



# NEWS

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## 2022 COPLAND HOUSE RESIDENCY AWARDS ANNOUNCED Six Composers Selected for Stays at “Artist’s Paradise”



Cortlandt Manor, NY, October 23, 2022 – Recipients were announced today of the 2022 Copland House Residency Awards, one of charter programs of the much-esteemed creative center for American music based at Aaron Copland’s National Historic Landmark home. The six composers from five states are (*clockwise from top left in photo*) **Alexander Lloyd Blake**, 34 (Los Angeles, CA); **Bobby Ge**, 26 (Baltimore, ME); **Chen-Hui Jen**, 40 (Miami, FL); **David T. Little**, 43 (Weehawken, NJ); **Sofia Rocha**, 25 (Dunnellon, FL); and **Alyssa Weinberg**, 33 (Brooklyn, NY). Ge was a 2021 Fellow of Copland House’s CULTIVATE emerging composers institute. The residencies of two other composers previously selected for the 2021 Awards – **Pierce Gardone**, 36 (Chicago, IL) and **Christian Quinones**, 26 (Arecibo, PR) – were delayed due to pandemic-related circumstances, and are being scheduled in the 2022-23 season.

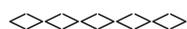
The six composers are awarded all-expenses-paid, short-term stays for three- to eight-weeks in Copland’s longtime home near New York City – described by 2010 Resident **Alvin Singleton** as “an artist’s paradise” – where they can focus uninterruptedly on their creative work. As Residents, they also become eligible for a wide variety of post-residency performance, recording, and commissioning opportunities. They were chosen out of 180 applicants in 33 states, the District of Columbia, and four countries by this year’s eminent jury – **Eve Beglarian**, **Yu-Hui Chang**, **Tom Cipullo**, **Pierre Jalbert**, **Eric Nathan**, and **Shawn Okpebholo**.

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“As one of our charter programs,” Artistic and Executive Director **Michael Boriskin** noted, “it's always a thrill to announce each new annual cohort of recipients of the Copland House Residency Awards. And as this year marks the 25th round of these honors, we're prompted to reflect on the over 200 composers who have been through the doors for stays at Copland's inspiring, hilltop home, and the vast number of award-winning works that were begun, developed, or completed here. At the same time, we're looking forward with great anticipation to expanding this core program in ways that serve the field even more extensively in the *next* quarter-century!”

As two-time Resident **Lembit Beecher** recalled, “the magic of Copland House, which makes it unlike any other residency that I have experienced, is that it combines a focused, solitary working environment, with a sense of deep history, and a sense of home. My time there felt like a time of beautiful centering, a time to ask big questions about the music I was writing, and a time to try to delve as deeply and as far as possible.”

Since it was inaugurated in 1998, Copland House has 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 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](http://www.coplandhouse.org) or call (914) 788-4659.



### **2022 Copland House Residency Awards – Composer Bios**

Conductor, composer/arranger, singer, and music activist **Alexander Lloyd Blake** is the Founding Artistic Director of Tonicity, an award-winning choral ensemble focused on spreading a message of unity, peace, and social justice through a culturally diverse choral setting. “My goal as an artist is to spotlight the storyteller or perspective within the music I create and present. Music can be many things, but I choose to use it as a catalyst for empathy and understanding.” He also serves as Choir Director at Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA) and Principal Associate Conductor of the National Children's Chorus, and is an active opera conductor. A graduate of the University of Southern California, University of California Los Angeles, and Wake Forest University, he has produced a catalogue that includes a growing number of arrangements for chorus, film, and television.

Chinese-American composer **Bobby Ge**, a 2021 Copland House CULTIVATE Fellow, is 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, Scattered Players Theater Company, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, and the painters collective Art10Baltimore. Winner of the 2022 Barlow Prize, his music has been commissioned or performed by the Minnesota Orchestra, Albany Symphony's Dogs of Desire, Interlochen Arts Academy, China's Guangzhou Symphony Youth Orchestra, New York Youth Symphony, the Atlanta and Seattle Youth Orchestras, Music from Copland House, Pacific Chamber Orchestra, Bergamot Quartet, Boss Street Brass Band, and Mind on Fire. A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and Peabody Conservatory, he is currently a Naumburg Doctoral Fellow at Princeton University.

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**Chen-Hui Jen** is a composer, poet, and pianist, whose music occupies an imaginative, spiritual, and poetic space that often integrates time, sound, color, and word. She writes concert works for diverse instrumentation, including orchestra, chorus, solo, and chamber music for western and Asian instruments, and electronics. A graduate of the University of California, San Diego, she has been commissioned by the League of American Orchestras' Women Composers' Reading and Commissioning Project, Ensemble 20° dans le Noir, Aurora Borealis Duo, Astralis Duo, The Living Earth Show, Palimpsest Ensemble, Ensemble ISCM-Taiwan, Müller Chamber Choir, Taipei Chamber Singers, and other choral ensembles in Taiwan. Her works have also been performed at the ISCM World Music Days, Acanthes Music Festival, EarShot San Diego of the American Composers Orchestra, People Inside Electronics series, and Taipei International New Music Festival. She is the pianist in the FIU NODUS New Music Ensemble.

**David T. Little** explores the potential of musical and theatrical forms to pose philosophical and political questions, as can be seen and heard in his widely-acclaimed opera and music theater works: *Dog Days*, *JFK*, *Vinkensport* (all with librettist Royce Vavrek), *What Belongs to You*, *Soldier Songs*, and his recent *Black Lodge* (libretto by Anne Waldman). He has also worked with several producers to create boundary-breaking film operas, including a cinematic version of *Soldier Songs*, nominated this year for a Grammy Award. His music has been commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera/Lincoln Center Theater new works program, Kennedy Center, Baltimore and New World Symphonies, London Sinfonietta, The Crossing, Kronos Quartet, and Beth Morrison Projects, and presented by Carnegie Hall, Holland Festival, Los Angeles Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Opera Philadelphia, Opéra de Montréal, Chicago Symphony, and Los Angeles Philharmonic. The founding artistic director of the ensemble Newspeak, he was composer-in-residence of the Opera Philadelphia/Music Theater Group, and currently chairs the composition department at the New School's Mannes College of Music. His works can be heard on New Amsterdam, Pentatone, Sono Luminus, Bright Shiny Things, National Sawdust Tracks labels.

The emotionally intense music of **Sofia Rocha** explores cognition, randomness, rhythm, and counterpoint within post-tonal frameworks. Winner of the Aspen Music Festival's Hermitage Prize this year, her upcoming projects include newly commissioned works for the International Contemporary Ensemble in collaboration with the New World Symphony, Emory University Symphony, and New York Youth Symphony (in its First Music commissioning program). She has also received honors from the New England Philharmonic, Earplay, Fresh Inc Festival, American Composers Orchestra Earshot program, and ASCAP, among others. A graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory and Sunderman Conservatory of Music at Gettysburg College, she is also an avid trombonist and conductor, having performed with numerous orchestras, wind ensembles, and jazz groups.

Using color, texture and gesture to channel big emotions, **Alyssa Weinberg** is fascinated with perception, and loves to play with form, subverting expectations to create surreal scenarios. She is a recipient of a 2022 Opera America Discovery Grant to support the development of new opera *Drift* (librettist: J. Mae Barizo) – a follow-up on *Isola*, their prismatic monodrama about time, mental health, and isolation. Her work has also been recognized by Chamber Music America, FringeArts and the Pennsylvania Ballet, Barnes Foundation, and Curtis Institute of Music. A graduate of Princeton and Vanderbilt Universities, Manhattan School of Music, and Curtis, her music has been performed by the Chicago and San Diego Symphonies, Minnesota and Louisville Orchestras, Eighth Blackbird, So Percussion, yMusic, Aizuri Quartet, and other important organizations and ensembles.

