their 2018/2019 season and has participated in residencies facilitated by the Banff Centre, Avaloch Farms New Music Initiative in New Hampshire, and Le Pantographe in Switzerland.

Mounted in 2016, the remarkable program *Balancing on the Edge* was touted by the WholeNote as “a high-water mark for what multimedia storytelling can do” and delivered cutting-edge music alongside evocative circus performance courtesy of co-creators A Girl in the Sky Productions. In fall 2018, they performed the Toronto premiere of Sarah Hennies’ fêted film-and-ensemble work *Contralto*, co-presenting the poignant and abstract meditation on transfeminine identity with TIFF. More recently *Ongaku* offered a rich three-day cultural exchange that unveiled new works by Canadian and Japanese composers alongside community and pedagogical events. *Raging Against The Machine* saw them tour across the country with Montréal’s Ensemble Paramirabo culminating in a co-operative 2017 release of the same name on Vancouver’s Redshift Records

While engaging with internationally-revered composers such as Maria De Alvear, Linda Catlin Smith, Allison Cameron, Mick Barr, Elliott Sharp, James O’Callaghan, Barbara Monk Feldman, and Ana Sokolovic, the ensemble continues to nurture emerging voices, who comprise a considerable number of their 70+ commissioned works. It’s all part of their distinctly eclectic and community-oriented outlook—endeavouring to bring 20th and 21st century music to an ever-expanding listenership.

CHERYL DUVALL [PIANIST/CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR]

Toronto-based pianist **Cheryl Duvall** has established herself as one of Canada's foremost contemporary music interpreters.

In 2012, she co-founded the "adventurous and smartly programmed" (Musicworks Magazine) chamber group Thin Edge New Music Collective. They've commissioned over 70 works, mounted multidisciplinary productions, and collaborated with leading performers like Charlotte Mundy, Jason Sharp, and Ensemble Paramirabo (with whom they recorded an album.) Widely noted for their direct engagement with composers—among them Linda Catlin Smith, Elliott Sharp, Barbara Monk Feldman, and Sarah Hennies—they've also toured and performed across Europe, and in Japan and Argentina.

A dynamic soloist and in-demand collaborator, Duvall has immersed herself in a wide variety of compositional aesthetics and collaborative endeavours. She is currently gathering bold new commissioned solo repertoire from Daniel Brandes (of the Wandelweiser collective), Kotoka Suzuki, James O'Callaghan, Emilie Lebel, and Anna Höstman. A former member of the wayward ensemble Bespoken, she has worked with the likes of stalwart choreographer Peggy Baker, cellist Paul Pulford, film composer Darren Fung, and Essential Opera. She released her debut solo album, Harbour, the piano works of Canadian composer Anna Höstman, in January 2020.

ILANA WANIUK [VIOLIN/CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR]

Ilana Waniuk is a versatile violinist with interests ranging from improvisation to visual arts. Along with pianist Cheryl Duvall, Ilana is a founding member and co-artistic director of Thin Edge New Music Collective. Ilana has performed on concert stages across Canada, Italy, Argentina, Poland, Japan and most recently Germany and Greece. She has toured Cape Breton and Ontario with the Bicycle Opera Project, performed at contemporary music festivals including SoundOn in San Diego, Suoni per Il Popolo in Montreal, Open Ears in Kitchener/Waterloo and the Royal Conservatory's 21C festival as well as with the Madawaska String Quartet, Adam Rudolph's Go Organic Orchestra, and Chicago's Ensemble Dal Niente and Noise (San Diego). She has held artistic residencies at the Banff centre for the Arts, Avaloch Farms Music Institute and been a fellow at the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival New Music Workshop. Ilana was a winner of the 2014 Orford String Quartet Award and most recently is the curator/performer behind 'Filaments', an evolving concert program dedicated to collaboratively creating and commissioning new interdisciplinary works for violin, electronics and multimedia made possible with generous support from the SOCAN Foundation, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, and Canadian Music Centre. Ilana is currently a doctoral candidate in contemporary performance at the University of California San Diego.

TERRY LIM [FLUTES]

Described as “imaginative and magical”, **Terry Lim** is a multifaceted flutist known for musical risk taking and brilliant artistry. He received his Bachelor of Music degree with an international soloist, Lorna Mcghee, at the University of British Columbia. He was also a former faculty member at the UBC Summer Music Institute and New York University. Terry has performed in various music festivals and concert series across North America, including Ottawa International Chamberfest, Stratford Summer Music, Toronto Summer Music Festival, Banff Centre, Redshift Society, Music on Main, New Music Edmonton and Pierre Monteux. He also has been heard on the radio and in concert halls throughout the United States, Canada and Asia, performing at the Chan Center, Kimmel Center, Carnegia Hall, DiMenna Center, Alice Tully Hall, and Merkin Hall.

As an energetic proponent for chamber and contemporary music, Terry has created a dynamic force in the music world highly regarded for his music concerts of various styles and genres. He has worked closely with numerous composers and has given several world premieres. Terry is also a member of Toronto-based ensembles, Thin Edge New Music Collective and Charm of Finches. Besides performing, he maintains a private flute studio, delivering weekly solo and chamber music lessons, adjudicates festivals across Canada and appears as guest speaker in university classroom and festival panels.

Terry is an International Artist for Trevor James Flutes and Beaumont Music.

NATHAN PETITPAS [PERCUSSION]

Percussionist **Nathan Petitpas** is passionate about contemporary music and loves premiering new compositions by living composers. He has been a member of the Thin Edge New Music Collective since 2012 and in this time has had many opportunities to do just that. In recent years he has also formed a percussion and violin duo with violinist Suhashini Arulanandam under the name Duologue.

In his freelance work Nathan has performed with a diverse collection of organizations including the Evergreen Club Contemporary Gamelan Ensemble, Against the Grain, the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, FAWN Chamber Creative, the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, Cirque du Soleil, and many of the GTA's other orchestras. He has also performed in various festivals and concert series including the Internationales Gamelan Musik-festival in Munich, Nuit Blanche Toronto, New Works Edmonton, New Music Calgary, Music on Main (Vancouver), Open Spaces in Victoria, the Music Gallery's X Avant series, and NUMUS.

Nathan has recently undertaken the project of writing and publishing music education materials under the name Dots and Beams.

Nathan is an artist endorser of Dream Cymbals and Gongs and Mannion Mallets.

DOBROCHNA ZUBEK [CELLO]

Polish born cellist **Dr. Dobrochna ZubeK** has established herself as a versatile artist dedicated to a wide-ranging musical repertoire. A soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral cellist, and educator whose evolving and multi-faceted career has taken her to a number of cities in Europe, Asia and North America. Over the years she has collaborated with variety of artists such as Peter Gabriel, José Carreras, Shauna Rolston and Gioconda Barbuto.

ZubeK has held an orchestra position with the Orquesta Sinfonica del Estado de Mexico [2009- 2012] and on festival stages she has participated as a soloist at Geneé International Ballet Competition, [2019] Banff Center for Arts and Creativity [2019] and Ottawa Chamberfest [2016] to mention the most recent. She has given a series of masterclasses in Poland, Canada, USA, and in China. Some of them as a part of the University of Toronto's Faculty of New Music Festival held in Chinese Universities in Guiyang, Chengdu, and Hong Kong.

Also, recently made her New York debut at La MAMA experimental theatre, an off Broadway, with an all female production of This is Why We Live for cello and two actors where she was described as virtuoso cellist and her playing as soulful and wonderful.

PREMIERES X

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