




# ART *of* ELAN

2020-21 COLLECTIVE IMPACT REPORT

 Commission for  
Arts and Culture



 CALIFORNIA  
ARTS COUNCIL  
A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

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CO-FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR & ARTISTIC  
DIRECTOR



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MANAGING  
DIRECTOR



**EMILY PERSINKO**  
MARKETING  
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**ELIZABETH BROWN**  
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## A MESSAGE FROM CO-FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

What a year it's been! Like all arts organizations, we've done our fair share of "pivoting" and adjusting (and readjusting) to the ever-changing pandemic regulations. We hope you've joined us for some of the initiatives from this past "Transformations" season, as there was much to be proud of. From our online offerings of "living room Bach" to our walk-about Musical Migrations, our dedicated team has continually found creative ways to bring live music to San Diego, as well as online listeners everywhere, thanks to our social media platforms and FREE Art of Elan app. More recently we were able to offer two in-person (outdoor) concerts: one at Lux Art Institute in Encinitas this past April, and the other in the sculpture garden at the San Diego Museum of Art in early May. Both events were sold out and felt soul-renewing for our musicians and capacity audiences.

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 14th season to transforming our community's expectations and experiences, as well as providing a bit of inspiration during these challenging times. In the coming weeks we will announce our 15th Anniversary Season, "Regeneration," which will explore how we can all play a role in the renewal and revitalization of our artists, our cultural institutions, our neighborhoods, even our souls. With a renewed commitment to thoughtful, relevant programming and intentional community relationships, this special 15th season aims to remind us of the restorative and unifying power of the arts. We hope you'll join us for the journey!

Warmly,

Kate Hatmaker

# ABOUT ART OF ELAN

Known for its collaborative spirit, Art of Elan has been pioneering unique events and bringing exciting classical music to diverse audiences for over 14 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 momentum, 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.



Concert Photos by Gary Payne Photography

A photograph of two violinists performing outdoors at night. They are wearing dark suits and face masks. The scene is illuminated by warm string lights hanging from trees in the background. The violinists are positioned on the left side of the frame, with their instruments and bows visible. A microphone stand is positioned in front of them. The overall atmosphere is intimate and artistic.

# BY THE NUMBERS

**6** year collaboration with  
A Reason to Survive (ARTS)

**23** world premieres of commissioned works

**93** unique, cross-disciplinary and collaborative  
productions

**67** Young Artists in Harmony student  
compositions

**105** public concerts

**357** musicians showcased

**60K** streams on Art of Elan's free music app,  
Instant Encore, thanks to online listeners  
in 28 countries



# SEASON 14 HIGHLIGHTS

- Musical Migrations
- Virtual SDMA + Art of Elan
- Reflections, a full-length concert film in partnership with The San Diego Museum of Art (SDMA)
- Bits and Pieces, a world premiere film in collaboration with pipa virtuoso, Wu Man, and The Knights Orchestra
- Open Air, a livestreamed concert at SDMA
- Art of Elan @ Lux Art Institute
- Impressions @ SDMA
- Young Artists in Harmony
- Jam Sessions

# SEASON 14: TRANSFORMATIONS

"Transformations is a season-long journey of discovery--one that offers up opportunity for real growth. As artists and people, we have seen our world completely transform over these past several months and it is now our moment to effect real change." -Kate Hatmaker

This Season:

5,000

PLUS LISTENERS

51

PIECES OF MUSIC  
PERFORMED

including 2 world premieres  
by Andrea González and  
LJOVA

37

FEATURED ARTISTS

including professional  
musicians and dancers



## MUSICAL MIGRATIONS

Art of Elan's innovative 14th season began with a series of Musical Migrations. Similar to progressive dinners where different courses are served at different houses, these short musical performances activated the North Park, La Jolla, and East Village neighborhoods of San Diego in a walkabout-style that allowed for 8-10 audience members at specific houses or sites where a small group of musicians will be stationed. Musical Migrations gets the audience moving around a specific neighborhood, usually walking 1-2 blocks between each performance "venue."



Top: Musical Migrations ambassador leads audience group to their next performance location  
Bottom: Sarah Skuster (oboe) performs in La Jolla and Rebecca Lloyd-Jones (percussion) performs in East Village

# ART OF ELAN @ SDMA

## REFLECTIONS

Art of Elan's 14th season at The San Diego Museum of Art (SDMA) opened with "Reflections," a thought-provoking cinematic program that explores the bizarre and complex world of twins and multiples as viewed through the lens of photographer and documentarian Mary Ellen Mark. This concert-length film explored the colorful world of music, art and dance as Art of Elan transformed the Museum into a creative playground, activating different galleries with music, dancers, and a variety of unique reflections.

## VIRTUAL SDMA + ART OF ELAN SERIES

Virtual SDMA + Art of Elan is a series of short online experiences pairing The San Diego Museum of Art permanent collection with the thoughtfully curated music of Art of Elan. Building on the 13-year partnership between the two arts organizations, the video series features short musical responses to works of art that are meant to inspire and uplift the community.

**"I was inspired to pair 'Notre Dame' by Maximilien Luce and Claude Debussy's 'Syrinx' because they both transcend the subject matters that inspired them. The viewer of this painting doesn't have to actually be familiar with the magnificent Notre Dame to appreciate the beauty of this painting and in Debussy's piece, one doesn't have to be familiar with the actual story of the work to appreciate this beautiful example of Impressionism in music."**

**—Demarre McGill, Virtual SDMA + performer**



Demarre McGill, Co-founder of Art of Elan and principal flutist with Seattle Symphony



Yumi Cho (violin), Kenneth Liao (violin), Hanah Stuart (viola), Jason Karlyn (viola), and Joanna Morrison (cello) perform at "Impressions"



## OPEN AIR

Inspired by The San Diego Museum of Art's "Open Air" exhibit which included the great sculptural works of Rodin, Zurbaran and Miro, this one-hour concert program took place outdoors in the May S. Marcy Sculpture Garden at the Museum, encouraging listeners to truly engage with the open air and the transformations that can take place in nature over the course of an hour.

## IMPRESSIONS

Gerald Finzi's "Interlude" for string quartet and oboe and the "Phantasy Quintet" by Ralph Vaughan Williams helped create the lush sound world of this intimate concert that paid homage to the Impressionist movement of the art world. Works by Debussy and Jean Francaix rounded out the program.

## IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

1450 El Prado, Balboa Park  
[www.sdmart.org](http://www.sdmart.org)



Generously Underwritten by:

Elaine Baldwin, Christine Baltuth, Gordon Brodfuehrer, C. Peter and Maureen Brown, Harold and Pam Fuson, Shanti Gurumurthy, Webster Burke (Buzz) and Helen Kinnaird, Carol Lazier, Judy McDonald, and Jeanette Stevens

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



Julie Smith Phillips (harp) performs at "Open Air"

# COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

## BITS & PIECES

Commissioned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Department of Musical Instruments, this world premiere video was co-produced by Art of Elan and the critically acclaimed New York-based orchestra, The Knights. The resulting 10-minute video features a choreographed performance with string quintet, dancer Maile Okamura, and Wu Man, the world's premiere pipa virtuoso. The performance, entitled Bits and Pieces, was inspired by famed American composer Lou Harrison's Concerto for Pipa, which was originally written for Wu Man in 1997.

## ART OF ELAN @ LUX

This concert program featured the colorful folk music of Polish composer Grażyna Bacewicz and Turkish composer Erberk Eryilmaz, as well as the world premiere of an Art of Elan commissioned work by New York composer LJOVA (Lev Zhurbin), written during the pandemic for Artistic Director Kate Hatmaker and cellist Alex Greenbaum. The program closed with a special collaboration with dancers from DISCO RIOT, performing alongside violinist Kate Hatmaker to bring to life the haunting melodies of Jessie Montgomery's "Rhapsody No. 1 for solo violin."



Wu Man (pipa) and Maile Okamura (dancer) in "Bits & Pieces"



Julia Pautz (violin) and Andrew Watkins (percussion) perform at "Art of Elan @ Lux"

"The recent concert in Lux Art Institute's beautifully landscaped gardens was both safe and sensational! With exhilarating folk music and commissioned new works combining music, art and dance, it was a unique and transcending experience. What a perfect way to re-enter the world of in-person events!"

--Jeanette Stevens, concertgoer

# HELP US BROADEN OUR IMPACT IN THE REGION

Even a small donation will help Art of Elan to 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](http://www.artofelan.org), and are also gratefully accepted at:

Art of Elan  
6165 Radcliffe Dr  
San Diego, CA 92122

Scan the QR Code to Make  
a Donation Today



Art of Elan records and shares audio from concerts for FREE on InstantEncore so you never have to miss the music. Download our free Art of Elan app to listen the fast, easy way.

Find the music at:  
[www.instantencore.com/artofelan](http://www.instantencore.com/artofelan)

Scan the Code to Start Listening



**2020-2021  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT PARTNERS:**

A Reason to Survive (ARTS)  
The Preuss School  
Hausmann Quartet  
San Diego Rescue Mission

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## JAM SESSIONS

Art of Elan community engagement partners, the Hausmann Quartet, have been leading Jam Sessions at the San Diego Rescue Mission weekly this past spring. The Jam Sessions utilize collaborative music-making to encourage adult participants transitioning out of homelessness to engage and connect by actively making music. The Jam Sessions combine string quartet repertoire with wellness activities designed by the music therapy organization Resounding Joy.

## 2020-2021 SEASON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM SUPPORTERS:



CLARE ROSE  
FOUNDATION



THE CONRAD PREBYS  
FOUNDATION

## THE SCHOENITH FOUNDATION

"Thanks to the creativity, the talent, and especially the enthusiastic commitment of our team and of our Board, Art of Elan is emerging from this long winter stronger and more determined than ever to expand its impact on the artistic life of San Diego. Our upcoming 15th Anniversary Season promises to be as exciting as ever, with impactful community engagement programs and a multitude of colorful concerts. We are ready to play our part in the San Diego renaissance, and look forward to seeing you at an event soon."

—Claude Benchimol, 2020-2021 Board Chair





For the past six 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:

72

ORIGINAL  
COMPOSITIONS

have been created by  
Young Artists in Harmony  
participants

31

PROFESSIONAL  
MUSICIANS

have participated as mentors  
and performed works for YAH

12

SHOWCASE  
PERFORMANCES

served over 3,000 listeners



**“YAH is really different from other programs I’ve done - instead of just playing music, writing music really turns the tables on how students and professional musicians can interact. I liked it better than other programs because YAH is more of a relaxed and diverse group of people from different creative backgrounds coming together to express how they feel in the form of written music.”**

**—Jesse Terrado, 2020 YAH participant**

## CONRAD PREBYS FOUNDATION GRANT RECIPIENT

“We are honored and humbled to be among the 114 grantees in this inaugural grant cycle who represent the breadth and depth of impactful engagement work being done in our community during these extremely challenging times. This tremendous outpouring of support from The Conrad Prebys Foundation is both inspiring and motivating. It will allow us to continue and expand upon our work in collaboration with A Reason To Survive (ARTS) to engage South Bay students in our Young Artists in Harmony music composition program. Empowering future generations has never felt more important and we are grateful to the foundation for investing in this shared vision.” —Kate Hatmaker

# 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.

This past season featured the world premiere of "Jabberwocky," created by Mexican composer and multimedia artist Andrea González, as well as "Two Roads," commissioned by Art of Elan and written by the New York-based composer LJOVA during the pandemic. This colorful two-movement work was performed in the outdoor gardens of the Lux Art Institute Education Pavillion by Art of Elan cellist Alex Greenbaum and violinist Kate Hatmaker this past April.

# 23

## ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS

commissioned by Art of Elan  
between 2009 and 2021

## LUMINARIA CIRCLE 2020-2021 MEMBERS

Gordon Bodfuehrer  
Kathleen Carla  
Hal and Pam Fuson  
Deborah Pate and John Forrest  
James Robbins and Jill Esterbrooks  
Jeanette Stevens



# Recent Commissioned Works

- *Two Roads* by LJOVA, commissioned in 2021
- *Jabberwocky* by Andrea González, commissioned in 2021
- *Hidden Mothers* by Steven Snowden commissioned in 2020
- *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





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