

The University of Kansas School of Music presents
Two operas exploring identity, trauma, & resilience

SNOW ANGEL

McLarty | Townley

AS ONE

Kaminsky | Campbell | Reed

**LIVESTREAM
PERFORMANCE**

April 27, 2021

7:30pm CST

lied.ku.edu/live

**VIRTUAL
TALKBACK**

April 29, 2021

6:00pm CST

spencerart.ku.edu



Snow Angel & As One

The University of Kansas Symphony Orchestra

The University of Kansas Voice & Opera

Carolyn Watson, *Conductor* and *Director of Orchestral Activities*

Lily DeSett, *Director*

Neal Long, *Director*

Ariana Stein, *Director*

SNOW ANGEL

****Premiere Performance****

Creative Team

Music by Bonnie McLarty

Words by Wyatt Townley

Musicians

Zhengyingyue (Elaine) Huang, *soprano*

Sarah Kathryn Curtis, *mezzo-soprano*

Brianna Pérez, *soprano*(cover)

Heyu Sun, *mezzo-soprano* (cover)

Chloe Descher, *flute*

Kaitlyn Gerde, *clarinet*

Diego Zapata, *violin*

Arabella Schwerin, *cello*

Yi Zhang, *piano*

Ethan Martin, *percussion*

Synopsis

Snow Angel is a staged song cycle for two voices, a soprano and mezzo-soprano, that explores rediscovery and reclamation of personal identity and agency following a sexual assault of the sole female protagonist. Accompanied by instrumental sextet and making use of dialogue and interactions between the musicians, *Snow Angel* voices the victim's thoughts and feelings as she processes her experience and embraces an eventual "moving beyond." Length: 35 minutes.

AS ONE

A chamber opera for two voices and string quartet
Commissioned and developed by American Opera Projects (AOP)
Presented by arrangement with Bill Holab Music

Creative Team

Music & Concept by Laura Kaminsky
Libretto by Mark Campbell & Kimberly Reed
Film by Kimberly Reed

Musicians

Emlynn Shoemaker, *mezzo-soprano*, as Hannah
Jacob DeSett, *baritone*, as Hannah
Grace Heldridge, *mezzo-soprano*, as Hannah (cover)
Christian Laredo, *baritone*, as Hannah (cover)
Yi-Miao Huang, *violin*
Ilvina Gabrielian, *violin*
Ricardo Cavalcante, *viola*
James Alexander, *cello*

Synopsis

As One is a chamber opera accompanied by string quartet in which two voices, a baritone and a mezzo-soprano, share the part of a sole transgender protagonist named Hannah. With empathy and humor, the opera traces Hannah's experiences from her youth in a small town to her college years and finally traveling alone to Norway where she realizes some truths about herself. Length: 75 minutes.

As One film direction and film by Kimberly Reed, commissioned by AOP. *As One* premiered at Brooklyn Academy of Music, September 2014, made possible in part with funding from BAM/DeVos Institute of Arts Management at Kennedy Center Professional Development Program, OPERA America's Opera Discovery Grants for Female Composers Program, supported by Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Art Works, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Bronx Council on the Arts, Purchase College Development Fund, Tanner Fund at Utah State University, Jeremy T. Smith Fund, Dr. Coco Lazaroff, Lynn Loacker, Judith O. Rubin, and many generous individuals.

Community Conversation

A community conversation to explore themes in the operas as they relate to ideas in the Spencer Museum of Art's exhibition *Healing, Knowing, Seeing the Body* will be held virtually on Thursday, April, 29, 2021 at 6pm CST. Register at <https://www.spencerart.ku.edu/>.

Resources:

International Transgender Day of Remembrance- <https://tdor.info/>

Kansas City-Area Resources for LGBTQIA Community Members- <https://kclibrary.org/research-resources/research-databases/kansas-city-resources-lgbtqia-community-members>

Headquarters Counseling Center- <https://www.ksphq.org/help/>

Trans Lifeline- <https://translifeline.org/>

The Trevor Project- <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>

Equality Kansas- <https://eqks.org/>

The Sexual Trauma & Abuse Care Center- <http://stacarecenter.org/>

PFLAG of Lawrence & Topeka- <http://www.pflagnekansas.org>

KU Center for Sexuality and Gender Diversity- <https://sgd.ku.edu/>

KU Sexual Assault Prevention and Education Center- <https://sapec.ku.edu/>

KU Counseling and Psychological Services- <https://caps.ku.edu/>

KU Public Safety- <https://publicsafety.ku.edu/>

KU Watkins Health Services- <http://studenthealth.ku.edu/>

KU Emily Taylor Center for Women & Gender Equity- <https://emilytaylorcenter.ku.edu/>

Biographies

Bonnie McLarty, she/her

Bonnie McLarty's music has been described as "beautifully written, singable, and rewarding." Her music has been performed in Italy, Scandinavia, and across the United States. Her pieces have won several awards, including the 2019 Cincinnati Camerata Composition Award and the 2017 Robert E. Foster Wind Ensemble Prize. Much of her recent work has featured collaborations with women poets and local artists. Bonnie is passionate about creating community through music. Her works often feature musical dialog between performers, extra-musical elements, and significant influences from American vernacular and popular genres. Bonnie earned her D.M.A. in composition from the University of Kansas and a Master's degree in piano performance from the University of Wyoming. She currently splits her time between Washington State and the Kansas City area; she lectures in music theory at UMKC and Benedictine College and offers private piano and composition instruction online.

Wyatt Townley, she/her

Wyatt Townley is Poet Laureate of Kansas Emerita. Among her award-winning books are four collections of poetry, *Rewriting the Body* (new from Stephen F. Austin University Press), *The Breathing Field*, *Perfectly Normal*, and *The Afterlives of Trees*. Wyatt's work has been read on NPR, featured in "American Life in Poetry," and published in journals ranging from *New Letters* to *Newsweek*, *North American Review* to *Paris Review*, *Yoga Journal* to *Scientific American*. Commissioned poems hang on the walls of the Johnson County Library and the Space Telescope Science Institute Library, home of the Hubble.

A former dancer, Wyatt often joins forces with artists, composers, and choreographers. Dozens of her poems have been set to music, choreographed, and diversely interpreted around the country. Notable performances include an opera, "Snow Angel," composed by Bonnie McLarty using ten poems from *Rewriting the Body* and performed with soprano, mezzo-soprano, and chamber orchestra at the Lied Center of the University of Kansas. A McKnight Artist Grant funded New York choreographer Lane Gifford's dance based on Wyatt's poem, "Striptease," premiering in Minneapolis's iconic Northrup Auditorium. "What Keeps Us Still," composed by Forrest Pierce, had its premiere in Seattle's Symphony Hall with soprano, pianist, string quartet, and dancer from the Pacific Northwest Ballet. Her poems have been sung at the University of Utah, Hesston College, Waldorf University, and the University of Kansas. She is currently working with a Dutch composer on a jazz suite for big band forthcoming in Belgium.

Laura Kaminsky, she/her

Laura Kaminsky, cited in *The Washington Post* as "one of the top 35 female composers in classical music," frequently addresses critical social and political issues in her work, including sustainability, war, and human rights. Possessing "an ear for the new and interesting" (*The New York Times*), "her music is full of fire as well as ice, contrasting dissonance and violence with tonal beauty and meditative reflection. It is strong stuff." (*American Record Guide*).

Her first opera, *As One*, (2014; co-librettists Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed) is the most produced contemporary opera in North America, with close to 50 productions to date in the U.S., as well as across Europe, Canada and Australia. "*As One* is a piece that haunts and challenges its audience with questions about identity, authenticity, compassion, and the human desire for self-love and peace" (*Opera News*). The original cast recording on the BSS label was named one of the best new opera recordings of 2019 by *Opera News*. The *As One* team has since been commissioned twice—by Houston Grand Opera for *Some Light Emerges* (2017) and Opera Parallèle/American Opera Projects for *Today It Rains* (2019).

With Reed, she has created *Hometown to the World*, inspired by the devastating Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid in Postville, IA in 2008, commissioned by The Santa Fe Opera and Opera For All Voices as a co-commission with Hawaii Opera Theatre. Upcoming are *Finding Wright* (librettist Andrea Fellows Fineberg; Dayton Opera; 2022) and *February* (co-librettist with novelist Lisa Moore; Newfoundland's Opera on the Avalon; 2023). A new work, *Uncover*, for Hub New Music will premiere at the Morgan Library and Museum in 2022.

Recent recordings include *Fantasy: Oppens Plays Kaminsky* (Cedille Records CDR 9000 202) and *Blythe Gaisert: Home* (Bright Shiny Things BSTC-0137). *Fantasy* features iconic pianist Ursula Oppens performing *Piano Concerto* with the ASU Symphony Orchestra (Jeffery Meyer, music director), *Piano Quintet* with the Cassatt String Quartet, the solo *Fantasy*, and *Reckoning: Five Miniatures for America* for piano four-hands, where Oppens is joined by Jerome Lowenthal. On *Home*, *Carne Barata* (Scene 8 from *Hometown to the World*) is one of nine works responding to Gaisert's challenge "what is home?"

Grants, awards and fellowships include those from the National Endowment for the Arts, Koussevitzky Music Foundation, Opera America, Chamber Music America, BAM/Kennedy Center De Vos Institute, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Aaron Copland Fund, Virgil Thomson Foundation, Newburgh Institute for Art and Ideas, Roger Shapiro Fund for New Music, American Music Center, USArtists International, CEC ArtsLink International Partnerships, Likhachev-Russkiy Mir Foundation Cultural Fellowship, Kenan Institute for the Arts, Artist Trust, New York State Council on the Arts, Bronx Arts Council, Arts Westchester, North Carolina Arts Council, Seattle Arts Commission, and Meet the Composer. She has received six ASCAP-Chamber Music America Awards for Adventuresome Programming, a citation from the Office of the President of the Borough of Manhattan, the 2016 Polish Gold Cross of Merit (Złoty Krzyż Zasługi RP) awarded by the President of Poland for exemplary public service or humanitarian work, and the Polish Ministry of Culture National Heritage 2010 Chopin Award. She has been a fellow at the

Hermitage Artist Retreat, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Centrum Foundation, Dorland Mountain Arts Colony, Millay Colony for the Arts, and the Camargo Foundation (France). www.laurakaminsky.com

Scores: Bill Holab Music, www.billholabmusic.com

Recordings: Albany, Bridge, BSS, CRI, Capstone, Mode, and MSR labels. A complete list of available recordings can be viewed at www.laurakaminsky.com/buy-cds/. Kaminsky is a BMI composer.

Mark Campbell, he/him

Mark Campbell's work as a librettist is at the forefront of the contemporary opera scene in this country. A prolific writer, Mark has created 38 opera librettos, lyrics for 7 musicals, and the text for 6 song cycles and 2 oratorios. His works for the stage have been performed at more than 90 musical venues around the world and the names of his collaborators comprise a roster of the most eminent composers in classical music and include three Pulitzer Prize winners.

Mark's best-known work is *Silent Night*, which received a Pulitzer Prize in Music and is one of the most frequently produced operas in recent history. *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, an audience favorite, received a 2018 GRAMMY Award for Best Opera Recording. Mark's other successful operas include *The Shining*, *Stonewall*, *Later the Same Evening*, *The Nefarious*, *Immoral but Highly Profitable Enterprise of Mr. Burke & Mr. Hare*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, *As One*, *The Other Room*, *Memory Boy*, *Empty the House*, *The Inspector*, *Approaching Ali*, *A Letter to East 11th Street*, *Dinner at Eight*, *Volpone*, and *Bastianello/Lucrezia*. His musicals include *Songs from an Unmade Bed*, *The Audience* and *Splendor*. He also created a successful new adaptation of Stravinsky/Ramuz's *The Soldier's Tale*.

Mark has received many other prestigious prizes for his work, including the first Kleban Foundation Award for Lyricist, a Grammy nomination for Best Classical Recording, two Richard Rodgers Awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, three Drama Desk nominations, a Jonathan Larson Foundation Award, a New York Foundation for the Arts Playwriting Fellowship, the first Dominic J. Pellicciotti Award, and a grant from the New York State Council of the Arts.

Recordings of his works include: *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* (Pentatone), *Sanctuary Road* (Naxos), *As One* (Bright Shiny Things), *Volpone* (Wolf Trap Records), *Bastianello/Lucrezia* (Bridge), *Rappahannock County* (Naxos), *Later the Same Evening* (Albany) and *Songs from an Unmade Bed* (Ghostlight).

Mark is also an advocate for contemporary American opera and serves as a mentor for future generations of writers through such organizations as American Opera Projects, American Lyric Theatre, and Washington National Opera's American Opera Initiative. In 2020, he created and is funding the Campbell Opera Librettist Prize, the first and only award for opera librettists. The award will be given annually and is administered by OPERA America.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mark's 2020 premieres were postponed. They included *Edward Tulane* for Minnesota Opera (Paola Prestini, composer), *A Nation of Others* for the Oratorio Society of New York (Paul Moravec, composer), *A Sweet Silence in Cremona* for the Florence at Villa la Pietra–Continuum Theater, Florence (Roberto Scarcella Perino, composer) and *Stone Soup* for Ft. Worth Opera (Joe Illick, composer). Future premieres include *The Secret River* for Opera Orlando (Stella Sung, composer); *Supermax* for Saratoga Opera (Stewart Wallace, composer; Michael Korie, co-librettists); *Bernadette's Cozy Book Nook* for Ft. Worth Opera (Joe Illick, composer) and the book for the musical *Les Girls* (Cole Porter, composer).

Kimberly Reed, she/her

Kimberly Reed's most recent film *DARK MONEY* was an award-winning selection at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival, was promptly named one of *Vogue's* "66 Best Documentaries of All Time," shortlisted for an Oscar, nominated for Best Documentary of the Year by IDA and for four Critics' Choice Awards, and won the prestigious duPont Columbia Prize for Broadcast Journalism. Her trailblazing film *PRODIGAL SONS* (Telluride Film Festival premiere, First Run Features, Sundance Channel), won 14 international awards and was the first documentary by a transgender filmmaker to be theatrically released in the US. She recently directed episode 2 of the four-part non/fiction series *EQUAL* on HBO MAX, titled "Transgender Pioneers," and served as Executive Producer of the award-winning HBO documentary *TRANSHOOD*. Ms. Reed also produced/edited/wrote *PAUL GOODMAN CHANGED MY LIFE* (Zeitgeist Films), and produced *THE DEATH AND LIFE OF MARSHA P. JOHNSON* (Netflix).

Her work in broader artistic fields has also been acclaimed: her short story was published in the NY Times bestselling "The Moth – 50 True Stories," and she has co/written the libretti for four operas, including *AS ONE*, the most frequently produced American opera in the 21st century. Her film projections for opera have been called "worthy of Fellini or Bergman" (SF Classical Voice).

She has been honored as one of *Filmmaker Magazine's* "25 New Faces of Independent Film," *Out Magazine's* "Out 100," and received the Chicken & Egg Award. A frequent juror (Sundance, POV), lecturer (Harvard, Columbia, NYU, USC) and speaker (The Moth), Kim is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. She is a *summa cum laude* graduate of UC Berkeley (B.A.) and San Francisco State University film school (M.A.).

Carolyn Watson, she/her

Australian conductor Carolyn Watson has been based in the United States since 2013 during which time she has led performances with the Austin Symphony, Catskill Symphony, Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra, Kansas City Ballet, Kansas City Chamber Orchestra and World Youth Symphony Orchestra. Recruited internationally as Music Director of the Interlochen Arts Academy Orchestra, she won the 2015 American Prize for Orchestral Performance with this ensemble. Carolyn continues to enjoy an ongoing association with Interlochen as conducting faculty at Interlochen Arts Camp and for Interlochen Online.

With the 21-22 season, Carolyn will commence her tenure as Music Director of the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra in Indiana. An experienced conductor of opera, 2021 sees Carolyn lead productions of *Fellow Travelers* at Des Moines Metro Opera and *Hansel and Gretel* for Amarillo Opera. Most recently she conducted *And Still we Dream* for the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, her third engagement for the Lyric in as many years. This production was featured in the Emmy-Award winning PBS documentary, *Higher Octaves: Leading Women in the Arts*. She was engaged to conduct the world premiere of Gordon Getty's opera at Festival Napa Valley, and in 2017 Carolyn was one of six conductors selected for the Hart Institute for Women Conductors, where she led the Dallas Opera Orchestra in two public performances.

Carolyn has conducted orchestras internationally including the Brandenburg Symphony, BBC Concert Orchestra, Budapest Operetta Theatre, Bulgarian State Opera Bourgas North Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Kodály Philharmonic, Savaria Symphony Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and in Russia, the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic. Other notable European credits include Musical Assistant at the Staatsoper Berlin for *Infektion!*, a festival of modern theatre celebrating the works of John Cage, resident at the Israeli National Opera, and assistant to Sir Charles Mackerras on his final two productions at The Royal Opera, Covent Garden and Glyndebourne. She has participated in master classes with Marin Alsop, Peter Eötvös, Yoel Levi, Martyn Brabbins and Alex Polishchuk and conducted musicians of the Berlin Philharmonic in *Interaktion*.

A major prizewinner at the 2012 Emmerich Kálmán International Operetta Conducting Competition in Budapest, Carolyn Watson was a Fellow of the American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival where she studied with David Zinman. Carolyn is the recipient of a number of prestigious national and international awards for young conductors including the Brian Stacey Award for emerging Australian conductors, Sir Charles Mackerras Conducting Prize awarded via the Australian Music Foundation in London, Opera Foundation Australia's Bayreuth Opera Award and Berlin New Music Opera Award and the Nelly Apt Conducting Scholarship.

Carolyn holds a PhD in Performance (Conducting) from the University of Sydney where she studied under Imre Palló. The subject of her doctoral thesis was *Gesture as Communication: The Art of Carlos Kleiber*.

www.carolyn-watson.com

Lily DeSett, she/her

As a transgender woman and activist in Kansas City, I felt it was important for this story to be told, to not only encourage understanding with cisgender individuals but to inspire courage for trans individuals everywhere. I could not have done this without my wonderful co-director, Neal, or without our amazing and talented cast! When I'm not directing, I'm dancing, and writing my novel. I sincerely hope you enjoy the show, thank you!

Neal Long, he/him

Neal Long enjoys a diverse career as a singer, pianist, and educator. He is currently pursuing the DMA in Voice from the University of Kansas and will defend in May 2021. As a tenor, his roles performed include Nemorino, Pedrillo, Ferrando, Bénédict, Candide, Lysander, and Laurie. A new music enthusiast, Neal has premiered works by several composers and is co-founder and executive director of The Meadowlark Project, a vocal ensemble dedicated to contemporary works.

www.nealdlong.com

Ariana Stein, she/her

Ariana is a 3rd-year Vocal Performance and Visual Art student from St. Louis, Missouri. Ariana is a mezzo-soprano and studies under Dr. Genaro Méndez. As a part of the visual art program, she has won awards for her drawings and has had her work displayed on KU's campus as part of an exhibit showcasing student diversity. This is her first time assistant-directing an opera, and she so honored and excited to utilize her artistic, musical, and conceptual skills in helping this show come to life.

Zhengyingyue (Elaine) Huang, she/her

Chinese soprano Zhengyingyue (Elaine) Huang is currently pursuing her DMA in Voice and studies with Dr. Julia Broxholm. She has presented recitals and operas in numerous major cities in China, Austria, Russia, Mexico, and the United States. Her past roles include Second Witch in *Dido and Aeneas*, Mutter in *Hänsel und Gretel*, Second Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*, and Mrs. Gobineau in *The Medium*. A new music enthusiast, she is thrilled to sing the soprano role in *Snow Angel*.

Jacob DeSett, he/him

Jacob is a passionate performer raised in the Kansas City area. After completing his final semester at the University of Kansas, he will go on to pursue an Artist Diploma at William Jewell College and continue training for the professional world of operatic

and vocal arts. Jacob's previous roles include Pistola in *Falstaff*, Curio in *Giulio Cesare*, and King Balthazar in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.

Brianna Pérez, they/she

Soprano Brianna Pérez is currently a second-year master's student in Opera Performance studying with Mezzo-Soprano Joyce Castle. Pérez is a native of Miami Beach, FL and was most recently seen as Donna Elvira in Spotlight on Opera's digital production of *Don Giovanni*. Other recent performance highlights include singing the role of Erste Dame in Landlocked Opera's Production of *Die Zauberflöte* and singing the title role of *Susannah* at Reinhardt University.

Emlynn Shoemaker, she/her

Emlynn Shoemaker, a mezzo-soprano in the final semester of her Master's in Vocal Performance at the University of Kansas, studies with distinguished professor Joyce Castle. While at KU, she has learned the role of Announcer in *Gallantry* by Douglas Moore with KU Opera Workshop and the role of Maurya in *Riders to the Sea*. Her past roles include Dido in *Dido and Aeneas*, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, and Buttercup in *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

Heyu Sun, she/her

Mezzo-soprano Heyu Sun is in the second year of her DMA program and studies with professor Joyce Castle. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Shenyang Conservatory of Music in China and her Master's degree from the University of South Florida. She has presented two solo recitals and sang in opera excerpts including the two flower duets from *Madame Butterfly* and *Lakmé* and the trio from *Die Zauberflöte*.

Sarah Kathryn Curtis, she/her

Sarah Kathryn Curtis is a mezzo-soprano based in Lawrence, KS where she is a doctoral candidate at the University of Kansas. Recent roles include *Giulio Cesare* and Hippolyta (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) with the University of Kansas; Quickly (*Falstaff*) with Lawrence Opera Theater; and Ursule (*Béatrice et Bénédict*) with Landlocked Opera. Sarah is grateful to be making music again with friends and is so proud to be a part of this important production.

Christian Laredo, he/him

Christian is a third-year transfer student from Illinois Central College in East Peoria, IL and studying Music Education with an emphasis in voice. This is his first year at KU and his first involvement in an opera. Christian spends any free time not devoted to music in the kitchen, always learning new recipes and techniques.

Grace Heldridge, she/her

Grace Heldridge is a senior Vocal Performance Major from Omaha, NE studying under professor Joyce Castle. Grace's appearances with KU Opera include *Giulio Cesare* (Sesto), as well as *L'Elisir d'Amore* (ensemble). Grace has also participated in the KU Opera Workshop the past 3 years, performing in multiple scenes programs and *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (Mother). In addition to her opera credits, Grace has also performed in *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel) and *Hairspray* (Becky) with the Papillion LaVista Community Theater.

Yi Zhang, she/her

Yi Zhang, originally from China, is pursuing her doctoral degree with Dr. Michael Kirkendoll at KU. With her interest in new music, Yi was a fellow at 2019 Cortona Sessions for New Music, and has premiered many new pieces in the US and Europe. Yi was the first prize winner in 2020 KMTA Graduate Piano Competition and was named as Outstanding Musician in 2020 IBLA Grand Prize International Competition.

Ethan Martin, he/him

Ethan Martin is an American percussionist and composer born in 1997 in Kansas City. As a percussionist, Ethan has earned many awards such as first prize in the Mid-Missouri Percussion Arts Trophy and was a finalist for the 2018 MalletLab International Mallet Competition. He was the winner of the 2020 George Lawner Prize in composition at the University of Kansas and subsequently had his work, "*Left, Right?*" premiered by the University of Kansas Symphony Orchestra.

Diego Zapata, he/him

Diego Zapata was born in Carupano – Sucre, Venezuela on August 18, 1993. He began his training as a musician at 5 years old. He got his bachelor degree in Juan N Corpas University, in Bogotá, Colombia. as well as an artist diploma and a performance certificate at the Richard Wagner conservatory in Vienna and the university of Kansas respectively, he is currently doing his master's degree at the university of Kansas where he studies with the violin professor David Colwell.

Arabella Schwerin, she/her

Arabella is a cellist from Sioux City, Iowa. She is in her senior year of undergraduate studies for a Bachelor of Music in Cello Performance. She will be graduating this year and will go on to pursue a master's in music as a graduate teaching assistant at

FSU. Bella enjoys new music and discovering new ways to share music and art and loves to collaborate with other artists as much as possible.

Chloe Descher, she/her

Chloe Descher (she/her) is a senior at the University of Kansas studying flute performance. She is currently a member of the University of Kansas Symphony Orchestra under Dr. Carolyn Watson and was a member of the KU Wind Ensemble for two years. She has previously studied with Jennifer Nitchman and Michael Gordon and is currently under the tutelage of Dr. Daniel Velasco. She will be attending the Thornton School of Music at USC in the fall for her master's degree.

Kaitlyn Gerde, she/her

Kaitlyn Gerde, originally from Dallas, TX, is pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in clarinet performance at The University of Kansas and serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant to Dr. Stephanie Zelnick. She maintains an active performing schedule with various large ensembles and chamber groups, including her clarinet and saxophone duo, *Duo Velox*. In addition to performing, Kaitlyn teaches clarinet lessons at KU and has a private teaching studio in the Kansas City area.

Yi-Miao Huang, she/her

Originally from Taiwan, Yi-Miao Huang is currently pursuing a Doctorate degree of Musical Art at KU, where she studies with David Colwell. She holds a Master of Music degree from UMKC, where she studied with Benny Kim, and a Bachelor of Music degree from Taipei National University of Arts, where she studied with Nancy Tsung. Yi-Miao is a member of the Des Moines Symphony, and teaches at the UMKC Academy and Missouri Western State University.

Ilvina Gabrielian, she/her

Ilvina has received her Bachelor's degree at the Saint-Petersburg State Conservatory, where her violin Professor was Alexander Stang. During her studies, Ilvina performed in Holland, Germany, Switzerland, South Korea, and Armenia with solo and ensemble repertoire. After graduating with honors, Ilvina became a graduate student in the class of violin Professor David Colwell at KU in 2019. Ilvina is a laureate of international competitions and a participant of various festivals and masterclasses.

Ricardo Cavalcante, he/him

Ricardo Cavalcante de Oliveira, native of Pernambuco – Brazil, started his musical career as violist at Pernambuco Conservatory at age 13. As a member of the Cardo String Trio, Ricardo was selected for the final round of the 2014 Music Teacher National Association Competition (MTNA) and won the West Central Division round. Currently, Ricardo is in first year of the Master's degree – with emphasis in Music Performance – at the University of Kansas.

James Alexander, he/him

James Alexander is pursuing a DMA in cello performance with a cognate in orchestral conducting at the University of Kansas. His research focuses on syncretic elements of Vietnamese art music. He has collaborated with the internationally acclaimed producer Woulg and the conductor of Broadway's HAMILTON pit orchestra. This summer he will attend Kinhaven Young Artist Seminar, Chosen Vale Seminar, Decoda Chamber Music Festival and compose a piece for the International Contemporary Ensemble at Walden School.

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