



ART
of
ELAN

COMMUNITY THROUGH MUSIC

COLLECTIVE IMPACT REPORT 2021-2022



Commission for
Arts and Culture

THE CONRAD PREBYS
FOUNDATION



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ARTS COUNCIL
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Art of Elan at San Diego Museum of Art (SDMA)
All concert photography by Gary Payne

DEAR FRIENDS,

That's a wrap! Our 15th Anniversary Season successfully came to a close a few weeks ago with a grand total of 17 performances since last July. We hope you've joined us for some of these "Regeneration" events—it's been quite a ride!

In addition to our art-inspired 3-concert series at The San Diego Museum of Art, Art of Elan was proud to partner with many of our region's finest artists and institutions, including the newly renovated Mingei International Museum, the reimagined Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA), the Front Gallery in San Ysidro and the Carlsbad Music Festival, among others. We were grateful to have brought the superb artistry of violinist Johnny Gandelsman, the Kontras Quartet and the incredibly innovative American Modern Opera Company (AMOC) to our San Diego audiences, as well as present the San Diego debut of multi-instrumentalist and composer Nathalie Joachim.

Our community engagement initiatives expanded greatly to include free daytime concerts around the region, weekly musical workshops at the Preuss School, which serves first-generation college seekers, as well as an apprenticeship component for our Young Artists in Harmony composition program at A Reason To Survive (ARTS).

At Art of Elan, we recognize the power of the arts to be a tool for both healing and liberation and are proud to have committed this 15th season to uplifting and amplifying artists' voices. In the coming weeks we will announce plans for our upcoming season, "Landscapes," which reflects on the ever-shifting nature of the earth and the world around us, while also exploring the cultural landscapes that shape our lives. With a renewed commitment to thoughtful, relevant programming and intentional community relationships, this 16th season reminds us of the power of creative expression to be an agent of change.

We thank you for all that you do to make San Diego a vibrant, cultural destination and we look forward to seeing you for Sweet (Season) 16!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Hatmaker". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and larger than the rest of the letters.

Kate Hatmaker
Co-founder, Executive Director & Artistic Director





Johnny Gandelsman, violin



ABOUT

Known for its collaborative spirit, Art of Elan has been pioneering unique events and bringing exciting classical music to diverse audiences for over 15 years through innovative partnerships and bi-national initiatives that have cultivated curious audiences on both sides of the border. Its consistent track record of sold-out performances stems from its commitment to commissioning new work, collaborating with world class artists and composers, programming engaging and thought-provoking concerts, and expanding its impact in the region through thoughtful community engagement programs. By drawing inspiration from the word *élan*, which represents vigor, style, and spirit, Art of Elan continues to engage and energize audiences in new ways.

MISSION

The mission of Art of Elan is to build community through music and enrich the cultural life of San Diego by presenting exciting and exceptional chamber music concerts, simultaneously educating and exposing diverse audiences to classical music through innovative programming, the commissioning of new works, unique performance venues and personal connections with concertgoers.

OUR TEAM



KATE HATMAKER
CO-FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR & ARTISTIC
DIRECTOR



FIONA DIGNEY
MANAGING DIRECTOR &
ARTISTIC PRODUCER



EMILY PERSINKO
PERSONNEL MANAGER &
MARKETING ASSOCIATE



ELIZABETH BROWN
ACCOUNTING &
DONOR RELATIONS
COORDINATOR



VINCE MARTINEZ
SOCIAL MEDIA
CONSULTANT



TONI ROBIN
TR|PR
PUBLIC RELATIONS

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Alan Ziter



RENEW REBIRTH REVITALIZE REENERGEIZE **REGENERATION**

2021-2022 SEASON

Art of Elan's 2021-22 season was dedicated to the revitalization of San Diego's creative community and the artists and cultural institutions it encompasses. Entitled Regeneration, the organization known for its collaborative spirit and for introducing audiences to the "edges" of classical music celebrated its 15th season with a renewed commitment to thoughtful programming and intentional community relationships.

According to co-founder and Artistic Director, Kate Hatmaker, "This special 15th season reminds us of the restorative and unifying power of the arts. It's an opportunity to re-energize our souls, revitalize our neighborhoods, and renew our commitment to lifting people up through music."

"This past Season marked the 15th Anniversary of our amazing organization, which has become a landmark in the San Diego performing arts landscape. After a two-year forced pause due to the pandemic, music lovers and concertgoers were hungry for live performances. Thanks to the talent and unbounded energy of Kate and her team, we delivered 17 unique performances in one season, most of them sold out! We enjoyed music at its best – and were proud to make our 'return' as an innovative partner to so many of the region's artists and cultural institutions."

—Claude Benchimol, 2021-2022 Board Chair

BY THE NUMBERS

7 year collaboration with
A Reason to Survive (ARTS)

26 world premieres of commissioned works

105 unique, cross-disciplinary, and collaborative productions

80 Young Artists in Harmony student compositions

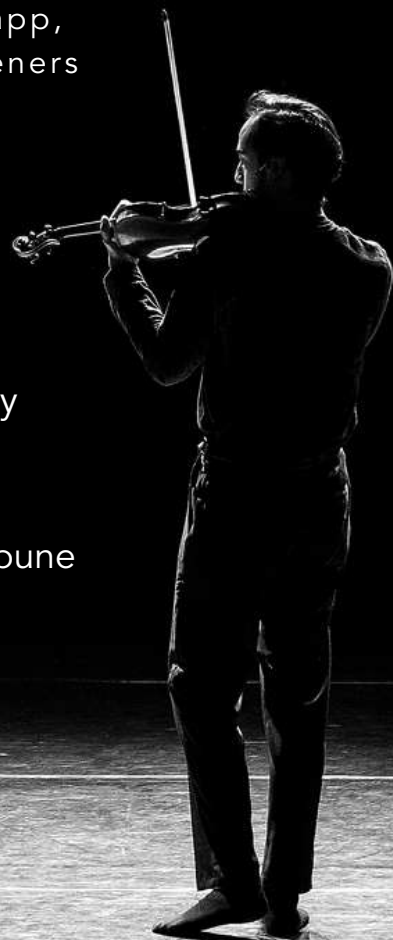
122 public concerts

365 musicians showcased

62K streams on Art of Elan's free music app,
Instant Encore, thanks to online listeners
in 28 countries

"'With Care' is one of the most exciting contemporary
dance concerts presented on a San Diego stage."

—Marcia Luttrell, San Diego Union-Tribune





Kontras Quartet at ICA North



Myriad Trio at Mingei International Museum

SEASON 15 HIGHLIGHTS

- Carlsbad Music Festival
- Musical Migrations at Mingei International Museum
- Young Artists in Harmony Spotlight Concert: Jacob Hererra and Fernanda Baltodano
- Guillermo Galindo Exhibit Activation at Lux Art Institute
- CROSSFIRE featuring Nathalie Joachim
- Art of Elan at SDMA "Evolution"
- Myriad Trio @ Mingei International Museum
- "This is America" with Johnny Gandelsman
- BaCH @ The JAI
- Art of Elan @ SDMA "Evolution"
- AMOC "With Care"
- Kontras Quartet & Friends @ ICA North
- Art of Elan @ SDMA "For the Earth"
- Two Young Artists in Harmony culminating concerts



Musical Migrations at
Mingei International Museum

This Season:

2,000+
PLUS LISTENERS

67
PIECES OF MUSIC
PERFORMED

46
FEATURED ARTISTS
including professional musicians and dancers



ART OF ELAN @ SDMA

"NOSTALGIA" ON NOVEMBER 9, 2021

In response to the "Paintings of Confinement" exhibit by San Diego-based artist Marianela de la Hoz, this concert used "nostalgia" as a lens through which to explore the musical art of modern-day composers Nico Muhly and Kaija Saariaho alongside that of war-torn Europe from the 1940s (with works by Grazyna Bacewicz and Viktor Ullmann). This program also featured the world premiere of a new work written by Art of Elan's former Director of Community Engagement Jory Herman.

"EVOLUTION" ON MARCH 10, 2022

Inspired by an exhibit by Chinese photographer Wang Qingsong, this special musical program included folk music from around the world, taking listeners on a kaleidoscopic journey through time and space with music by American composer Lou Harrison, Turkish composer Erberk Eryilmaz, and Iranian composer Aftab Darvishi, among others.

"FOR THE EARTH" ON MAY 17, 2022

As a complement to the immersive exhibit by Fernando Casasempere which pays homage to the earth and the many shifts it continues to undergo, this unique musical program brought awareness to that which is all around us, featuring the environmentally-minded music of John Luther Adams alongside more culturally focused music by Angelica Negrón and Paul Wiancko. Caroline Shaw's "Plan and Elevation" closes the concert and features the ever-dynamic Hausmann Quartet.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Generously Underwritten by:

Elaine Baldwin, Christine Baltuth, Gordon Brodfuehrer, C. Peter and Maureen Brown, Kathee Christensen*, Mary and James* Dawe, Harold and Pam Fuson, Barbara Katz, Webster Burke (Buzz) and Helen Kinnaird, Carol Lazier, Julianne and Greg Markow, Sarah B. Marsh-Rebelo and John Rebelo, Pamela McCormick, Rena Minisi, Jeanette Stevens, and Jack Thomas*

*in memoriam

Contributions to this partnership in any amount are appreciated.
Support Art of Elan concerts at the Museum with a donation to:

The San Diego Museum of Art,
Attn. Art of Elan concert series
PO Box 122107, San Diego, CA 92112-2107

1450 El Prado, Balboa Park
www.sdmart.org



CROSSFIRE: Featuring composer, flutist, and vocalist, Nathalie Joachim



CROSSFIRE WITH NATHALIE JOACHIM

Art of Elan launched this downtown series in 2011 as a "crossfire" of musical and creative ideas. On October 13, 2021, Grammy-nominated flutist, composer, and vocalist Nathalie Joachim presented the live West Coast premiere of her evening-length work for voice, flute, string quartet and electronics, titled "Fanm d'Ayiti" (Women of Haiti). The program is a celebration of some of Haiti's most iconic yet under-recognized female artists, as well as an exploration of Joachim's Haitian heritage, featuring original songs that incorporate recorded voices and recorded interviews with some of the greatest known female voices in Haitian history. This was a rare opportunity to see this rising star perform her Grammy-nominated program in collaboration with Art of Elan musicians in the stunning new Little Italy venue, Luce on Kettner.



Johnny Gandelsman at ICA Central

"THIS IS AMERICA" WITH JOHNNY GANDELSMAN

In response to the pandemic and societal turbulence of the last two years, Grammy Award-winning violinist and producer Johnny Gandelsman created "This Is America," a new commissioning and recording project featuring over twenty new works for solo violin, written by American and U.S.-based artists. Commissioned by twenty different arts organizations spread throughout the U.S., including Art of Elan, "This is America" celebrates America's rich cultural tapestry and its myriad perspectives, thoughts and ideas, offering a vivid counterpoint to the idea that this land can be understood through a singular, dominant point of view. In partnership with the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music, Art of Elan is delighted to have commissioned Adele Faizullina to compose a new piece for the project. Each composition in the anthology reflects on the current state of American society in a personal and intimate way, looking through an unflinching lens at universal topics like separation, loneliness, hope and love.



BaCH @ THE JAI

Art of Elan returned to the JAI cabaret space at The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center in La Jolla on February 14, 2022 to present Johnny Gandelsman in an epic 2-hour performance of the complete cello suites by J. S. Bach, remarkably performed on violin. This opportunity to “fall in love with Bach,” rescheduled twice due to Covid, was part of Art of Elan’s BaCH (Beyond a Concert Hall) Initiative and included a pre-concert talk given by cellist and Baroque specialist Alex Greenbaum in the Wu Tsai Courtyard.

“To write clinically of Gandelsman’s phraseology, his cadenza-like approach to tempos, or even to mention that he played the Sixth Suite, remarkably, on a five-string violin, would not relay the spell this performance cast. Weight turned into weightlessness. The music rediscovered its own origins in dance. And it seemed to speak with the naturalness of a folk song. This was an exquisitely personal vision of Bach, all radical sincerity and glinting light. The audience sat rapt for nearly two hours, until it rose as one.”

—Boston Globe

AMOC "WITH CARE"

On April 13, 2022, Art of Elan presented the American Modern Opera Company (AMOC) production "With Care," a visceral, moving work for two dancers (Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber, both former stars of the Batsheva Dance Company) and two violinists (Keir GoGwilt and Miranda Cuckson). The hour-long work investigates the dynamics of caregiving, carelessness, and loss through a theatrical fusion of dance and music. "With Care" builds on Smith's previous collaboration with GoGwilt, "A Study on Effort," the duet version of which was premiered at the Luminato Festival in 2016. The production additionally includes original music by composer and 2018 MacArthur Fellow Matthew Aucoin, a fast rising star in the music world with strong ties to San Diego. He collaborated with the San Diego Symphony and Art of Elan in January 2019 as part of their "Hearing the Future" festival and worked with Art of Elan's Young Artists in Harmony students on their musical compositions to present a multi-disciplinary performance of all new music.

Founded by Artistic Directors Zack Winokur and Matthew Aucoin, American Modern Opera Company is a multidisciplinary collective of some of the most adventurous singers, dancers, and instrumentalists at work today in the fields of contemporary and classical music and dance. "With Care" was partially funded by the City of San Diego through Horton Plaza Theatres Foundation, with additional underwriting from Gordon Brodfuehrer.



Bobbi Jean Smith (dance), Or Schraiber (dancer), Keir GoGwilt (violin), and Miranda Cuckson (violin) perform "With Care" at Lyceum Theatre

KONTRAS QUARTET & FRIENDS

On April 21, 2022 Art of Elan's former ensemble-in-residence, the Chicago-based Kontras Quartet, returned to San Diego for an evening of dynamic music-making and multimedia collaboration at ICA North. The program featured colorful music by some of today's most innovative composers, including Caroline Shaw, Jessie Montgomery, Javier Alvarez and Nathalie Joachim, as well as the world premiere of the string quartet "Hidden Mothers." Written by Boston-based composer Steven Snowden and commissioned by Art of Elan in 2019, this powerful piece reflects on the invisible sacrifices that mothers make on a regular basis. It was initially inspired by the Hidden Mother Photography trends of the 19th Century, where mothers were frequently disguised as furniture or other items in portraits in order to keep young children calm during the long exposure time. The evening also included the unveiling of a new "Sounds & Swells" project (a gorgeous pairing of classical music with high-quality surfing films) which featured the music of Felix Mendelssohn and local footage from McCracken Films and Joey Taylor Photography, dramatically captured during the bioluminescence phenomenon of March 2020. Concertgoers additionally experienced the powerful exhibit by Greg Ito: All You Can Carry.



The Kontras Quartet performing at ICA North

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FREE DAYTIME CONCERTS

This past season, Art of Elan led a series of free daytime concerts at Mingei International Museum, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego State University and the Preuss School. The performances featured affiliated artists and community engagement partners, such as the Kontras Quartet and Hausmann Quartet, as well as a special pop-up performance of students from the SDSU School of Music & Dance Tuba Ensemble.

2021-2022 SEASON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM SUPPORTERS:

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FOUNDATION**



CLARE ROSE
FOUNDATION



THE CONRAD PREBYS
FOUNDATION



YAH Spring 2022 Concert featuring students
and Art of Elan affiliated musicians



For the past seven years, Art of Elan has offered its Young Artists in Harmony program in partnership with the nationally recognized A Reason To Survive (ARTS), an organization that believes in the power of the arts and creativity to literally transform lives – especially those of kids facing adversity. Consisting of weekly workshops where students have the opportunity to be mentored by Art of Elan musicians through unique apprenticeships, the residency culminates with a collaborative concert that showcases original compositions the students create over the 10-week residency, performed by Art of Elan musicians. Each concert is professionally recorded and is available for free streaming and download on Instant Encore. This past season saw an expansion of this empowerment program to include advanced music students from The Preuss School, which serves first-generation college seekers.

SINCE 2014:

84

ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS

have been created by
Young Artists in Harmony participants

31

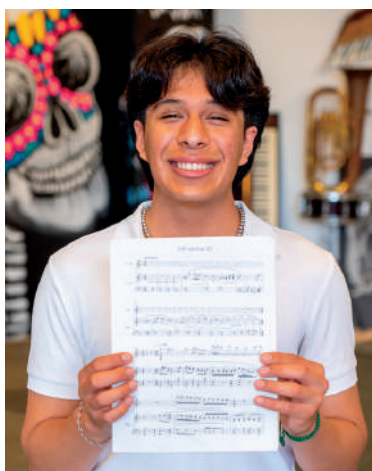
PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS

have participated as mentors and performed
works for YAH

15

SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES

served over 3,000 listeners



YAH Spring 2022 Participants (left to right): Gillian Celis, Hernán Martinez Osnaya, Liam Rodriguez, Cristian Contreas

COMMISSIONS: LUMINARY CIRCLE

As part of its mission to keep classical music exciting and relevant, Art of Elan has made a commitment since inception to commission at least one new work a year. As a result, numerous relationships have developed with both emerging and established composers, including David Bruce, Shih-Hui Chen, Lei Liang, Geoffrey Keezer, Jonathan Holland, Joseph Hallman, Kurt Stallmann, Lev “Ljova” Zhurbin, and Chris Brubeck among others. The Luminaria Circle supports these commissioning projects with membership at \$1000 that goes directly towards the creation of new works. As a Luminary, members receive unique behind-the-scenes access to rehearsals of commissioned works, as well as private events with the composer, Artistic Director and performing musicians.

Four new Art of Elan commissioned works performed during the 2021-22 season

Hidden Mothers by Steven Snowden (2020)

Commissioned by Art of Elan for the Kontras Quartet

Dew, Time, Linger by Adele Faizullina (2020)

Commissioned by Art of Elan and the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music for Johnny Gandelsmann's *This Is America* project

Precise Sentiments by Timo Andres (2020)

Commissioned by Art of Elan for the Myriad Trio

Wistfully Yours by Jory Herman (2021)

Commissioned by Art of Elan

OTHER RECENT ART OF ELAN COMMISSIONED WORKS

Two Roads by LJOVA, commissioned in 2021

Jabberwocky by Andrea González, commissioned in 2021

Starlighter by Colin Jacobsen, commissioned in 2019

Beg, Borrow, or Steal by Dan Visconti, commissioned in 2018

Bruja by Andrés Martín, commissioned in 2018

Tree Suite by Hannah Lash, commissioned in 2017

First Light by Joel P. West, commissioned in 2017

Variations on a Simple Theme by Avner Dorman, commissioned in 2017

Petal by Petal, Leaf by Leaf by Lei Liang, commissioned in 2017

Beat Suite #2 by AJ Nilles, commissioned in 2017

CLARICE ASSAD · KINAN AZMEH · LAYALE CHAKER · CHRISTINA COURTIN
OLIVIA DAVIS · NICK DUNSTON · ADELIJA FAIZULLINA · RHEA FOWLER & MIKAELA TOBIN
RHIANNON GIDDENS · MARIKA HUCHES · MAYA MIRO JOHNSON · BOJAN LOUIS
DANA LYN · ANGÉLICA NECRÓN · EBUN OGUNTOLA · TOMÉKA REID
TERRY RILEY · MATANA ROBERTS · AERYN SANTILLAN · TYSHAWN SORÉY
ANJNA SWAMINATHAN · CONRAD TAO · AKSHAYA TUCKER · KOJIRO UMEZAKI

THIS IS AMERICA
AN ANTHOLOGY
2020-2021

COMMISSIONED AND
PERFORMED BY
JOHNNY GANDELSMAN

25

ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS

commissioned by Art of Elan
between 2009 and 2022

LUMINARIA CIRCLE
2021-2022 MEMBERS

Claude Benchimol,
Gordon Bodfuehrer,
James Chute,
Deborah Pate and John Forrest,
Hal and Pam Fuson,
Barbara Katz, Jennifer Luce
Greg Markow, Cynthia Obadia
Peter Otto,
James Robbins and Jill Esterbrooks,
Jeanette Stevens

Dew, Time, Linger by Adele Faizullina
was co-commissioned by Art of Elan



Timo Andres works with the Myriad Trio
during rehearsal for the San Diego premiere
of "Precise Sentiments"



Steven Snowden talks about his new work
"Hidden Mothers" at ICA North



Jory Herman, bassist and composer



HELP US BROADEN OUR IMPACT

Even a small donation will help Art of Elan fulfill its mission of building community through music.

Art of Elan is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and, as such, all contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Tax ID: 20-8136710

Donations can be made online at www.artofelan.org, and are also gratefully accepted at:

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6165 Radcliffe Dr
San Diego, CA 92122

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Rumley Music and Audio Production

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start listening



ART OF ELAN AFFILIATED ARTISTS

2021-2022 SEASON

Abraham Martin, viola
Alex Greenbaum, cello
Andrew Hayhurst, cello
Andrew Watkins, percussion
Angela Choong, viola
Batya MacAdam-Somer, violin
Ben Weber, viola
Bobbi Jean Smith, dance
Che-Yen Chen, viola
Chia-Ling Chien, cello
David Rich, teaching artist
Demarre McGill, flute
Diego Rodriguez, teaching artist
Eleanor Bartsch, violin
Erin Douglas Dowrey, percussion
Ethan Pernela, viola
Fiona Digney, percussion
Francois Henkins, violin
Frank Renk, clarinet
Hanah Stuart, viola
Isaac Allen, violin
Jason Karlyn, viola
Jean Hatmaker, cello
Jeremy Kurtz-Harris, double bass

Jing Yan Bowcott, violin
Joanna Morrison, cello
Johnny Gandelsman, violin
Joshua Rubin, clarinet
Julia Pautz, violin
Julie Smith Philips, harp
Kate Hatmaker, violin
Keir GoGwilt, violin
Kenneth Liao, violin
Kyle Adam Blair, piano
Michael Jones, percussion
Miranda Cuckson, violin
Nathalie Joachim, flute/vocals/electronics
Nathan Walhout, cello
Or Schraiber, dance
Pei-Chun Tsai, violin
P.J. Cinque, double bass
Rose Lombardo, flute
Stephanie Richards, trumpet
Terri Tunnickliff, clarinet
Tina Chong, piano
Travis Maril, viola
Wesley Precourt, violin
Yumi Cho, violin



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