



# NEWS

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*Aaron Copland*  
COPLAND HOUSE

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## **COPLAND HOUSE NAMES *CULTIVATE* 2022 FELLOWS**

### **6 Composers from 5 States Selected for 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Acclaimed Emerging Composers' Institute**

Cortlandt Manor, NY – Copland House has announced the six Fellows chosen to participate in CULTIVATE 2022, its widely-acclaimed, annual emerging composers institute. The selected composers are (*clockwise from upper left in photos*) **Aiyana Braun**, 24 (Ardmore, PA); **Paul Frucht**, 32 (New York, NY); **Brittney Green**, 31 (Durham, NC); **Paul Kerekes**, 33 (Stony Brook, NY); **Kian Ravaei**, 22 (Calabasas, CA); and **Elijah Smith**, 26 (Princeton, NJ).

They were chosen from over 180 applicants from 32 states, the District of Columbia, and five countries by a panel of former Copland House Resident composers or fellows that included CULTIVATE Director **Derek Bermel**, **Loren Loiacono**, **Polina Nazaykinskaya**, **Gity Razaz**, **Laura Schwendinger**, and **Juri Seo**. “The breadth of talent among all of the composers was simply extraordinary,” said Bermel. “There were so many real up-and-comers among the applicants. We were all impressed by the quality of the works submitted, and the enormous range of styles, artistic goals, compositional approaches, and backgrounds.”

Celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, CULTIVATE is an important destination for highly-gifted composers of all identities and origins on the threshold of their professional careers. An annual, weeklong all-scholarship, intensive creative workshop and mentoring program, it will take place from June 6 through 12 at Aaron Copland’s National Historic Landmark home in northern Westchester County, NY, and other nearby locations. Copland House commissions each of the six Fellows to create a new composition that serves as the focus of an intensive week of collective and individual daily rehearsals and workshops with Bermel and artists from Music from Copland House, “one of the leading champions of contemporary music” (*Louisville Weekly*). Evening discussion sessions on practical career matters feature forward-looking arts leaders. CULTIVATE concludes with a Music from Copland House concert presenting the World Premiere of the six new works, and featuring MCH clarinetist **Moran Katz**, violinist **Pala Garcia**, cellist **Alexis Pia Gerlach**, and pianist

**Margaret Kampmeier.** Composers selected for CULTIVATE also become eligible for future performance, recording, commissioning, and other career advancement opportunities.

Support for CULTIVATE comes from the ASCAP Foundation, Alice Ditson Fund, Friends of Copland House, and Jandon Foundation. Additional funding comes from the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Amphion Foundation, ArtsWestchester, BMI Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, and New York State Council on the Arts.



### **CULTIVATE 2022: Fellows' bios**

Israeli-American composer **Aiyana Braun** has worked with the New York Philharmonic, Saint Louis and Berkeley Symphonies, Orkest de Ereprijs, and San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, as well as musicians from the Philadelphia Orchestra, Minnesota Opera and New York City Ballet Orchestras, and Italy's Santa Cecilia Orchestra. Her first commission was for a work for the Marian Anderson Awards honoring legendary poet Maya Angelou and television producer Norman Lear. She has received awards from NYU's Center for Ballet and the Arts, BMI Foundation, American Composers Forum, and was featured on several episodes of PBS's *On Stage at Curtis* and NPR's *From the Top*. She has also taught composition in the New York Philharmonic's Very Young Composers Program, and attended the Curtis Institute of Music and University of Southern California.

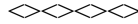
The music of **Paul Frucht** (our 2022 ASCAP Foundation Bart Howard Fund Fellow) has been commissioned by the Minnesota and Juilliard Orchestras, Milwaukee and San Diego Symphonies, American Composers Orchestra, American Modern Ensemble, Ulysses Quartet, Buffalo Chamber Music Society, Music Mountain Festival, and Ridgefield (CT) Symphony, which premiered *A More Perfect Union*, his orchestral song cycle based on speeches of President Obama. Upcoming highlights include new works for Time For Three, the Carpe Diem String Quartet, and Eastern Music Festival Orchestra. A graduate of Juilliard and New York University, he has received the Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and awards from ASCAP, Juilliard, and the American Composers Orchestra. He is Artistic Director of the Charles Ives Music Festival, and an adjunct faculty member at New York University.

The music of North Carolina-based composer, performer, and educator **Brittney J. Green** aims to facilitate collaborative, intimate spaces that ignite visceral responses. The intersections of sound, video, movement, and text serve as a focal point for questioning and redefining the relationships among these elements. Her recent works engage sonification and black feminist theory, to explore systemic construction, displacement, and rupture. Her music has been commissioned and performed by the International Contemporary Ensemble, JACK Quartet, and Transient Canvas, and has been featured at the Boulanger Initiative's WoCo Fest, Society of Composers National Conference, New York City Electronic Music Festival, TIME:SPANS, and other North American venues. She has received the American Academy of Arts and Letters Charles Ives Scholarship, ASCAP Foundation's Morton Gould Award, and New Music USA's Creator Development Grant. An East Carolina University graduate, she is a Doctoral candidate and Dean's Graduate Fellow at Duke University.

The music of Long Island-based composer-pianist **Paul Kerekes** is often inspired by visual ideas, and formed with an improvisatory spirit aiming to recreate tactile pictures of the concepts or experiences on which they are based. His works have been performed by the American Composers Orchestra, Da Capo Chamber Players, New Morse Code, Agarita, Thin Edge New Music Collective, Real Loud, and other ensembles at Ordway Concert Hall, Merkin Hall, (le) poisson rouge, DiMenna Center, Roulette, Symphony Space, and St. David's Hall in Cardiff. An award recipient from the American Academy of Arts and Letters ASCAP, and American Composers Forum, his compositions and playing have been featured on NPR's *Performance Today*, WQXR's Q2 platform, and albums on the New Amsterdam Records, Innova, New Focus, and Naxos labels. A graduate of Queens College and the Yale School of Music, he teaches at Sarah Lawrence College, and is a co-founder of Invisible Anatomy, a composer-performer collective, as well as Grand Band, a piano sextet.

Born to Iranian immigrants, **Kian Ravaei** spent his childhood playing jazz, producing electronic dance music, and singing in a rock band ... when he should have been practicing piano sonatas. He later made up for that during the first year of the pandemic when his daily ritual included playing one chorale by J.S. Bach at the piano and composing an original chorale; all 371 Bach chorales later, he had cultivated a deeply personal harmonic language and an obsession with the art of counterpoint. His diverse output has included a book of piano preludes inspired by mythical creatures, a string quartet that synthesized Western and Persian classical music, and an orchestration for dubstep DJ and producer Wooli. His music has been performed by violinist Bella Hristova, guitarist JIJI, and pianists Stefano Greco and Jihye Chang, and commissioned by the Canadian Music Centre and Salastina, among others. An alumnus of the Curtis Institute of Music Young Artist Summer Program, he is currently based in Los Angeles, where he studies composition at the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, and serves as a Composer Teaching Artist Fellow for the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

The music of **Elijah Daniel Smith** ranges from orchestral compositions to multimedia and interdisciplinary collaborations, and reflects an affinity for dense and complex textures, rhythmic ambiguity and fluidity, and rich gravitational harmonies. His works have been premiered and performed by the Chicago Symphony, Mivos Quartet, Sō Percussion, Sandbox Percussion, Contemporaneous, Ensemble Linea, Ecce Ensemble, Fuse Quartet, Earspace, and other important ensembles. Upcoming commissions and projects include new works for the Bergamot Quartet and for saxophonist Julian Velasco on behalf of the Luminarts Cultural Foundation. A graduate of Boston Conservatory and the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University, he is currently a Doctoral candidate at Princeton University as a President's Fellow.



### **Copland House bios**

CULTIVATE Director **DEREK BERMEL** has been commissioned by the Pittsburgh, National, Saint Louis, New Jersey, and Pacific Symphonies, Los Angeles and Westchester Philharmonics, New York Youth Symphony, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, WNYC Radio, Eighth Blackbird, Guarneri Quartet, Music from Copland House, Music from China, De Ereprijs (Netherlands), Jazz Xchange (U.K.), Figura (Denmark), Koussevitzky and Fromm Foundations, and violinist Midori, among others. His many honors include the Alpert Award in the Arts, Rome Prize, Guggenheim and Fulbright Fellowships, American Music Center's Trailblazer Award, and Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters; and residencies at Yaddo, Tanglewood, Aspen, Banff, Bellagio, Copland House, Sacatar, and Civitella Ranieri. He is Artistic Director of the American Composers Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, and has served as Artist-in-Residence at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and Composer-in-Residence of the Seattle Symphony and Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

**COPLAND HOUSE** ([coplandhouse.org](http://coplandhouse.org)) is an award-winning creative center for American music based at Aaron Copland's National Historic Landmark home in New York's lower Hudson River Valley. Praised by *The New York Times* for "all the richness of its offerings," it has, for over two decades, welcomed and collaborated with musical dreamers, explorers, and innovators of all backgrounds and identities, who, like Copland, change the way we interact with the world around us. Copland House is the only composer's home in the U.S. devoted to championing America's rich musical legacy through a broad range of activities that resonate far beyond its walls. Its programs singularly embrace the entire artistic process, from creation and development to study, performance, and preservation, with multi-faceted composer support, live and recorded performances, and educational and community outreach.

The internationally-acclaimed **MUSIC FROM COPLAND HOUSE** ensemble (MCH) has been hailed as "bold," "adventurous," and "superb" (*The New Yorker*), and for "illuminating essential truths about the music" (*The New York Times*). Offering ear-opening, mind-expanding experiences gathered from its journeys across 150 years of America's vast musical landscape, the ensemble champions classic or forgotten voices from the nation's past, and celebrates established or rising artists from the present. MCH has been featured on *CBS Sunday Morning*, NPR, and the European Broadcasting Union, and engaged by Tanglewood, the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Smithsonian Institution's Freer Gallery of Art, Library of Congress, Monday Evening Concerts in Los Angeles, the Caramoor, Bard, Ecstatic, and Bowdoin Festivals, and many other leading presenters. MCH records for Arabesque, Koch International, and the COPLAND HOUSE BLEND labels, and is regularly featured on Copland House's main-stage concert series in Westchester County, NY, and at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Inspired by Copland's peerless, lifelong advocacy of American composers, MCH also presents a wide variety of educational and community outreach activities. Launched in 1999 by flutist **Paul Lustig Dunkel**, clarinetist **Derek Bermel**, violinist **Nicholas Kitchen**, cellist **Wilhelmina Smith**, and pianist **Michael Boriskin**, MCH boasts a stellar roster of Founding, Principal, and Guest Artists, of whom, *The Chicago Tribune* raved, "Copland would have been proud of all of them."