



# Calliope

East Bay Music & Arts  
calliope-ebma.org

ENSEMBLE FOR

E4TT

THESE TIMES

# MOSAIC

## MUSIC BY WOMEN AND NON-BINARY COMPOSERS

**Ensemble for These Times**

**Nanette McGuinness, Soprano**

**Ilana Blumberg, Violin**

**Abigail Monroe, Cello**

**Margaret Halbig, Piano**

**E4TT.org**

**Saturday, Jan. 29, 2023 at 4:00pm**

**Calliope East Bay Music & Arts, Albany**

# PROGRAM

S - Nanette McGuinness, Soprano

C - Abigail Monroe, Cello

V - Ilana Blumberg, Violin P - Margaret Halbig, Piano

Margaret Bonds  
(1913-1972)

Troubled Water (1967) <sup>P</sup>

Jennifer Higdon  
(b. 1962)

*from* Civil Words (2014) <sup>S/P/WC</sup>  
Lincoln's Final  
The Next War

Niloufar Nourbakhsh  
(b. 1992)

Cello sonata (2012) <sup>C/P/WC</sup>

Elena Ruehr (b. 1963)

Music Pink and Blue (2020) <sup>P</sup>

Yaz Lancaster

Mosaic (2018) <sup>P/CA</sup>

Errollyn Wallen (b. 1958) Dervish (2001) <sup>C/P</sup>

# INTERMISSION

WP - World Premiere WC - West Coast Premiere

CA - California Premiere UP - UPLIFT project

# PROGRAM, CONT.

S - Nanette McGuinness, Soprano

C - Abigail Monroe, Cello

V - Ilana Blumberg, Violin P - Margaret Halbig, Piano

Mary Bianco (b. 1939)	Cello Waltz in Counterpoint (2022) <sup>C/P/WP</sup>
Gabriela Lena Frank (b. 1972)	Khazn's Recitative: Elu D'vorim (2003) <sup>V</sup>
Jennifer Jolley (b. 1981)	Democracy Dies in Darkness(2018) <sup>P/CA</sup>
Chrysanthe Tan	Retrospect (2015) <sup>C/P</sup>
Jessica Meyer (b. 1974)	The Last Rose (2016) <sup>C</sup>
Dawn Norfleet	Prólogo & Celestine <sup>V/P/UP</sup> (2022) Post-Concert talk with Bianco and Norfleet

**WP** - World Premiere **WC** - West Coast Premiere  
**CA** - California Premiere **UP** - UPLIFT project

E4TT's 2022/23 season is supported by grants from the [San Francisco Arts Commission](#) and [San Francisco Grants for the Arts](#), and sponsored, in part, by a grant from the [Ross McKee Foundation](#). E4TT's UPLIFT project and 2022/23 season are supported in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency. Learn more at [www.arts.ca.gov](http://www.arts.ca.gov).

# TEXTS

## *from Civil Words*

**Lincoln's Final** (from Abraham Lincoln's second inaugural address, March 4, 1865)

Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away...With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wound, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans; to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

**The Next War** (1917) (Wilfred Owen (1893-1918))

Out there, we've walked quite friendly up to Death,-  
Sat down and eaten with him, cool and bland,-  
Pardoned his spilling mess-tins in our hand.  
We've sniffed the green thick odour of his breath,-  
Our eyes wept, but our courage didn't writhe.  
He's spat at us with bullets and he's coughed  
Shrapnel. We chorussed when he sang aloft,  
We whistled while he shaved us with his scythe.

Oh, Death was never enemy of ours!  
We laughed at him, we leagued with him, old chum.  
No soldier's paid to kick against His powers.  
We laughed, -knowing that better men would come,  
And greater wars: when each proud fighter brags  
He wars on Death, for lives; not men, for flags.

'Tis the last rose of summer  
Left blooming alone;  
All her lovely companions  
Are faded and gone;  
No flower of her [kindred](#),  
No rosebud is nigh,  
To reflect back her blushes,  
Or give sigh for sigh.

I'll not leave thee, thou lone one!  
To [pine](#) on the stem;  
Since the lovely are sleeping,  
Go, sleep thou with them.

Thus kindly I scatter  
Thy leaves o'er the bed,  
Where thy mates of the garden  
Lie scentless and dead.

So soon may I follow,  
When friendships decay,  
And from Love's shining circle  
The gems drop away.  
When true hearts lie withered  
And fond ones are flown,  
Oh! who would inhabit  
This bleak world alone?

# ABOUT THE COMMISSIONS

**Cello Waltz in Counterpoint** may be a misleading title in that I did not compose this with a waltz in mind, nor is 3/4 time necessarily waltz-time, particularly when the accents move around and are not married to the first beat of each bar. Adding 4/4 and 2/4 bars purposely interrupts any insistence to 3/4 and waltz-time. My concern in this composition is that the cello and piano may fuse too much; I intend for the cello to be the stronger voice, although my origin as a pianist may peek through unintentionally. You be the judge...

**Celestine** is a type of crystal from Madagascar. For the title, I wanted to capture that an iridescent object can highlight different colors of the spectrum depending on perspective. I auditioned African crystal types whose beauty appealed to me, specifically—seeking a lovely-sounding word for a crystal that was both clear (representing subtly shifting reality), and light blue, to represent “blue” musical elements from my African American culture that might be present from time to time—and found “Celestine.”. Right after choosing it, though, I came across an article that discussed how the West’s current obsession with crystals and minerals has fueled exploitation of poverty-stricken communities in Madagascar, including employing laborers as young as 14 to for the dangerous mining. I hope others who hear this work will enjoy the music but also be inspired to consider and adopt practices that heal communities rather than exploit them.

# ABOUT THE COMPOSERS

A musical prodigy, **MARGARET BONDS** was born in Chicago and earned her BA and MA from Northwestern University, where she won awards in piano and composition. At age 20, Bonds became the first African American soloist to appear with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Noted especially for her numerous collaborations with Langston Hughes, Bonds also founded the Allied Arts Academy, for talented African American children in Chicago and received the Rosenwald Fellowship and Rodman Wanamaker Award.

**JENNIFER HIGDON** won the Pulitzer Prize in 2010, and is a three-time Grammy winner. Commissions have come from a wide range of performers: from the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Chicago Symphony, to The President’s Own Marine Band; from the Tokyo String Quartet to Eighth Blackbird, as well as individual artists such as singer Thomas Hampson, violinist Hilary Hahn and pianist, Yuja Wang. Her first opera on Charles Frazier’s book, “Cold Mountain”, sold out all of its runs and won the International Opera Award. With over 200 performances a year, she makes her living from commissions and serves as composer-in-residence with various orchestras and universities around the country. Her works are recorded on over 80 CDs. [www.jenniferhigdon.com](http://www.jenniferhigdon.com)

Described as “stark” by WNPR and “darkly lyrical” by the New York Times, a winner of the Second International Hildegard commission award, a 2019 recipient of Opera America’s Discovery Grant, and winner of 2022 Beth Morrison Projects Next Generation competition, **NILOUFAR NOURBAKSH**’s music has been performed at numerous festivals and venues including Carnegie Hall, Mostly Mozart at Lincoln Center, and Direct Current Festival at the Kennedy Center. A founding member and co-director of Iranian Female Composers Association, Nourbakhsh is a strong advocate of music education and equal opportunities. She is currently an adjunct faculty at Johns Hopkins University as co-artistic director of Peabody Conservatory Laptop Orchestra. Niloufar holds a doctoral degree from Stony Brook University and regularly performs with her Ensemble Decipher.

**ELENA RUEHR**’s work has been described as “sumptuously scored and full of soaring melodies” (The New York Times), and “unspeakably gorgeous” (Gramophone). Winner of a Guggenheim Fellowship, she has been a fellow at Harvard’s Radcliffe Institute and composer-in-residence with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, which recorded her major orchestral works (O’Keeffe Images, BMOP Sound) and the opera Toussaint Before the Spirits (Arsis Records). She has numerous recordings, on regular NPR playlists, including: Icarus (Avie), Six String Quartets by Elena Ruehr (Avie), Averno (Avie), Jane Wang considers the Dragonfly (Albany), Lift (Avie), Shimmer (Albany) and Shadow Light (Acis). Known for her collaborations with writers and poets, she has written five operas, five cantatas, as well as a great deal of orchestral music, chamber music and songs. She has also written for film and dance. Ruehr is an award-winning faculty member at MIT.

**YAZ LANCASTER** is a Black transdisciplinary artist. They are most interested in practices aligned with relational aesthetics & the everyday; fragments & collage; and liberatory politics. Lancaster performs as a violinist, vocalist & steel-pannist in a wide variety of settings; and their work is presented in many mediums & collaborative projects. Their current studies/interests include politics & poetics of horror, digital cultures, and Marxist theory. Most recently they have been developing post-genre duo *laydøwn* with Canadian guitarist-producer Andrew Noseworthy; and creating with Opera Philadelphia, the National Sawdust Ensemble, Miss Grit, Nyokabi Kariūki, Bearthoven, and BlackBox Ensemble. Lancaster holds degrees in violin performance and poetry from New York University.

**ERROLLYN WALLEN** is a multi award-winning Belize-born British composer and performer. Her prolific output includes twenty-two operas

and a large catalogue of orchestral, chamber and vocal works, which are performed and broadcast throughout the world. She was the first black woman to have a work featured in the Proms, composed for the opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games 2012, the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilees and the climate change conference, COP 26, 2021. Wallen founded Ensemble X, whose album "Photography" was voted a Top Ten Classical Album by NPR. Awarded an MBE in 2007 in the Queen's Birthday Honors and a CBE in 2020 in the New Year Honors, for services to music, Wallen lives and composes in a Scottish lighthouse.

**MARY BIANCO** is a Bay Area-based composer of primarily classical chamber music. A former wealth manager with Morgan Stanley, she earned an M.A. in Composition (Mills College), Executive MBA (Anderson School at UCLA), and B.A. with concentration in composing (Sarah Lawrence College). Bianco is the founder, president and executive director of the Moca Foundation and a board member of The Music Conservatory of Westchester as well as a former Trustee of Sarah Lawrence College. Currently studying with David Garner, her previous teachers include Darius Milhaud, Ezra Laderman, Meyer Kupferman, and Irwin Stahl. Bianco composed for the Carpenter Trio from 2011 to 2016 and composes for the Crescent City Chamber Players, Project: Music Heals Us, The Manhattan Chamber Players, and various California artists.

Berkeley-born composer **GABRIELA LENA FRANK** has been Composer-in-Residence with the Philadelphia Detroit and Houston Symphony Orchestras. Founder of the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music (GLFCAM), she was included in the Washington Post's list of the 35 most significant women composers in history in 2017. Identity has always been at the center of her music. She explores her multicultural heritage through her compositions and has traveled extensively throughout South America in creative exploration. Her music often reflects not only her own personal experience as a multiracial Latina, but also refract her studies of Latin American cultures, incorporating poetry, mythology, and native musical styles into a western classical framework that is uniquely her own. Frank has received the Heinz Award as well as Guggenheim and USA Artist Fellowships.

Composer **JENNIFER JOLLEY's** work draws toward subjects that are political and provocative. Her collaboration with librettist Kendall A, *Prisoner of Conscience*, has been described as "the ideal soundtrack and perhaps balm for our current 'toxic...times'" by Frank J. Oteri (*New Music Box*). Jennifer received degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and the University of Southern California's

Thornton School of Music. She is an Assistant Professor of Music Theory and Composition at CUNY Lehman College.

**CHRYSANTHE TAN** is an autistic, Cambodian-Greek-American composer, violinist, and singer-songwriter named by Arts Boston as 1 of 10 Contemporary LGBTQ Composers You Should Know in 2018. As a solo artist, she performs electroacoustic musical poetry and chamber folk-pop, and as a composer, their work indulges the intersection of music and spoken word. Chrysanthe earned their BA in Creative Writing from Stanford University, MFA in Creative Writing from California Institute of the Arts, and MFA in Music Composition and Violin Performance from CalArts. A vocal advocate for autistic, queer, and minority representation in music, Chrysanthe is also a published writer, podcaster, Star Wars prequel apologist, and emerging host/producer with Classical KUSC radio station, where she helps to develop content for newer voices and audiences.

**JESSICA MEYER** is a GRAMMY® – nominated violist and composer whose passionate musicianship radiates accessibility, generosity, and emotional clarity. She has premiered pieces for solo viola internationally, expanding the repertoire for viola by championing new works while also composing her own. Meyer’s compositions viscerally explore the wide palette of emotionally expressive colors available to each instrument while using traditional and extended techniques inspired by her varied experiences as a contemporary and period instrumentalist. Her first composer/performer album debuted in 2019 at #1 on the Billboard traditional classical chart. The recipient of the second annual Ellis-Beaugard Foundation Composer Award in 2020, Meyer earned a BM and MM in viola from the Julliard School.

Composer, flutist, and jazz and classical vocalist **DAWN NORFLEET** has been commissioned by American Composers Orchestra, University of South Carolina’s SPARC Grant, and Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music (GLFCAM). She sang with Wynton Marsalis’ 2022 epic orchestral jazz masterpiece, ALL RISE! and records and performs frequently with saxophonist Kamasi Washington. A strong arts education advocate for under-resourced communities, Norfleet led composition lecture-workshops for high school arts students through E4TT’s “Uplift” pilot project. She also serves as a mentor with Luna Composition Labs, providing mentorship to female and gender-expansive teen composers, and volunteers with NAACP’s ACT-SO program for outstanding high school students. Dr. Norfleet earned a B.A. in Music at Wellesley College and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Composition and Ethnomusicology, respectively, at Columbia University.



# ABOUT E4TT

Winner of The American Prize in 2021 for Chamber Music Performance, **ENSEMBLE FOR THESE TIMES (E4TT)** consists of award winning soprano/ Artistic Executive Director Nanette McGuinness, cellist Abigail Monroe, pianist Margaret Halbig, and co-founder/ Senior Artistic Advisor composer David Garner. E4TT made its international debut in Berlin in 2012; was sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Budapest for a four-city tour of Hungary in 2014; and performed at the Krakow Culture Festival in 2016 and at the Conservatorio Teresa Berganza in Madrid in 2017. E4TT has performed locally at the German Consulate General, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Old First Concerts, JCC Peninsula, Trinity Chamber Concerts, and Noontime Concerts, among other venues.

E4TT has released four albums, all of which have medaled in the Global Music Awards: “The Guernica Project” commemorating the 85 anniversary of the horrific carpet bombing of civilians and Picasso's masterwork in response; “Once/Memory/Night: Paul Celan” (2020), honoring the centennial of the seminal 20th century poet; “Surviving: Women’s Words,” (2016), new music to poetry by women Holocaust survivors; and “The Hungarians: From Rózsa to Justus” (2018), with works by Hungarian émigré Miklós Rózsa, and three of his compatriots who perished in the Holocaust.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Violinist **ILANA BLUMBERG** has appeared across the United States and internationally, in solo appearances with the San Francisco Symphony, the Albany Symphony (NY), Symphony Napa Valley, and the Merced Symphony, as well as performances at the prestigious Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, the Marlboro Music Festival, the La Jolla Summerfest as a 'Rising Star', the Aspen Music Festival, and many others. She appears frequently throughout the Bay Area with the Marin, Silicon Valley, West Edge Opera, Berkeley, and California Symphonies, as well as with the Golden Gate String Quartet, eco ensemble, and Left Coast Chamber Ensemble.

E4TT pianist **MARGARET HALBIG** is in high demand as a collaborative artist in both the instrumental and vocal fields. On staff at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music since 2011, she regularly performs recitals, masterclasses, and lessons and has collaborated with many of esteemed Bay Area musicians including mezzo-soprano Frederica Von Stade, San Francisco Symphony Principal Trombonist Timothy Higgins, and SF Symphony's principal tubist Jeffrey Anderson. An advocate of new and contemporary music, Halbig is the pianist for Ninth Planet, a San Francisco-based new music collective and a member of the wind-and-piano sextet Frequency 49. Halbig has been a Collaborative Teaching fellow at Interlochen Arts in 2017 and 2018 and the pianist for Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco since 2014.

Soprano and E4TT co-founder and Artistic Executive Director **NANETTE MCGUINNESS** has performed in 13 languages on two continents in over 25 roles with the Silesian State (Czech Republic), Opera San Jose (Opera in the Schools), *Società dei Concerti* (Italy) and West Bay, Pacific Repertory, Trinity Lyric, and Livermore Valley Operas, among others. Hailed in the press as "magnificent" (*The Whole Note*) and "compelling" (*SF Examiner*) and for her "creamy golden tone," (*Independent Coast Observer*), she was a Teaching Artist with the SF Opera Guild. Solo concert engagements include Mahler's Fourth Symphony, Shéhérezade (Ravel), Nuits d'étés (Berlioz), Stabat Mater (Rossini), Requiem (Fauré), Gloria (Vivaldi), Lord Nelson Mass (Haydn), Vesperae Solennes (Mozart), and Handel's Messiah and Solomon. Her CD, "Fabulous Femmes" (music by women composers), was called "perfect for the song recital lover" (*Chamber Music Magazine*).

E4TT cellist **ABIGAIL MONROE** hails from New Mexico and holds a Bachelor's degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in cello performance under the instruction of Jennifer Culp. A member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, she has appeared as a soloist, chamber musician, and large ensemble musician in venues across the United States. As a San Francisco resident, Abigail performs frequently throughout the Bay Area as both a classical cellist. She has served as both Principal cellist of the SFCM Orchestra, as well as the Miami Summer Music Festival Symphony Orchestra. As the winner of the Jackie McGehee Young Artists Competition in 2019, Abigail was also featured as cello soloist performing Elgar's Cello Concerto with the New Mexico Philharmonic.

# SURVEY

Please fill out E4TT's audience survey—find it online using this link (<https://qrco.de/bdbM7g>) or by scanning the QR code with your phone—to be entered in a drawing for a free copy of E4TT's new CD, "The Guernica Project."



## UPCOMING FOR E4TT

- Feb. 25:** CALL FOR SCORES: PIANO SOLO, with *emerita* pianist extraordinaire, Dale Tsang at the Berkeley Piano Club
- April 15:** FRACTURED LIGHT: E4TT's annual commissions concert, in collaboration with the SFCM TAC Department
- June 3:** CRYSTAL: E4TT's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala with favorite works from the past decade, joined by past guest artists, at Noe Valley Ministry, SF
- Continuing:** E4TT's podcast, For Good Measure

## UPCOMING FOR CALLIOPE EAST BAY MUSIC & ARTS

- Feb. 19:** The Bay Bones: Classical Trombone Quartet
- March 19:** Ensemble Dulce Amar
- April 23:** Quartet San Francisco
- May 21:** Joy Leilani-Garbutt Organist
- June 11:** Erica and Friends: Songs of the British Isles & Ireland

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# CRYSTAL

15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2023

NOE VALLEY MINISTRY

