



NEWS

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COPLAND HOUSE NAMES CULTIVATE 2023 FELLOWS

6 Composers from 5 States Selected for Acclaimed Emerging Composers’ Institute Concert Premieres 6 New Works, Closes ACO SONiC Festival

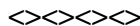
Cortlandt Manor, NY – Copland House is proud and excited to announce the six Fellows chosen to participate in its CULTIVATE 2023 emerging composers institute. The selected composers are (clockwise from upper left) **Henry Dorn**, 34 (Lansing, MI); **Seare Farhat**, 26 (Ithaca, NY); **Oswald Huynh**, 25 (Portland, OR); **Maya Miro Johnson**, 21 (Philadelphia, PA); **Grace Ann Lee**, 26 (Ann Arbor, MI); and **Max Vinez**, 26 (Jersey City, NJ).

These stellar artists were chosen from over 130 applicants in 26 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, and two countries by this year’s jury, which was comprised of Copland House Residents or former CULTIVATE Fellows **Derek Bermel** (CULTIVATE Director), **Carolyn Chen**, **Michael-Thomas Foumai**, **Texu Kim**, **Zibuokle Martinaityte**, and **Nina Shekhar**. As Kim (a 2016 Resident) commented, "I really enjoyed looking closely at and listening to the inspiring works of these extraordinary composers. Their works – their strengths and their values – came from starkly different personalities and multiple perspectives. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear these pieces."

Launched in 2012, CULTIVATE is an important destination for highly-gifted composers of all identities and origins on the threshold of their professional careers. 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*). Composers selected for CULTIVATE also become eligible for future performance, recording, commissioning, and other career advancement opportunities.

An annual, weeklong all-scholarship, intensive creative workshop and mentoring program, it will take place this year from June 5 through 11 at Aaron Copland's National Historic Landmark home in northern Westchester County, NY. Evening discussion sessions on practical career matters feature forward-looking arts leaders. It culminates in a concert on Monday evening, June 12 by Music from Copland House on the ensemble's mainstage performance series at Elebash Recital Hall at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. The concert features the World Premieres of all the new works these young artists will create especially for this program, and will be the first time CULTIVATE's concluding concert will take place live since 2019, before the pandemic. It will also be the closing event in the American Composers Orchestra's SONiC Festival. Music from Copland House's featured performers are clarinetist **Moran Katz**, violinist **Pala Garcia**, cellist **Alexis Pia Gerlach**, and pianist **Margaret Kampmeier**.

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



CULTIVATE 2023: Fellows' bios

Arkansas-born composer-conductor **Henry Dorn** builds narratives based on lived experiences at the intersection of being a musician and African American, taking ideas and putting them in places where they do not seem to belong. He has enjoyed performances by such noteworthy ensembles as the Minnesota Orchestra, Harlem and Aizuri Quartets, Argento Ensemble, and Dallas Wind Symphony. Among his many honors are those from the Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute, ASCAP Foundation (Morton Gould Young Composer Award), and Cleveland Institute of Music (Future of Music Faculty Fellowship). Beginning this fall, he will be Assistant Professor of Music, and Conductor of the St. Olaf College Band in Minnesota. He was formerly assistant director to the Memphis Area Youth Wind Ensemble, and former director to the Memphis-based Nu Chamber Collective. A doctoral candidate at Michigan State University, he is a graduate of the University of Memphis and Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University

Oswald Huynh works to navigate Vietnamese aesthetics and tradition, language and translation, and the relationship between heritage and identity. He writes music that explores timbre and texture to create evocative soundscapes rooted in storytelling, culture, and memory. His work has been commissioned, premiered, and performed by the St. Louis Symphony, Alarm Will Sound, American Composers Orchestra, Illinois Philharmonic, Akropolis Reed Quintet, Tacet(i) Ensemble, [Switch~ Ensemble], Del Sol String Quartet, and Fear No Music. His music has also been presented at the Mizzou International Composers Festival, New Music on the Bayou Festival, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre, Ear Taxi Festival, Constellation, and Oregon Bach Festival, among others. He has won the Musiq'a Emerging Composer Commission, IPO Classical Evolve Composer Competition, and Black Bayou Composition Award. A graduate of Lewis & Clark College and the University of Missouri, he will serve as the Illinois Philharmonic's Composer-in-Residence in the 2023-24 season.

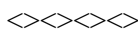
Maya Miro Johnson is a composer and interdisciplinary artist whose praxis grapples with alienation and viscerality in the human body, media cyborgization, exorcism of hereditary ghosts, complexities of trauma, and radical vulnerability. Her notable work has included commissions for loadbang, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Sarasota Festival, Ensemble Intercontemporain, and Baltic Sea Festival; contributions to albums by Johnny Gandelsman, HOCKET (both with 2023 Grammy nominations); awards from Beth Morrison Projects (NextGen), BMI (Schuman and Surinach Prizes in the same year); cover conducting for the Minnesota Orchestra, including a BIS recording of the Mahler Symphony No. 8; an installation at the Barnes Foundation with celebrated visual and dance artists John Dowell and Zane Booker; and *Patience*, an in-progress opera with Christina Herresthal concerning the genius of artists who experience suffering from living in female-assigned bodies. She is completing her studies at the Curtis Institute of Music, and has undertaken summer studies with the National Youth Orchestra USA, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Cabrillo, Aspen, and Bergen Festivals, and Miguel Harth- Bedoya's Conducting Institute.

Seare Ahmad Farhat strives to create music that connects a listener to the visceral imagination, energy, and transformation within narrative forms, while challenging strict notions of textual, historical, and cultural boundaries. Starting out his musical endeavors in Afghan folk music, he later built on these valued experiences in western classical and indie folk scenes. He has been commissioned by the JACK and FLUX Quartets, Indiana University New Music Ensemble, Metropolitan Youth Symphony, Quintessence Wind Quintet, and Oberlin Sinfonietta, and served as the young-composer-in-residence of the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings. He has also had residencies at Avaloch Farm Music Institute, Banff Evolution: String Quartet, and Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music. He has degrees in

composition and mathematics from Oberlin College and Conservatory; is a graduate of the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where he was Assistant Director of the New Music Ensemble; and is a Doctoral candidate as a Sage Fellow at Cornell University.

The music of Korean-American composer **Grace Ann Lee** is based on everyday sounds, imageries, and experiences like raindrops, refracting light, and traffic jams, recreated into dynamic and emotive soundscapes. Her recent collaborators include those with the Buffalo Chamber Players, Front Porch, and Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, among others. She has been commissioned by the Aspen Music Festival, Michael Karsher's Young New Yorkers' Chorus, and The Guild of Carillonneurs. Her music has been honored by the Society for Chamber Music in Rochester, Women in Music, and Young Arts National Foundation in music. A graduate of Indiana University and Rice University, she is a Doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan.

Max Vinetz's work draws inspiration from intersections between improvisatory, popular, and classical forms and aesthetics. His recent and upcoming projects address grief, addiction, the impact of media on rhetorical structures in music and daily lives, and structures that circumvent linear narratives. He received two ASCAP's Morton Gould Awards, a Fromm Foundation Commission, and the Gardner Prize from the American Viola Society, and was an Emerging Composer Fellow for Musiq. A graduate of Yale University and Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, he is a Naumburg Doctoral Fellow at Princeton University.



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 Erepijs (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 has served as Artistic Director of the American Composers Orchestra at Carnegie Hall, 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) 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."