

TODAY'S PERFORMERS

Tod Brody has been Earplay's flutist since 1996. He serves in a similar capacity with Northern California new music groups Eco Ensemble, San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, and Emphyrean Ensemble, and has enjoyed an extensive career that has included performances of numerous world premieres and many recordings. He is also principal flutist of the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, the Sacramento Opera, and the California Musical Theater, and makes frequent appearances with the San Francisco Opera and San Francisco Ballet orchestras, and in other chamber and orchestral settings throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

In addition to his career as a performer, Tod has, for many years, served in leadership positions with music organizations. He has served as Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the American Composers Forum, and as the first Executive Director of the contemporary opera company Opera Parallèle. Since 2016, he has been Executive Director of the Marin Symphony.

Violist **Ellen Ruth Rose** enjoys a varied career as a soloist, ensemble musician, and teacher. She is a member of Emphyrean Ensemble, the new music ensemble in residence at UC Davis, Eco Ensemble, the new music ensemble in residence at UC Berkeley, and Earplay, the San Francisco-based contemporary ensemble for which she has also served as artistic coordinator, fostering programs for one of the Bay Area's leading sextets. She has performed as soloist with the West German Radio Chorus, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, the symphony orchestras of UC Davis and Berkeley, at the Ojai Music Festival and at Monday Evening Concerts in Los Angeles. Prior to moving to California in 1998, she worked extensively throughout Europe with Frankfurt's Ensemble Modern and the Cologne experimental ensembles Musik Fabrik and Thürmchen Ensemble, appearing at the Cologne Triennial, Berlin Biennial, Salzburg Zeitfluß, Venice Biennial, Budapest Autumn and Kuhmo (Finland) festivals. Rose holds degrees in viola performance from the Juilliard School and the Northwest German Music Academy in Detmold, Germany, and a B.A. with honors in English and American history and literature from Harvard University. Her viola mentors have included Heidi Castleman, Nobuko Imai, Marcus Thompson, and Karen Tuttle. She teaches at UC Davis and UC Berkeley, and her own students have gone on to masters and doctoral programs in viola performance throughout the country as well as medical school, veterinary school, music history graduate programs, and other places where good violists enrich the world.

THE 45th ANNUAL
FESTIVAL OF NEW AMERICAN MUSIC
PRESENTS ITS ANNUAL

STUDENT COMPOSERS COMPETITION

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 4:00 P.M.

Inside the Present (2022)	David Pshichenko
Solitude (2022)	Kailer Bibbins
Kitty Hawk (2022)	Alan McMurdie
Wandering Together (2022)	Stephen Whelan
Agitato in E la-Phrygian (2022)	Benjamin Gravlee
Sköll (2022)	Kyle Stack
Transformation no. 1 (2022)	Benjamin Gravlee
Your Quirky Inner Self (2022)	Yang Yang

Announcement of Winner

Tod Brody, flute
Ellen Ruth Rose, viola

Judges: Tod Brody, Andrew Conklin, Libby Larsen, Ellen Ruth Rose

*Performances of all works are world premieres.
All composers are students of Dr. Shuying Li.*

TODAY'S COMPOSERS

David Pshichenko is a fourth-year undergraduate pursuing a Music Theory and Composition degree at California State University, Sacramento. Music has been a major part of his life since he was twelve years old starting with middle school band and neighborhood piano lessons. It has been eight years since and along the way David's passion has poured into other channels of music including jazz, choir, and of course, composition. His interest in rich harmony and robust melody guide his craft. Now he concentrates his work on music in media and aims to be a video game or film composer.

Born and raised in Sacramento, **Kailer Bibbins** is a Piano Performance major at Sacramento State and has a great passion for composition. He is fascinated by music's expressive potential that exceeds the capabilities of speech, striving to capture the complex nature of things within his own music as well as exploring the possibilities within neotonicity. While trying not to be limited to one strict style, his early ventures into his current musical language were described by the late Dr. Jeffrey Hoover as "a jazzier Scriabin;" in his piano works there are clear inspirations from Scriabin and Gershwin's styles. Kailer is also a teacher at the Pease Conservatory of Music and enjoys spending his free time with his elderly dog and playing chess.

Alan McMurdie was born in 1996 and is a native of Vacaville, California. He started playing piano at the age of seven and bass guitar at the age of ten. He has since performed in close to forty recitals as early as 5th grade, also playing cello and drums. Alan started composing in 2014. Since then, he has written for solo piano, piano and voice, percussion, strings, woodwind ensemble, and electronic music. Alan often attempts to combine beautiful, powerful melodies with 20th or 21st century techniques, with the occasional Romantic inspiration. On his way to earning a BM in Theory/Composition at Sacramento State, Alan won the 2018 FeNAM Student Composers Competition and the 2019 School of Music's Outstanding Senior award. He is now in the final year of his master's degree in Composition at Sacramento State.

Stephen Whelan is a third-year theory and composition student at California State University, Sacramento. Stephen grew up listening to music from multiple genres such as classical, jazz, rock, and musical theatre and integrates those influences into his own writing. During his time at Sacramento State, he has studied composition under Dr. Scott Perkins, Dr. Josiah Catalan, and Dr. Shuying Li, as well as piano with Prof. Kirsten Smith. His piece "Wandering Together" for flute and viola was first performed at an early workshop for FeNAM.

Benjamin Gravlee is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance at Sacramento State, where he is a student of Richard Cionco and a scholarship recipient. Benjamin has been playing the piano for 18 years, but he is only just beginning his journey as a composer. He began writing for piano during the summer of 2022 and has since branched out to other instruments thanks to coursework in composition (with Dr. Shuying Li) as well as instrumentation and arranging (with Dr. Sarah Wald). In addition to composing and studying solo piano repertoire, Benjamin enjoys collaborating with other students in chamber music. Benjamin grew up in northeast Ohio and now lives in Davis, California, with his partner.

Kyle Stack is a fourth-year undergraduate composition student and vocalist at California State University, Sacramento. His style is heavily influenced by jazz, films, and video games, including: FromSoftware's *Bloodborne and Souls* series, Capcom's *Resident Evil 7*, horror, and Studio Ghibli films. He loves exploring dissonance and creating atmospheric pieces with unique harmonies. He has studied under Scott Perkins, Shuying Li, Jeffrey Hoover, and Ryan Suleiman. He has also studied composition for video games under Peter Scaturro, Jason Hayes, and Garry Schyman. Kyle's goal is to collaborate with other artists in different disciplines in order to create unique and special art together for a wider audience.

Yang Yang is a graduate student in Music Composition at Sac State. Since the discovery of her calling in composing music three years ago, she has composed for classical chamber music groups as well as small and large jazz ensembles. Many of her pieces were performed on stage at various campus events. She was the winner of the 2021 FeNAM Student Composers Competition, the 2002 Jeffery Hoover Memorial Scholarship, the 2022 Fanfare Composition Competition, and the 2022 Renaissance Society Classical Music Award. Yang is also a jazz pianist who performs in the Sacramento State big bands and jazz combos.