



NEWS

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Aaron Copland
COPLAND HOUSE

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COPLAND HOUSE & I CARE IF YOU LISTEN **TO PRESENT *CULTIVATED SPACES 2.0***

**MEDIA PARTNERSHIP OFFERS VIRTUAL SERIES BEGINNING JUNE 15,
FEATURING SIX PREMIERES BY EMERGING COMPOSER FELLOWS**

Cortlandt Manor, NY, June 1, 2022 – Copland House announces the return of its six-program virtual series called *Cultivated Spaces 2.0*, again presented in collaboration with I CARE IF YOU LISTEN. Offering the world premieres of the six new works commissioned for Copland House’s CULTIVATE 2021 emerging composers institute, the series begins on June 15 and will run for consecutive Wednesdays at 5:00pm EDT through July 20. The featured 2021 Composer Fellows are (*clockwise from top left in the photo above*) Juhi Bansal, Nicholas Bentz, Bobby Ge, Yaz Lancaster, Paul Novak, and Daniel Reza Sabzghabaei.

The livestreams will premiere according to the following schedule at ICareIfYouListen.tv, and will remain accessible indefinitely:

June 15:	<i>entwinings</i> by Paul Novak
June 22:	<i>Shed Velvet</i> by Yaz Lancaster
June 29:	<i>Residues</i> by Daniel Reza Sabzghabaei
July 6:	<i>Thirteen Moons</i> by Juhi Bansal
July 13:	<i>Thrash / counterThrash</i> by Nicholas Bentz
July 20:	<i>Intuitive Geometry</i> by Bobby Ge

“With COVID having constrained us for the second consecutive year in producing our usual live version of CULTIVATE, we’re so grateful to be able to turn again to I CARE IF YOU LISTEN as our exclusive media partner,” explains Copland House’s Artistic and Executive Director Michael Boriskin. “We were determined not to allow the pandemic to disrupt our plans to showcase these wonderfully imaginative young artists!”

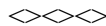
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Cultivated Spaces 2.0 spotlights CULTIVATE's six 2021 Fellows and their work in a complete performance by the Music from Copland House ensemble, "one of the leading champions of contemporary music" (*Louisville Weekly*). Each program begins with a brief introduction by the featured composer, who returns for a lively post-performance conversation with CULTIVATE's Director, twice-Grammy-nominated composer-clarinetist Derek Bermel. These free, 25- to 30-minute programs were filmed by Jeremy Tressler and Dreamflower Acoustic at the West Center Congregational Church in Bronxville, NY;

"I CARE IF YOU LISTEN is excited to once again be partnering with Copland House to celebrate the work of exceptional young music creators," says Editor Amanda Cook. "We are especially encouraged to see organizations like Copland House continuing to produce high quality documentation of new works, even as we tentatively return to live performances. The tools and knowledge we have amassed from presenting live-streamed and on-demand concerts during the pandemic have made new music infinitely more accessible, and carrying this ethos forward allows us to keep bringing these artists to broader audiences."

Embracing creativity, process, exploration, and community, CULTIVATE has been an important destination on the career path of gifted young composers of all artistic and personal backgrounds and identities since this annual institute was launched in 2012. With a commissioned piece at the heart of their work at CULTIVATE, six Composer Fellows share an exhilarating week of rehearsals, discussions, and other individual and collective sessions with Bermel and artists from Music from Copland House, culminating in the World Premieres of all of their new pieces. "We designed CULTIVATE," Bermel said, "as a unique week of workshops that center on the creative process, giving composers plentiful time to experiment and hone their ideas with Music from Copland House's stellar performers. The overall focus is on deepening the imprint of one's own creative voice."

Support for CULTIVATE 2021 and *Cultivated Spaces* comes the ASCAP and BMI Foundations, Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, Friends of Copland House, Jandon Foundation, and NewMusicUSA. Additional program support comes from the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Amphion Foundation, ArtsWestchester, the National Endowment for the Arts, and New York State Council on the Arts.



CULTIVATE 2021 FELLOWS

The music of **Juhi Bansal** weaves together themes celebrating musical and cultural diversity, nature and the environment, and strong female role models. Her work draws upon progressive metal, Hindustani music, spectralism, and musical theatre to create deeply expressive, evocative sound-worlds. As an Indian composer raised in Hong Kong, her work is inspired by both those cultures, entwining them closely with the gestures of Western classical music. Current projects include *Waves of Change*, a digital experience on womanhood, identity, and culture clashes inspired by the story of the Bangladesh Girls Surf Club; and *Edge of a Dream*, an opera commissioned by Los Angeles Opera about Ada Lovelace, daughter of infamous poet Lord Byron and a 19th century pioneer in computing. Recent seasons have featured commissions from the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Beth Morrison Projects, New York Virtuoso Singers, Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre, and AIDS Quilt Songbook 20th Anniversary Project. She is a staunch proponent of bringing new audiences to contemporary music, and encouraging the creative impulses of musicians of all backgrounds.

The art of composer-violinist **Nicholas Bentz** is drawn to the remote fringes and recesses of human experience, as he seeks to render intimately personal spaces imbued with an individual sense of storytelling and narrative. His music has been performed by flutist Marina Piccinini, yMusic, New Opera West, TEMPO Ensemble, and the Charleston, Jacksonville, and Suzhou (China) Symphonies, and featured at Ethan Cohen Galleries, New Music on the Point, and the Bowdoin, Piccolo Spoleto, and Sounding Now Festivals. His work has received top honors from the Tribeca New Music Festival, American Prize, iSING International Festival, Boston New Music Initiative, and Hartford Opera Theater. A graduate of the Peabody Conservatory and University of Southern California, he was previously a Composition Teaching Artist Fellow at Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and Composer-in-Residence at Symphony Number One.

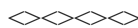
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Bobby Ge is a Baltimore-based composer and avid collaborator who seeks to create vivid emotional journeys that navigate boundaries between genre and medium. He has created multimedia projects with the Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore Rock Opera Society, Scattered Players Theater Company, writer-poet Jenny C. Lares, and the painters' collective Art10Baltimore. A graduate of the Peabody Conservatory, his works have been performed on four continents by the Harbin (China) Symphony, Bergamot Quartet, Concerto Chamber Orchestra, Pique Collective, and Future Symphony Competition Orchestra.

Yaz Lancaster is a transdisciplinary artist interested in practices aligned with relational aesthetics and the everyday, fragments and collage, and anti-oppression. They perform as a violinist, steel pannist, and vocalist in a wide variety of settings from DIY to orchestras, and their work is presented in many different mediums and collaborative projects that often reckon with specific influences ranging from politics of identity and liberation to natural phenomena and poetics. They have created in the U.S., Canada, and Trinidad and Tobago with Andy Akiho, Anne Leilehua Lanzilotti Contemporaneous, Hypercube, JACK Quartet, Skiffle Steel Orchestra, Wadada Leo Smith, and other artists and ensembles. An NYU graduate in violin and poetry, Yaz is in a "post-genre" duo with guitarist-producer Andrew Noseworthy; serves as visual arts editor at Peach Mag; and loves chess, horror movies, and bubble tea.

Rejecting grandiose narratives, **Paul Novak's** music is driven by a love of small things like miniature forms, delicate soundscapes, and condensed ideas; explores the subtleties of instrumental color; and is influenced by literature, art, and poetry. His works have been performed in the U.S. and abroad by the Reno Philharmonic, Austin and Orlando Symphonies, and National Youth Orchestra-USA, and he has collaborated on interdisciplinary projects with poets, dancers, and visual artists. He has been commissioned by the Kinetic Ensemble, ASCAP, Society of Composers, Boston New Music Initiative, and American Composers Orchestra (for a Carnegie Hall premiere). A graduate of Rice University's Shepherd School of Music and Doctoral candidate at the University of Chicago, he has had awards from the ASCAP Foundation, League of Composers/ISCM, Tribeca New Music, Webster University, and YoungArts Foundation.

The music of **Daniel Reza Sabzghabaei** emphasizes the malleability of time and how we experience it, in the concert hall and everyday life. His work has been presented or commissioned by major international presenters and artists, including the Intimacy of Creativity Festival, International Contemporary Ensemble, National Sawdust, JACK Quartet, Guerilla Opera, Banff Centre, OPERA America, Beth Morrison Projects, New York Festival of Song, TAK Ensemble, Moab Music Festival, Pro Coro Canada, Young New Yorkers Chorus, Contemporaneous, Thailand New Music and Arts Symposium, Israeli Chamber Project, Romania's ICon Arts Festival, and South Korea's Busan Choral Festival. A graduate of the University of North Texas and Peabody Conservatory, he is currently a doctoral candidate at Cornell University, and has undertaken research on time and form within Persian moosiqi sonati.



COPLAND HOUSE

CULTIVATE Director **DEREK BERMEL** has been widely recognized for his creativity, theatricality, and virtuosity, as both composer and clarinetist. He has been commissioned by the Pittsburgh, National, Saint Louis, New Jersey, and Pacific Symphonies, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Eighth Blackbird, JACK and Guarneri Quartets, Music from Copland House and Music from China, De Ereprijs (Netherlands), violinist Midori, and the Koussevitzky and Fromm Foundations. He serves as Artistic Director of the American Composers Orchestra at Carnegie Hall and curator of the Gamper Festival at the Bowdoin International Music Festival, and has received the Herb 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. He has also had residencies at Yaddo, Tanglewood, Aspen, Banff, Bellagio, Copland House, Sacatar, and Civitella Ranieri. As a brilliant clarinetist, he has performed widely around the world. A two-time Grammy nominee, his discography features three critically-acclaimed discs featuring his orchestral works with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project (BMOP/sound), chamber music with violist Paul Neubauer and the Borromeo Quartet (New World/CRI), and large-ensemble compositions with Alarm Will Sound (Cantaloupe).

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An award-winning creative center for American music based at Aaron Copland's National Historic Landmark residence near New York City, **COPLAND HOUSE** has, for over 20 years, championed and collaborated with musical explorers and innovators, who, like Copland, change the way we interact with the world around us. The only composer's home in the U.S. devoted to nurturing and renewing America's vibrant, diverse musical legacy, Copland House's broad range of programs singularly embrace the entire artistic process, from creation and development to performance and preservation. Praised by *The New York Times* for "all the richness of its offerings," Copland House's activities resonate far beyond its walls, and are built upon multi-faceted composer support, live and recorded performances, and educational and community engagement. For more information, visit www.coplandhouse.org.

MUSIC FROM COPLAND HOUSE is the internationally-acclaimed, touring resident ensemble based at Aaron Copland's National Historic Landmark home near New York City, an award-winning creative center for American music (www.coplandhouse.org). Hailed for its "absorbing concert experiences" (*Opera News*), gathered from its journeys across 150 years of America's vast musical landscape, MCH champions classic and forgotten voices from the nation's past, and celebrates today's established and rising creators of all backgrounds and identities. This singular American repertoire ensemble weaves riveting, richly diverse narratives in sound, connecting music to the wider world. It has been featured on *CBS Sunday Morning*, NPR, the European Broadcasting Union, and other major media; and engaged by North America's foremost concert presenters, including the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, Library of Congress, University of Chicago, Smithsonian Institution, and the Caramoor, Bard, Bowdoin, and Ecstatic Festivals. The group also presents two mainstage performance series in its home region of Westchester County, NY, and at The Graduate Center of the City University of New York. MCH can be heard on the Arabesque, Koch International, and COPLAND HOUSE BLEND labels, and has commissioned nearly 100 works. Inspired by Copland's peerless, lifelong advocacy of American composers, and deeply committed to multi-faceted community engagement, the ensemble regularly undertakes a wide variety of educational and other outreach activities. Founded in 1999, MCH boasts a stellar roster of Founding, Principal, and Guest Artists; as *The Chicago Tribune* raved, "Copland would have been proud of all of them." For more information, visit www.dworkincompany.com/site/artist/music-from-copland-house/.

I CARE IF YOU LISTEN and AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM

I CARE IF YOU LISTEN (ICIYL) is an award-winning multimedia hub for living music creators powered by American Composers Forum. Founded in 2010, ICIYL was born from a desire to create a dedicated space for talking about contemporary classical music. Through a unique blend of music criticism, promotional features, and multimedia content, ICIYL strives to be a leading advocate for artists who have been historically underrepresented or marginalized in Western classical music by highlighting equitable programming, facilitating challenging conversations, cultivating a safe platform, and creating educational resources. Current offerings include album and concert reviews, interviews and artist profiles, essays, video premieres, and curated playlists. The site attracts nearly 150,000 unique viewers annually. For more information, visit www.icareifyoulisten.com and www.icareifyoulisten.tv.

AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM (ACF) supports and advocates for individuals and groups creating music today by demonstrating the vitality and relevance of their art. We connect artists with collaborators, organizations, audiences, and resources. Through storytelling, publications, recordings, hosted gatherings, and industry leadership, we activate equitable opportunities for artists. We provide direct funding and mentorship to a broad and diverse field of music creators, highlighting those who have been historically excluded from participation. Founded in 1973 by composers Libby Larsen and Stephen Paulus as the Minnesota Composers Forum, the organization continues to invest in its Minnesota home while connecting artists and advocates across the United States and beyond. ACF frames our work with a focus on racial equity and includes within that scope, but not limited to, diverse gender identities, musical approaches and perspectives, religions, ages, (dis)abilities, cultures, backgrounds, sexual orientations, and broad definitions of being "American." Visit www.composersforum.org for more information.