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2021-2022 SEASON

FOR THE EARTH

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 | 7PM
THE SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART

COMMUNITY THROUGH MUSIC



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 vigor, style, and spirit, Art of Elan continues to engage and energize audiences in new ways.

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If you enjoyed this concert tonight, please join our Art of Elan family of supporters. Contributions of any kind are much appreciated, as even \$25 can help us continue to provide impactful and transformative concerts. We believe that with our energy, innovative programming ideas, and genuine desire to share classical music with a wider audience, we can help create a vibrant cultural community for San Diego and beyond.

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

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Concert photography by
Gary Payne

PROGRAM

The Farthest Place.....*John Luther Adams*

*Kenneth Liao, violin
Erin Douglas Dowrey, percussion
Fiona Digney, percussion
Jeremy Kurtz-Harris, double bass
Tina Chong, piano*

American Haiku.....*Paul Wiancko*

- I. Far Away*
- II. In Transit*
- III. Home*

*Ethan Pernela, viola
Joanna Morrison, cello*

Marejada.....*Angélica Negrón*

Hausmann Quartet

Plan & Elevation.....*Caroline Shaw*

- I. The Ellipse*
- II. The Cutting Garden*
- III. The Herbaceous Border*
- IV. The Orangery*
- V. The Beech Tree*

Hausmann Quartet



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INSPIRATION



Fernando Casasempere, *Diaspora, Salares* (works on wall), 2019. China ink and clay on felt.
Fernando Casasempere, *Diaspora, Mortars* (works on floor), 2018. Black stoneware and different minerals. Photograph from TERRA at The San Diego Museum of Art. Lent by the artist.

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“If we can imagine a culture and a society in which we each feel more deeply responsible for our own place in the world, then we just may be able to bring that culture and that society into being.”

– John Luther Adams

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PROGRAM NOTES

JOHN LUTHER ADAMS: THE FARTHEST PLACE (2001)

For John Luther Adams (b. 1953), music is a lifelong search for home—an invitation to slow down, pay attention, and remember our place within the larger community of life on earth. Living for almost 40 years in northern Alaska, Adams discovered a unique musical world grounded in space, stillness, and elemental forces. In the 1970s and into the '80s, he worked full time as an environmental activist. But the time came when he felt compelled to dedicate himself entirely to music. He made this choice with the belief that, ultimately, music can do more than politics to change the world. Since that time, he has become one of the most widely admired composers in the world, receiving the Pulitzer Prize, a Grammy Award, and many other honors.

The Farthest Place is the English translation for the name of a small Inuit village in Alaska. Scored for violin, double bass, marimba, vibraphone, and piano, this is a quiet and ethereal piece. Everyone has a farthest place, redolent of nostalgia, and this piece takes the listener there.

PAUL WIANCKO: AMERICAN HAIKU (2014)

The music of Paul Wiancko (b. 1983) has been described as "dazzling" and "compelling" (Star Tribune), "vital pieces that avoid the predictable" (Allan Kozinn), in which "gestural stabs and interlocking melodies swirl and gel, revealing a wealth of colors and textures" (Pop Matters). Chosen as one of Kronos Quartet's "50 for the Future," Wiancko has been composer-in-residence at Caramoor, Spoleto USA, Twickenham, Newburyport, Portland, Angel Fire, and Methow Valley Festivals. He has written for the Aizuri, Parker, St. Lawrence, Kronos, and Attacca Quartets, yMusic, Alexi Kenney, Ayane Kozasa, Tessa Lark, Michael Thurber, among many others. Wiancko's quartet LIFT is featured on the Aizuri Quartet's Grammy-nominated album *Blueprinting*, one of NPR's top 10 classical albums of 2018.

American Haiku is a richly textured duo that incorporates Appalachian fiddling, percussive patterns, and Japanese folk-inspired melodies. Premiered by Ayane Kozasa and Paul Wiancko at the S&R Foundation on October 24, 2014.

ANGÉLICA NEGRÓN: MAREJADA (2020)

Puerto Rican-born composer and multi-instrumentalist Angélica Negrón (b. 1981) writes music for accordions, robotic instruments, toys, and electronics as well as for chamber ensembles, orchestras, choir, and film. Negrón has been commissioned by the Bang on a Can All-Stars, Kronos Quartet, loadbang, Prototype Festival, Brooklyn Youth Chorus, Sō Percussion, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Opera Philadelphia, the Louisville Orchestra and the New York Botanical Garden, among others. Angélica received an early education in piano and violin at the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico where she later studied composition under the guidance of composer Alfonso Fuentes. She holds a master's degree in music composition from New York University where she studied with Pedro da Silva and pursued doctoral studies at The Graduate Center (CUNY), where she studied composition with Tania León. Also active as an educator, Angélica is currently a teaching artist for New York Philharmonic's Very Young Composers program.

"When Kronos approached me in March 2020 to write a piece for them to rehearse and perform together during this difficult moment of social isolation, I wanted to create something playful and rhythmic yet flexible and malleable that would be fun to put together. Something that responded directly to the challenges during this time of performing music together while not being able to be together in the same room. But also, something that took into consideration the limitations of the video communications platforms and use those challenges as compositional material and creative impulse. The natural delay, the canceling of sound frequencies and the inability for everyone to fully play together at the same time and in perfect synchronization, are all challenges that I decided to embrace as unique elements that make this piece thrive even within the limitations of the medium. Marejada is an invitation to sonically escape from your room and to actively imagine and immerse yourself in a different place and time."

— Angélica Negrón

CAROLINE SHAW: PLAN AND ELEVATION (2015)


Caroline Shaw (b. 1982) is a New York-based musician who performs in solo and collaborative projects. She is the youngest recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Music, which she received in 2013. She is a member of the Grammy Award-winning vocal group Roomful of Teeth and has commissioned pieces for a wide variety of orchestras and ensembles.

"I have always loved drawing the architecture around me when traveling, and some of my favorite lessons in musical composition have occurred by chance in my drawing practice over the years. While writing a string quartet to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Dumbarton Oaks, I returned to these essential ideas of space and proportion — to the challenges of trying to represent them on paper. The title, Plan & Elevation, refers to two standard ways of representing architecture — essentially an orthographic, or 'bird's eye,' perspective ('plan'), and a side view which features more ornamental detail ('elevation'). This binary is also a gentle metaphor for one's path in any endeavor — often the actual journey and results are quite different (and perhaps more elevated) than the original plan."

— Caroline Shaw

MUSICIAN BIOS


HAUSMANN QUARTET



The Hausmann Quartet has established itself as an integral part of the cultural life of Southern California since its arrival in San Diego in 2010. As faculty Artists-in-Residence at San Diego State University they teach and organize the chamber music program, engage in interdisciplinary collaborations with other departments and visit local schools for concerts and clinics on behalf of the School of Music and Dance. Their latest endeavor is Haydn Voyages: Music at the Maritime, a quarterly concert series on a historic ferry boat exploring the string quartet repertoire through Haydn's quartet cycle. They have pioneered interactive programs for students, adult amateur musicians and homeless and perform throughout North America and Asia.


The members of the Hausmann Quartet are violinists Isaac Allen and Bram Goldstein, violist Angela Choong, and cellist Alex Greenbaum. The quartet is named after Robert Hausmann, the eminent 19th-century German cellist and founding member of the Joachim Quartet.

KENNETH LIAO, VIOLIN




Violinist Kenneth Liao joined the San Diego Symphony in 2019 after spending two seasons as a Fellow with the New World Symphony. Born in Maryland, Mr. Liao received his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Southern California, where he studied with Midori Goto, and subsequently completed a Master of Music degree at The Juilliard School under the tutelage of David Chan. Prior to moving to San Diego, Mr. Liao served as acting associate concertmaster of the Des Moines Metro Opera, and also performed as concertmaster with the New World Symphony, Juilliard Orchestra, Pacific Music Festival, and the Academy Festival Orchestra at the Music Academy of the West. He has been a substitute musician with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and the Britt Festival Orchestra, and appeared in ensemble and solo performances at venues including Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Hall, the Kennedy Center, Suntory Hall, and Sapporo Concert Hall Kitara, among others.

ERIN DOUGLAS DOWREY, PERCUSSION



A native of Buffalo, New York, Erin Douglas Dowrey began his music studies in percussion at the age of four. After studying with Mark Hodges for nine years, he attended Carnegie Mellon University for his Bachelor of Music degree. Following his time at Carnegie Mellon, he attended Temple University for his Master's degree, studying under Alan Abel and Chris Deviney. Prior to his appointment with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra in 2013, Mr. Dowrey attended the Tanglewood Music Festival in 2012 and the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival in 2013. He has also performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic, the Erie Philharmonic, the West Virginia Symphony, and Symphony in C. Erin Dowrey's other honors include 2nd Place and 3rd Place in the Atlanta Snare Drum Competition in 2010 and 2011 respectively, as well as 1st Prize Absolute in the Italy Percussion Competition (Snare Drum division group B) in 2011.

FIONA DIGNEY, PERCUSSION



Fiona is an Australian-born percussionist, producer, and educator who holds both education and performance degrees including a doctorate degree in percussion performance from UCSD. As Artistic Producer for international music residencies, Fiona has had the honor of working with the ICEnsemble, JACK Quartet, George Lewis, Peter Sellars, John Adams, and Tyshawn Sorey, among others. Fiona is also the executive producer and artistic administrator for the Ojai Music Festival.



JEREMY KURTZ-HARRIS, DOUBLE BASS

San Diego Symphony Principal Bassist Jeremy Kurtz-Harris is a musician who loves performing in a variety of settings. In addition to performing with the San Diego Symphony and San Diego Opera, he also was Acting Associate Principal Bass with San Francisco Symphony for the 2015-16 season while on sabbatical from San Diego. He has also played guest principal bass with the Australian Chamber Orchestra and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. Kurtz-Harris is an avid proponent of the double bass as a solo instrument. He regularly works with composers and has commissioned multiple works for the instrument. In addition to his work as a performer, Mr. Kurtz-Harris is an active pedagogue. He has been the classical bass teacher at San Diego State University since 2006, and has taught master classes in the U.S., Mexico, and Australia.



TINA CHONG, PIANO

Pianist Tina Chong is a sought-after recitalist and chamber musician in North America. Since her orchestral debut at the age of nine, Tina has appeared as a guest soloist with orchestras throughout the world including the Calgary Philharmonic, Brazilian Symphony Orchestra, and Mississippi Symphony Orchestra. Under the management of Jeunesses Musicales du Canada, Tina has gone on several whirlwind concert tours throughout Canada. Her recital career has also brought her to the Kennedy Center, the Sala Chopin, and the National Arts Centre. She is a prizewinner of the Montreal International Musical Competition, Canadian Music Competition, Jacques Klein Piano Competition, and Aspen Music Festival Competition. Tina received her B.M. at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and her M.M. and D.M. at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music. Her primary mentors include Arnaldo Cohen, Angela Cheng, and Menahem Pressler. Tina is a recipient of multiple artistic grants from the Canada Council for the Arts. A native of Banff, Canada, Tina currently serves on faculty at San Diego State University and plays regularly with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra.



ETHAN PERNELA, VIOLA

A native of Oregon, Ethan Pernela joined the viola section of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra in spring of 2015. In 2007, Mr. Pernela won a viola position in the Honolulu Symphony under the baton of Andreas Delfs. He has performed with the Saint Louis Symphony, Portland Symphony, World Symphony Orchestra of Korea, Aspen Festival Orchestra, Verbier Chamber Orchestra and the Verbier Festival Orchestra. Ethan also performed in many festivals, including Yellow Barn, Taos School of Music, Kneisel Hall, Musicorda and the Interlochen Center for the Arts, and has worked with many of the world's premier conductors, including Charles Dutoit, Zubin Mehta, Esa-Pekka Salonen, David Robertson, David Zinman, Manfred Honeck and Michael Tilson Thomas. He completed his Bachelor of Music, Master of Music and Graduate Diploma with honors at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, where he studied with James Dunham and Martha Katz.



JOANNA MORRISON, CELLO

A native of Orlando, Florida, cellist Joanna Morrison completed her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music Degrees at Boston University studying under Leslie Parnas and George Neikrug. In 2007 Ms. Morrison won a position in the Honolulu Symphony and served as principal cello of the Hawaii Symphony from 2012 to 2015. An avid chamber player, Ms. Morrison has collaborated with artists including Jon Kimura Parker, Chee-Yun Kim, Joyce Yang and Thomas Sauer and has studied under members of the Guarneri and Juilliard Quartets. While in Hawaii, Ms. Morrison was a member of Chamber Music Hawaii's Galliard String Quartet and the Ebb and Flow Arts modern ensemble. She has received fellowships to summer festivals around the world. In recent summers Ms. Morrison has been on faculty at the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival and participated in the Britt Festival in Oregon.

IN CELEBRATION OF TONI ROBIN

Tonight's performance celebrates Toni Robin of TR/PR Public Relations and Marketing, who has faithfully served Art of Elan as Public Relations Consultant from 2008-2022. During her tenure, Toni has helped transform the organization into an innovative and impactful influencer of arts and culture by securing extensive media coverage and crafting imaginative marketing plans, communications and branding strategies. We will miss her dynamic contributions to our marketing meetings, but are excited for her new chapter as Art of Elan Advisory Board member. We are so grateful for all that she has helped us achieve!



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