



ART OF ELAN

2019-20

Collective Impact Report



SD Commission for
Arts and Culture

CALIFORNIA
ARTS COUNCIL
A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

Known for its collaborative spirit, Art of Elan has been pioneering unique events and bringing exciting classical music to diverse audiences for over 12 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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Dear friends,

What strange times we find ourselves in.

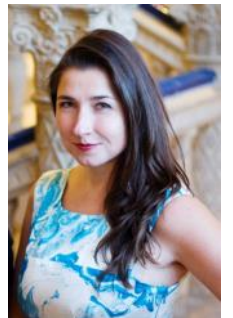
Like all arts organizations, COVID19 caused Art of Elan to cease presenting and organizing public events and concerts in March. But I still vividly remember the feeling of standing at the end of our March 10th concert at the San Diego Museum of Art, wondering if it would be the last time for awhile that I would receive applause from a live audience and be able to feel the energy of my musician colleagues. Turns out it was to be the last time.

In the weeks (and months) that followed, we attempted to move many of our offerings online. We created a Virtual SDMA + Art of Elan summer concert series that aims to inspire and uplift our community through musical responses to incredible works of art in the museum's collection. We've offered up segments of "Living Room Bach"--a both humbling and soul-renewing process. And while we are proud to report that several of our Community Engagement initiatives (particularly our Young Artists in Harmony composition program) have continued in an online format during these challenging times, it has taken additional (non-budgeted) resources to be able to pivot and restructure those programs to ensure that each student and teaching artist has adequate materials to succeed in this new format. Inequities have been made ever more clear in these last three months.

In spite of all this, we are still trying to find ways to stay true to our mission, while adapting to the "new normal" that seems to be hanging around for longer than anyone initially thought. We are looking forward to a time when we can all come together in person to celebrate the success stories of these past few months. But we are also strategizing about ways to present live music in person this fall, even if it's just for tiny audiences of 10-20 people at a time. Our desire to build community through music has never felt more important than it does right now, so we will continue to innovate and embrace the diversity that has made San Diego such a vibrant cultural ecosystem. Stay tuned!

With gratitude,

Kate Hatmaker
Co-Founder and Executive/Artistic Director
Art of Élan



“Professional classical musicians, cutting-edge compositions....Art of Elan presents adventurous chamber music in unique venues.”

—San Diego Union-Tribune



“Art of Elan, the San Diego nonprofit, is known for its pioneering chamber music concerts...”

—Times of San Diego



Art of Elan's 13th season, titled Hear & Now, focused on contemporary culture and the importance of cultural context in uniting an increasingly diverse, complex, and changing world. The timeless music of J. S. Bach weaves in and out of a season that highlighted music from a wide variety of composers and time periods, including several San Diego premieres. The San Diego Museum of Art concert series included two free pop-up performances in addition to three gallery seated concerts that showcase the music of Missy Mazzoli, Darius Milhaud, Claude Debussy, and J. S. Bach, among others.

Partnering Institutions Included:

- A Reason To Survive (ARTS)
- Lux Art Institute
- Mira Mesa High School
- Preuss School
- San Diego Art Institute
- San Diego Museum of Art
- San Diego Rescue Mission
- San Diego State University
- Sweetwater Union High School District



The BaCH Initiative

3-year project is designed to bring the beauty and transportive power of Bach to a variety of unexpected and adventurous settings.

Art of Elan @ The Trolley | SDSU Transit Center



The Aztec Trombone and Euphonium Choir performed beautiful Chorales by Johann Sebastian Bach for unsuspecting passengers at the SDSU Trolley Station.

Moon Viewing Pop-up Concert | Mt. Soledad

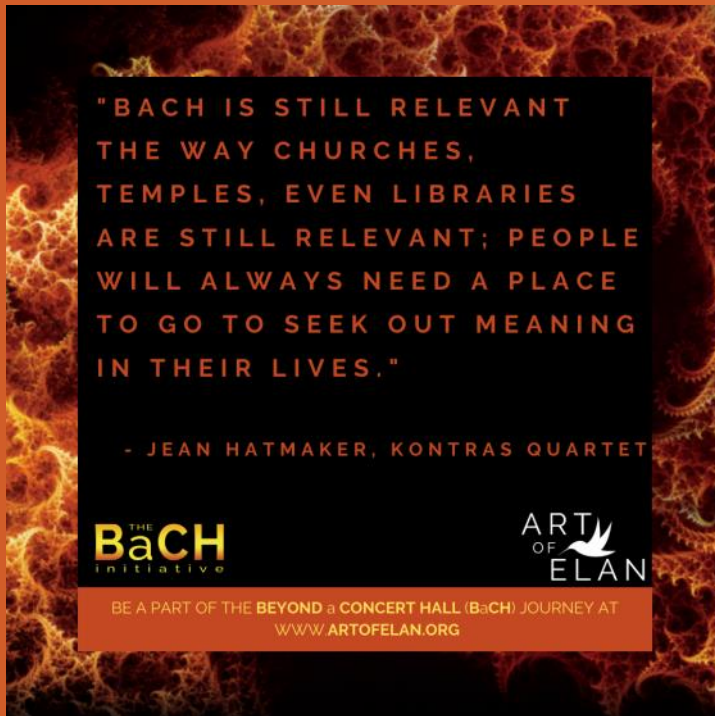


Percussionist Fiona Digney and cellist Alex Greenbaum charmed passersby with solo Bach interspersed with the meditative sounds of Peter Garland's Moon Viewing Music. This gorgeous piece for four gongs was paired with six haikus on the moon, and audiences were treated with the spectacular sounds of the cello and gongs as the sun set in the West, and the full moon rose in the East.

In Spite of All This | San Diego Museum of Art



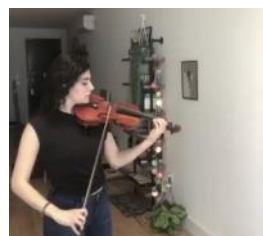
As part of the newly-launched "BaCH Initiative," Art of Elan opened this special concert with Bach's second sonata for unaccompanied violin, followed by innovative works by contemporary composers Andy Akiho, David Lang, and Missy Mazzoli and also included a special pre-concert performance by Mira Mesa High School orchestra students.






#BeyondAConcertHall

On March 23, internationally renowned violinist Johnny Gandelsman was to invite listeners to join him on an epic 2-hour journey to explore the complete suites for unaccompanied cello by J. S. Bach, performed on violin. Johnny Gandelsman shared daily recordings of Bach's suites with Art of Elan's virtual community, which inspired musicians to share their BaCH sessions at home using the hashtag #beyondaconcerthall.



"IN BACH'S CELLO SUITES I SEE AN IMPLICATION FOR INFINITE POSSIBILITIES, THE WAY AN INCREDIBLE IMPROVISER CAN FIND ENDLESS VARIATION WITHIN A SIMPLE FORM."
-JOHNNY GANDELSMAN, VIOLINIST




THE **BaCH** initiative

ART OF ELAN

BE A PART OF THE BEYOND a CONCERT HALL (BaCH) JOURNEY AT WWW.ARTOFELAN.ORG

"STUDY BACH. THERE YOU WILL FIND EVERYTHING."
-JOHANNES BRAHMS



THE **BaCH** initiative

ART OF ELAN

BE A PART OF THE BEYOND a CONCERT HALL (BaCH) JOURNEY AT WWW.ARTOFELAN.ORG

YOUNG ARTISTS IN HARMONY (YAH)

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 two multidisciplinary and collaborative concerts that showcase 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 (www.instantencore.com/artofelan).

During these uncertain times, we are proud to report that several of our Community Engagement initiatives (YAH in particular) have successfully continued in an online format. Weekly workshops and one-on-one mentoring sessions have allowed us to do a deeper dive with these gifted young people, and we look forward to the time when we can come together in person to celebrate our success stories.

About ARTS!

ARTS | A Reason To Survive is a nationally recognized organization that believes in the power of the arts and creativity to literally transform lives— especially those of youth facing major life challenges. Multidisciplinary arts programs provided in a specially equipped 20,000 square-foot ARTS Center include a Music Room, Media Arts Lab, Performing Arts Space, Painting Studio, Mixed Media Studio, Ceramics Studio, the Industrial Arts and an ARTS Gallery. For more information on ARTS, please visit www.areasonstosurvive.org



DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS :

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- California Arts Council
- County of San Diego, Supervisor Greg Cox
- City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture



“Doing these workshops has been a way for me to express myself without words.”

**-Jaidy Leyva, 14-year-old
Young Artists in Harmony participant**



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

This season's Young Artist in Harmony fall residency included a multi-disciplinary collaboration between Art of Elan, The Holyfield, and the San Diego Art Institute to explore creativity, deep listening, and mindfulness in today's world. During a free youth workshop, The Holyfield and Young Artists in Harmony students joined for an engaging afternoon centered on the cultivation of mindfulness through classical music-making and Hip Hop. Enriching creative practice through music and meditation, this event included interactive demonstrations in beat-making and songwriting as well as a gong meditation.

A special showcase concert featured the diverse pieces of music composed by the youth in the Young Artists in Harmony program and performed by Art of Elan musicians, as well as the remixes created with the Holyfield, including a rap performance by Real J & DNYKAY (Holyfield), also in collaboration with Art of Elan musicians.



By the Numbers

- **6** year collaboration with A Reason to Survive (ARTS)
- **21** world premieres of commissioned works
- **31** unique, cross-disciplinary and collaborative productions
- **61** Young Artists in Harmony student compositions
- **100** public concerts
- **352** musicians showcased
- Over **55,000** streams on Art of Elan's free music app, Instant Encore, thanks to online listeners in **28** countries



Colin Jacobsen
Starlighter commissioned in 2019



Jonathan Holland
Americana commissioned in 2012



Shih-Hui Chen
Returning Souls commissioned in 2014

Luminaria 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 Directors and performing musicians.

Last season featured a Colin Jacobsen work, "Starlighter", a quintet co-commissioned with La Jolla Music Society and performed in their new performing arts space, The Conrad, by Brooklyn Rider, and clarinetist, Kinan Azmeh.



INSTANTENCORE

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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

To support Art of Elan, please send your donation to: 3401 32nd Street, San Diego, CA 92104
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www.artofelan.org