

ENSEMBLE FOR

E4TT

THESE TIMES

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QUEST:

MUSIC BY WOMEN
AND NONBINARY
COMPOSERS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 7:30 P.M.
CENTER FOR NEW MUSIC, SF
E4TT.ORG

Welcome to E4TT's first concert of 2024!

We start the new year with the next edition of our women and nonbinary composers' series, featuring works by a diverse group of a dozen fabulous contemporary 20th and 21st century women composers. The program includes the World Premiere of Tamara McLeod's new piano trio for us as well as three works from our 2023 Call for Scores, the first of our two-year performing and commissions collaboration with Luna Composition Lab alums. We're thrilled to welcome guest violinist Jennifer Redondas, joining us for a second time this season, as well as Tamara McLeod and Jessica Mao for the pre-concert composer talk.

If you're joining us remotely, the livestream will be at <https://bit.ly/4273QvN>.

Don't miss our next program, "**Expression: Ism,**" on **April 5** at 7:30 p.m., an exciting multimedia commissions concert at the SF Conservatory of Music's Bowes Center (and livestreamed online). The concert will mark our fourth collaboration with the SFCM Technology and Applied Composition Department. Free attendance in-person and online.

We'll close our season on **June 15** at the Berkeley Piano Club by celebrating the release of E4TT's next album, "**Emigres & Exiles in Hollywood,**" a recording of favorites from our multi-year exploration of chamber music by the many talented composers who fled the Holocaust for LA who are often credited with founding the sound we still hear today in film music. The concert will feature selections from the album plus Schoenberg's *Cabaret Songs*.

Finally, E4TT's podcast "**For Good Measure,**" continues in 2024 with our "Da Capo Conversations" mini-series continuing into early February. Available wherever you get your podcasts or at <https://forgoodmeasure.buzzsprout.com>.

Happy New Year and thank you for joining us online or in person!

PROGRAM

S - Nanette McGuinness, Soprano C - Abigail Monroe, Cello
V - Jennifer Redondas, Violin P - Margaret Halbig, Piano

Tania León (b. 1943)	Elegia a Paul Robeson (1987) ^{V/C/P}
Florence Price (1997-1953) Claudia Montero (1962-2021)	An April Day (1949) ^{S/P} Soy (2012/13) ^{S/P}
Gabriella Smith (b. 1991)	Imaginary Pancake (2020) ^P
Jennifer Higdon (b. 1962)	Blue Hills of Mist (2006) ^{V/P} (from <i>String Poetic</i>)
Tamara MacLeod (b. 1994)	Spent (2023) ^{V/C/P/W} I. Farcically II. Languishingly III. Desolately

INTERMISSION

Jessica Mao (b. 1998) Isabelle Tseng (b. 2005)	Fulgurance (2021) ^{V/C} Ringlorn, Movement 2 (2021) ^{V/C/LCL}
Sage Shurman (b. 2005)	grace fall (2021) ^{V/LCL}
Niloufar Nourbakhsh (b. 1962) Alex Temple (b. 1983)	Quest (2013) ^{P/WC} Microphages (1999 rev 2019) ^{P/WC}
Madeline Clara Cheng (b. 2004)	Forget Your Scarf in My Life (2021) ^{V/C/P/LCL}

W - World Premiere **WC** - West Coast Premiere
LCL - Luna Composition Lab alum (Call for Scores)

Texts & Translations

An April Day

text by Joseph Seamon Cotter, Jr. (1895 – 1919)

On such a day as this I think,
On such a day as this,
When earth and sky and nature's world
Are clad in April's bliss;
And balmy zephyrs gently waft
Upon your cheek a kiss;
Sufficient is it just to live
On such a day as this.

Soy

text by Alfonsina Storni (1892-1938)

Soy suave y triste si idolatro, puedo
bajar el cielo hasta mi mano cuando
el alma de otro al alma mía enredo.

Plumón alguno no hallarás más
blando.

Ninguna como yo las manos besa,
ni se acurruca tanto en un ensueño,
ni cupo en otro cuerpo, así
pequeño,
un alma humana de mayor terneza.

Muero sobre los ojos, si los siento
como pájaros vivos, un momento,
aletear bajo mis dedos blancos.

Sé la frase que encanta y que com-
prende
y sé callar cuando la luna asciende
enorme y roja sobre los barrancos.

I Am

I am soft and sad if I idolize. I can
Bring the sky to my hand when
Another soul becomes entwined in
my own.

You won't find any softer down.

No one kisses hands as I do,
No one curls up in fantasies like me,
Nor fits into a body, so small,

a human soul of greater tenderness.

I die from your eyes, if I feel them,
Like living birds, for a moment,
Fluttering under my white fingers.

I know the words to enchant and to
forgive,
And I know how to keep quiet when
the moon rises
Enormous and red over the ravines.

(translation by Nanette McGuinness & Mercedes Guhl)

E4TT's 2022/23 season is supported by grants from [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. E4TT is honored to be fiscally sponsored by [InterMusic SF](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to small-ensemble music in the San Francisco Bay Area.

About “Spent”

“**SPENT**” was composed in direct response to the pressing environmental crisis. It consists of three movements that traverse a realm of rich sonic abundance to a near-total absence of sound. Simultaneously, on an individual level, it also encapsulates the sensation of weariness and exhaustion we all experience from time to time. The piece invites further exploration, symbolizing optimism for a future where we reconsider our consumption of natural resources and restore the equilibrium between ourselves and the environment. —*Tamara McLeod*

About the Composers



Born in Cuba, 2021 Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and conductor **TANIA LEÓN** is a vital personality on today's music scene, recognized for her accomplishments as an educator and advisor to arts organizations. She has been the subject of profiles on ABC, CBS, CNN, PBS, Univision (including their noted series "Orgullo Hispano" which celebrates living American Latinx whose contributions in society have been invaluable), Telemundo and independent films. Current appointments include Member of the Board of Directors, The MacDowell Colony; Vice President of the Music Division, American Academy of Arts and Letters; Founder & Artistic Director, Composers Now; and, most recently, Member of the Board of Directors, New York Philharmonic.



The first Black woman composer to have a work performed by a major U.S. orchestra, composer, organist, and educator **FLOR-ENCE PRICE** was born in Little Rock, AK. A musical prodigy, she studied at the New England Conservatory of Music (earning an Artist's Diploma in organ and a piano teaching diploma), American Conservatory, and Chicago Musical College, and teaching at Clark College, Shorter College,

and Arkadelphia Academy. Her setting of *Songs to the Dark Virgin* was praised as “one of the greatest immediate successes ever won by an American song” (*Chicago Daily News*). Price played the organ for silent films and was active as a composer and teacher until her death. went on to play the theater organ for silent films. She was active as a composer and teacher until her death.



Argentinian composer **CLAUDIA MONTERO** was on faculty with the Generalitat Valenciana and was Composer-in-Residence for the Palau de la Musica (Valencia). She won her four Latin Grammy Awards and her works continue to be performed and recorded. Her music has been premiered by orchestras that include the Royal Liverpool Orchestra, Orquesta de Cámara de Buenos Aires, the Orquesta de Cámara de Jeréz, Orquesta, Pau Casals, Sinfonietta Paris, Turin Philharmonic, Taipei University Symphony Orchestra, Baltic Neopolis Orchestra, and Orquesta Nacional de Tango de Buenos Aires; she collaborated with Maganos Quintet, the American String Quartet, the Almus Quartet, the Kamer Quartet, the Barrenechea Dúo, Il Concerto Accademico, Quartet U, Trio Luminar and Trio Brouwer among many.



Photo: Kate Smith

GABRIELLA SMITH's work invites listeners to find joy in climate action in works such as *Lost Coast*, a concerto for cello and orchestra, which received its world premiere in May 2023 with the Los Angeles Philharmonic conducted by Gustavo Dudamel. *Lost Coast* joins her organ concerto, *Breathing Forests*, also premiered by the LA Phil, conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen. Other current projects include a large-scale work for Kronos Quartet, commissioned in celebration of their 50th anniversary season, and an album-length work for yMusic featuring underwater field recordings. In December 2023, her work *Tumblebird Contrails* was performed on the Nobel Prize Concert by the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Esa-Pekka Salonen. #



Photo: J. Henry Fair

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.



A native of Denver, CO, **TAMARA MCLEOD** recently earned her composition graduate degree at the Manhattan School of Music, studying under Dr. Reiko Fütting, Dr. David Adamcyk, and Susan Botti. Completing her undergraduate studies with David Garner at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, McLeod's work is deeply influenced by her Ukrainian-American heritage.

She showcased her talents at renowned festivals such as the Zodiac Music Festival and the Bowdoin International Music Festival. Notably, her compositions, including the art song "Dirge for a Joker" (third place, SFCM 9th Biennial art song competition) and the choral piece "De Profundis" (second place, SFCM 14th Biennial a cappella choral competition), have received acclaim. Committed to projects that illuminate the human experience, McLeod's diverse interests in poetry, art and film enrich her creative perspective, reflecting a holistic engagement with the arts.



JESSICA MAO is a Bay Area-based composer, pianist, and educator. By combining her classical background with her love of video games, she creates hybrid soundscapes that unite orchestral compositional techniques with elements of contemporary music production. Her music has been

#performed by renowned groups such as the Telegraph Quartet, and recorded at Skywalker Sound and Sony Interactive Entertainment. An advocate for music education, Jessica is passionate about introducing people from all walks of life to the joys of music and teaches composition, music theory, music technology, and piano. Jessica received her M.M in composition and B.M. in Technology and Applied Composition from SFCM, where she studied with David Garner, Lennie Moore, and Clint Bajakian



ISABELLE TSENG is a composer and violinist from Gainesville, Florida. She draws inspiration from culture, language, and current events in her music, which she has been recognized for by organizations such as ASCAP, Luna Composition Lab, with her works having been performed by Imani Winds, International Contemporary Ensemble and in festivals hosted by

the American Composers Orchestra, Boston University Tanglewood Institute (BUTI), and Mannes School of Music, and others. Tseng is also an accomplished violinist. She has performed in festivals including the BUTI, All-National Symphony Orchestra, Honor Orchestra of America, and was awarded First Prize at the 2022 New York International Young Musician Competition. Driven by her love of diverse musical textures, she seeks new permutations of sounds.



SAGE SHURMAN is a Los Angeles-based composer and pianist. Among other accolades, she is a 2022 winner of the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Awards and National YoungArts Awards. Sage studies privately with Ian Krouse at UCLA and is a third year fellow in the Los Angeles Philharmonic Nancy and Barry Sanders Composer Fellowship Program.

Shurman has had her work performed by ensembles including the LA Phil, members of the LACO, Sandbox Percussion, ICE, and Triple Helix. Recently, she has been commissioned by Hub New Music, the Taos Chamber Music Group, and the Cincinnati May Festival.



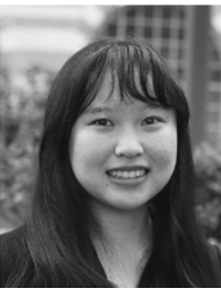
Photo by Michael Yu

Described as “stark” by WNPR and “darkly lyrical” by the New York Times, a winner of 2022 Beth Morrison Projects Next Generation competition, an awardee of National Sawdust’s Second International Hildegard Commission, and a 2019 recipient of Opera America’s Discovery Grant, **NILOUFAR NOURBAKHSH**’s music has been performed at numerous festivals and venues

including Ojai Festival, Mostly Mozart at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and Direct Current Festival at the Kennedy Center. A founding member and co-artistic director of Iranian Female Composers Association, Nourbakhsh is a strong advocate of music education and equal opportunities. She currently teaches composition at Longy School of Music of Bard College. Nourbakhsh holds a doctorate degree from Stony Brook University and regularly performs with her Ensemble Decipher.



A sound can evoke a time, a place, or a way of looking at the world. **ALEX TEMPLE** writes music that distorts and combines iconic sounds to create new meanings, often in service of surreal, cryptic or fantastical narratives. In addition to performing her own works for voice and electronics, she has collaborated with performers and ensembles such as Mellissa Hughes, Julia Holter, wild Up, Spektral Quartet and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. In 2017 she completed a DMA at Northwestern University, and she is now an Assistant Professor of Composition at Arizona State University.



Composer, saxophonist, and pianist **MADELINE CLARA CHENG** hails from the San Francisco Bay Area and is currently, studying composition and business law as a Presidential Scholar at the University of Southern California. She is a 2023 YoungArts Award Winner and a recipient of the ICEBERG New Music and Lift Up Our

Voices scholarships. As an alumna of Luna Composition Lab, Madeline has been awarded commissions by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra’s May Festival and the UUCWC Crossing Chorale. Cheng’s compositions have been performed by the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Bergen International Festival, and the International Contemporary Ensemble. She is an alumna of the Tanglewood Institute, for which she received a full scholarship, as well as the Yellow Barn Young Artists Program. When not composing, she can be found directing the music for a show or building escape rooms.

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 Ró-

za, and three of his compatriots who perished in the Holocaust. The group's next album, "Emigres & Exiles in Hollywood," will be released on Centaur in 2024.

About the Artists



Pianist **MARGARET HALBIG** is in high demand as a collaborative artist in both the instrumental and vocal fields. She is currently associate chair of the Voice Department and principal vocal coach at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she also frequently collaborates with faculty and student singers and instrumentalists. In 2023, Halbig was appointed collaborative piano coordinator of Interlochen Arts Camp and has been the pianist for Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco since 2014. An advocate of new and contemporary music, she is the pianist and a board member of San Francisco-based new music collective Ninth Planet and has also. Halbig earned her DMA from the University of California Santa Barbara and performance degrees from the University of Missouri, Kansas City Conservatory and University of Evansville.



Soprano, E4TT Artistic Executive Director and co-founder **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), and West Bay Opera, Pacific Repertory Opera, Trinity Lyric Opera, and Livermore Valley Opera, among others. Solo concert engagements include Mahler's Fourth Symphony, as well as Shéhérazade (Ravel), Nuits d'été (Berlioz), Stabat Mater (Rossini), Requiem (Fauré), Gloria (Vivaldi), Lord Nelson Mass (Haydn), Vesperae Solennes (Mozart), and Handel's Messiah and Solomon. McGuinness has been featured on seven albums with Centaur and Yuggoth Records, and her CD of music by 19th and 20th century women composers,

"Fabulous Femmes" (Centaur)—was called "perfect for the song recital lover" by Chamber Music Magazine. She earned her PhD in Music (specializing in Musicology) at UC Berkeley, MM in Vocal Performance from Holy Names College, and BA in Music from Cornell University.



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.



Originally from Cuba, violinist/violist **JENNIFER REDONDAS** has performed as a soloist in the U.S., Netherlands, Italy, Austria, France and Cuba in venues that include the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam and the Mozarteum in Austria. As a historical violinist and violist, she has participated in the Oregon Bach Festival and Berwick Academy under the direction of Jos van Veldhoven. Her passion for Cuban music and jazz has led her to perform at SF Jazz with renowned artists such as Chris Potter, Anat Cohen and Chucho Valdés. An active member of the "Adventures in Music" program at the San Francisco Symphony, Redondas was a Fellow for the Classical Tahoe Orchestra 2023 season. She holds a Master's Degree in Violin Performance from the SF Conservatory of Music.

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Upcoming for E4TT

April 5: EXPRESSION; ISM: E4TT's annual multimedia commissions concert, in collaboration with SFCM TAC
June 15: EMIGRES & EXILES IN HOLLYWOOD:
THE ALBUM: Recording release concert
Ongoing: For Good Measure, E4TT's podcast

Survey

Please fill out E4TT's audience survey—find it online using this link (<https://qrco.de/bdbM7g>) or by scanning the QR code below with your phone—to be entered in a drawing for your choice of a free copy of E4TT's latest album, "The Guernica Project" or our upcoming release, "Emigres & Exiles in Hollywood," once it's available.



Upcoming

EXPRESSION·ISM



Friday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.
Bowes Center, SFCM, SF