

Yale SCHOOL OF MUSIC

José García-León, Dean

NEW MUSIC NEW HAVEN

Aaron Jay Kernis, *Artistic Director*

New Music for Orchestra

WITH

Yale Philharmonia

Ezra Calvino and Thomas Nettle, *conductors*

Thursday, December 11, 2025 | 7:30 p.m.
Woolsey Hall

Program

Maya Miro Johnson
b. 2001

(un)aspirated

Theodore Haber
b. 1999

Possession Sound

Forrest Eimold
b. 1999

Ad mare

Ben Rieke
b. 2000

Comfort in a Whirlwind

As a courtesy to others, please silence all devices. Photography and recording of any kind is strictly prohibited. Please do not leave the hall during musical selections. Thank you.

Artist Profiles

Ezra Calvino, *conductor*

Ezra Calvino has been recognized for their insight, clarity, and sensitivity as a conductor, violist, and chamber musician. Throughout their studies, they have sought to draw on diverse musical disciplines from baroque performance practice to modern popular music to develop a unique artistic perspective that is firmly grounded in the complexity of our present historical moment. Refusing to limit their musical thought to the traditional canon has allowed them to understand how a “classical” artistic practice can transcend mere aesthetic nicety and participate in holistic social healing.

Previously, Ezra has served as Associate Conductor to the Ravinia Festival in Chicago, where they lead the Sistema Ravinia youth ensembles. They were also named the 2024 AAF/Faber Conducting Fellow with the Vienna Philharmonic at the Salzburg Festival. Most recently, Ezra served as Assistant Conductor to the Peninsula Music Festival in Door County, Wisconsin. They currently reside in New Haven, Connecticut where they study conducting at the Yale School of Music. They are the current Music Director of the New Haven Chamber Orchestra, serve as Guest Conductor to the San Gabriel Valley Symphony in Los Angeles, as well as Assistant Conductor to the Yale Philharmonia.

Ezra holds degrees in both Orchestral Conducting and Viola Performance and is an alumnus of notable training programs including the National Orchestral Institute + Festival, the Eastern Music Festival, the International Conducting Workshop and

Festival, and the Prague Summer Nights Young Artists Music Festival. They currently study with Peter Oundjian, and have previously studied with Emily Freeman Brown, Marin Alsop, Larry Rachleff, Gerard Schwarz, James Ross, and Donald Schleicher.

Thomas Nettle, *conductor*

Thomas Nettle is a British conductor currently based in the U.S. where he is studying for his master’s degree in orchestral conducting at the Yale School of Music with Peter Oundjian. Prior to this, he received his bachelors degree in orchestral conducting at the Norwegian Academy of Music, studying under professors Ole Kristian Ruud and Rolf Gupta. He has been very fortunate to conduct leading orchestras and ensembles such as Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, North Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Ungdomssymfonikerne, Marinemusikken, Stabsmusikken and Hærens Musikkorps. Recent highlights have included leading Ungdomssymfonikerne in a world premiere by Norwegian composer Marcus Paus at the opening concert of the Elverum Festival, conducting the opening concert of Nor59’s Mozart Festival, assisting for a production of Philip Glass’ Satyagraha at the Oslo Opera House, and working as assistant conductor for the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra and Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra. He has participated in masterclasses with Ed Gardner, Martyn Brabbins and Nicolas Pasquet.

Thomas is also highly sought after as an arranger, he frequently arranges music

Artist Profiles *cont.*

for the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, and has previously arranged for members of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and English National Opera.

Student Profiles

Forrest Eimold, '30DMA
Student of Martin Bresnick
<https://www.forresteamold.com/>

Theodore Haber, '26MMA
Student of Martin Bresnick
<https://www.theodorehaber.com/>

Maya Miro Johnson, '26MM
Student of Katherine Balch
<https://www.mayamirojohnson.com/>

Ben Rieke, '30DMA
Student of Martin Bresnick
<https://www.benrieke.com/>

Program Notes

(un)aspirated

MAYA MIRO JOHNSON

"Aspirate as you advance the needle."
Collier & Longmore, Oxford Handbook of
Clinical Specialties

"aspiration":

1. lofty ambition
2. unvoiced air
3. breathing in
4. procedure in which the body is punctured
5. complication in which internal fluid floods the lungs, drowning the patient.

"(un)aspirated" imagines the orchestra as corporeal entity: body dying, body irradiated, body on invisible fire.

The music begins unaspirated, traverses an MRI machine, and is ruptured by needle punctures and their aspirated aftershocks. The danger is over, the response is not: the pungent memory of 11 agonizing days, which no opiate except music could mask.

Possession Sound

THEODORE HABER

I had the initial idea for this piece while taking a train from Seattle into the mountains, listening to a piece by the artist Teimo, looking out over a body of water imagining myself standing on the faint coast on the other side.

I read a book over the summer about drone music. The descriptions of the works of artists mentioned, people like

William Basinski or Teimo, made me think deeply about distance and decay. Basinski used tape loops that would destroy themselves overtime, and Teimo crafted sound-scapes that evoked a glacier melting and crashing into the ocean far in the distance. This imagery stayed with me as I imagined the scale of this composition.

I was reminded of these ideas again at the start of the semester when I began taking a painting class and spending much of my free time at the art galleries. In class, I find myself compelled to step back and look at my paintings from far away to understand the form and composition, while at the museums I am drawn closer and closer to the pieces I'm looking at, observing the details and textures instead.

As I wrote *Possession Sound* I imagined the music at a much larger time-scale allowing space to dismantle the textures and stew in the sound, trying to evoke some of these experiences I had in class and listening to drone music.

Ad mare

FORREST EIMOLD

Ad mare documents two Sibeliuses: the assured architect of 1914's *Aallottaret*—all three versions—commissioned by Carl and Ellen Stoeckel (née Battell) for the Norfolk Music Festival, and the unsettled figure behind 1917's *Humoresques*, who confessed he was “torn to pieces with doubts” over the briefest miniature. Manuscripts spanning the whole period, however, all traverse musical landscapes activated by human performance: they flicker with hairpins without termini; are flooded with dysfunctional, reality-widening unisons; attend the seasonal arrivals and departures of thrushes, starlings, cranes.

Jean Sibelius once received an honorary doctorate here in Woolsey Hall. We ask: why would one burn one's own work?

Comfort in a Whirlwind

BEN RIEKE

The poet Gerard Manley Hopkins writes of an overwhelming depression he describes as “pitched past pitch of grief” in a poem titled the same. Experiencing a crisis of faith, away from home and everything familiar, he questions how well “comfort serves in a whirlwind.” Music often serves as a source of comfort, but when I write for the orchestra today, it's hard to have faith in music this way. What can I compose in times of personal and societal collapse? How can the decadence of the orchestra address anything current? What is comfort in a whirlwind?

Roster

VIOLIN I

Jimin Lee
Diego de la Cruz Iwadare
Caroline Smoak
Sumin Cho
Maya Ito Johnson
Daniel Rafimayeri
Josephine Kim
Gayoung Kim
Jeongmin An
Alex Zhou

VIOLIN II

Leona Liu
Joey Lau
Miray Ito
Naeun Kim
Matthew Cone
Hyein Koo
Francesca Sacco
Jaewon Wee

VIOLA

JungAhn Shin
Aditi Prakash
Kiarra Saito-Beckman
Vincenzo Calcagno
Yihan Xue
Juan Alvarez Jimenez

CELLO

Hyun Ji Kim
Amy Goto
Dylan Kinneavy
Shengyu Meng
Balder Hella Mikkelsen
Hayoung Moon

DOUBLE BASS

Yuge Chen
Arden Ingersoll
Joshua Rhodes

FLUTE

Rafael Mendez
Nadira Novruzov
Matthew Ober

OBOE

Jacob Duff
Amy Kim
Tina Shigeyama

CLARINET

Nickolas Hamblin
Ian McEdwards

BASSOON

Emma Fuller
Aaron Nealy
Laressa Winters

HORN

Gretchen Berendt
Lily Judge
Esther Orlov-Mayer
Oved Rico
Cristina Vieyetz

TRUMPET

Karlee Navarro
Jon-Michael Taylor
Ethan Wood

TROMBONE

Naomi Wharry
William Roberts

BASS TROMBONE

Alex Felker

TUBA

Junming Wen

TIMPANI

Anna Mueller

PERCUSSION

Han Xia
Kyle Rappe
Ethan Hall

HARP

Jiaxian Chen

KEYBOARD

Zach Cheong
Sooyeon Hong

Staff

GENERAL MANAGER

Jeffrey Mistri

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

& LIBRARIAN

Marika Basagoitia

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Ben Smith

STAGE CREW

Oved Rico

Matt Boyle

Aaron Nealy

Abigail Lopez

Madelyn Stoklosa

Diego de la Cruz Iwadare

Shengyu Meng

Carter Reynolds

Juan Alvarez Jimenez

Alex Felker

Han Xia

LIBRARY

Emma Fuller

Ben Smith

Skyler Lee

Ashley Yoon

Aditi Prakash

Edenia Maureen

More Music Awaits!

Thank you for joining us — we'd love to have you back! If you liked today's concert, here are a few more performances we think you'll enjoy:

JAN 23 **Xian Zhang, *guest conductor***
Yale Philharmonia
7:30 p.m. | Woolsey Hall
Tickets start at \$13, Faculty/Staff start at \$9, Students free

FEB 5 **New Music New Haven**
Zosha di Castri, *guest composer*
7:30 p.m. | Morse Recital Hall
Free admission

FEB
14 & 15 ***La Bohème***
Yale Opera
Sat 7:30 p.m. & Sun 2:00 p.m | Shubert Theatre

Yale Opera presents a new production of Puccini's beloved *La bohème*. Met Opera conductor J. David Jackson returns to lead the Yale Philharmonia and talented cast in this timeless story of young artists in love.

Tickets available through the Shubert box office, 203-562-5666 and shubert.com

FEB 20 **Ezra Calvino, *guest conductor***
Yale Philharmonia
7:30 p.m. | Woolsey Hall
Tickets start at \$13, Faculty/Staff start at \$9, Students free




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