

4th Annual Kristin Pankonin American Art Song Award Showcase Concert

Monday, November 3, 2021, 7:30 PM Barbro Osher Recital Hall

Selections from *Ariel: Five Poems of Sylvia Plath*Poppies in July
Words

Ned Rorem (b. 1923)

Lisa Delan, soprano David Barnett, clarinet Kevin Korth, piano

Mushrooms [Sylvia Plath]

Poppies in October

Father Moynahan [Tony Asaro]

Everyone Sang [Siegfried Sassoon] from Everyone Sang

David Garner (b. 1954) Matt Boehler (b. 1976) David Conte

(b. 1955)

Bruce Rameker, baritone Kevin Korth, piano

Three Poems of Fiona Macleod

- 1. The Lament of Ian the Proud
- 2. Thy Dark Eyes to Mine
- 3. The Rose of the Night

Maryam Mahvi Donovan, *soprano* Shinae Kim, *piano*

God's World [Edna St. Vincent Millay]

Ericsson F. Hatfield (b. 1995)

Charles T. Griffes (1884–1920)

2020 Kristin Pankonin American Art Song Award Winner

- I. God's World
- II. Epitaph
- III. Feast
- IV. Mariposa

Meghan Jolliffe, *mezzo-soprano* Keisuke Nakagoshi, *piano*

- Intermission -

The Limb-Loosener

Jarron Carlson (b. 1999)

2021 Kristin Pankonin American Art Song Award Winner

- I. Invitation [no text]
- II. Pure Sin [Finn Kitchen]
- III. Come Slowly [Emily Dickinson]
- IV. Limb-loosener [Sappho]

Lindsay Martin, *mezzo-soprano* Jarron Carlson, *piano*

Three Songs

Charles William Benesh

1. Portuguese Rainwater [Joseph Meyers]

(b. 1960)

Samuel Barber

(1910 - 1981)

- 2. Santa Catalina Mountains in Wintertime [Isabel de Pool]
- 3. Seven and a half [Meyers]

Joseph Meyers, tenor Juri Yun, guitar Keisuke Nakagoshi, piano

Selections from Hermit Songs

VIII. The Monk and his Cat [W. H. Auden]

VI. Sea Snatch [Kenneth H. Jackson]

VII. Promiscuity [Jackson]

IX. The Praises of God [Auden]

X. The Desire for Hermitage [Seán Ó Faoláin]

Christa Pfeiffer, soprano Kevin Korth, piano

Cantata [Trad.]

III. Recitative (Motherless Child)

IV. Air (Let Us Break Bread Together)

V. Toccata (Ride On King Jesus)

John Wallace Carter (1929–1991)

Shawnette Sulker, *soprano* Kevin Korth, *piano*

Kristin was a beloved collaborative pianist at the Conservatory who passed away in 2014 She had a passion for collaborating with composers and performers to create and perform new works. Because of this, friends, family and fans established a fund in her honor to support the creation of new vocal music at the Conservatory each year.

Ned Rorem

Ariel

Text by Sylvia Plath

Poppies In July

Little poppies, little hell flames, Do you do no harm?

You flicker. I cannot touch you.

I put my hands among the flames. Nothing burns

And it exhausts me to watch you Flickering like that, wrinkly and clear red, like the skin of a mouth.

A mouth just bloodied. Little bloody skirts!

There are fumes I cannot touch. Where are your opiates, your nauseous capsules?

If I could bleed, or sleep! If my mouth could marry a hurt like that!

Or your liquors seep to me, in this glass capsule, Dulling and stilling.

But colorless. Colorless.

Words

Axes
After whose stroke the wood rings,
And the echoes!
Echoes traveling
Off from the center like horses

The sap
Wells like tears, like the
Water striving
To re-establish its mirror
Over the rock

That drops and turns,
A white skull,
Eaten by weedy greens.
Years later I
Encounter them on the road-

Words dry and riderless,
The indefatigable hoof-taps.
While
From the bottom of the pool, fixed stars
Govern a life.

Poppies In October

Even the sun-clouds this morning cannot manage such skirts. Nor the woman in the ambulance Whose red heart blooms through her coat so astoundingly —

A gift, a love gift Utterly unasked for By a sky

Palely and flamily Igniting its carbon monoxides, by eyes Dulled to a halt under bowlers.

O my God, what am I That these late mouths should cry open In a forest of frost, in a dawn of cornflowers.

Charles T. Griffes Three Poems of Fiona Macleod Text by William Sharp

1. The Lament of Ian the Proud

What is this crying that I hear in the wind?
Is it the old sorrow and the old grief?
Or is it a new thing coming, a whirling leaf
About the gray hair of me who am weary and blind?
I know not what it is, but on the moor above the shore
There is a stone which the purple nets of heather bind,
And thereon is writ: She will return no more.
O blown, whirling leaf, and the old grief,
And wind crying to me who am old and blind!

2. Thy Dark Eyes to Mine

Thy dark eyes to mine, Eilidh, Lamps of desire! O how my soul leaps Leaps to their fire!

Sure, now, if I in heaven, Dreaming in bliss, Heard but a whisper, But the lost echo even Of one such kiss --

All of the Soul of me Would leap afar --

If that called me to thee Aye, I would leap afar A falling star!

3. The Rose of the Night

The dark rose of thy mouth
Draw nigher, draw nigher!
Thy breath is the wind of the south,
A wind of fire,
The wind and the rose and darkness,
O Rose of my Desire!

Deep silence of the night,
Husht like a breathless lyre,
Save the sea's thunderous might,
Dim, menacing, dire,
Silence and wind and sea, they are thee,
O Rose of my Desire!

As a wind-eddying flame
Leaping higher and higher,
Thy soul, thy secret name,
Leaps thro' Death's blazing pyre,
Kiss me, Imperishable Fire, dark Rose,
O Rose of my Desire!

Ericsson F. Hatfield

God's World

Text by Edna St. Vincent Millay

I. God's World

O world, I cannot hold thee close enough!
Thy winds, thy wide grey skies!
Thy mists, that roll and rise!
Thy woods, this autumn day, that ache and sag And all but cry with colour! That gaunt crag To crush! To lift the lean of that black bluff!
World, World, I cannot get thee close enough!

Long have I known a glory in it all,
But never knew I this;
Here such a passion is
As stretcheth me apart,—Lord, I do fear
Thou'st made the world too beautiful this year;
My soul is all but out of me,—let fall
No burning leaf; prithee, let no bird call.

II. Epitaph

Heap not on this mound Roses that she loved so well; Why bewilder her with roses, That she cannot see or smell? She is happy where she lies With the dust upon her eyes.

III. Feast

I drank at every vine.
The last was like the first.
I came upon no wine
So wonderful as thirst.
I gnawed at every root.
I ate of every plant.
I came upon no fruit
So wonderful as want.
Feed the grape and bean
To the vintner and monger;
I will lie down lean
With my thirst and my hunger.

IV. Mariposa

Butterflies are white and blue In this field we wander through. Suffer me to take your hand. Death comes in a day or two.

All the things we ever knew Will be ashes in that hour, Mark the transient butterfly, How he hangs upon the flower.

Suffer me to take your hand. Suffer me to cherish you Till the dawn is in the sky. Whether I be false or true, Death comes in a day or two.

Jarron Carlson

The Limb-Loosener

I. Invitation

[Vocalise, no text]

II. Here. In a message,

- Finn Kitchen

Here.

In a message, To sweaty stained sheets. As I walk across the street, He opens the doors to Sin.

Through the hallway we tangle, And his smoke-filled nails Sew me into his sofa. I shift my shoulders, Shut my thoughts.

He cherry-picks my garden asking Where to throw the seed. In salvation, I throw mine into Heaven.

III. Come Slowly

- Emily Dickinson

Come slowly – Eden Lips unused to Thee – Bashful – sip thy Jessamines As the fainting Bee –

Reaching late his flower, Round her chamber hums – Counts his nectars –

Enters - and is lost in Balms.

IV. Limb-Loosener

- Sappho (c. 630 - c. 570 BCE) Translated by Julia Dubnoff

Again love, the limb-loosener, rattles me. Bittersweet, Irresistible, A crawling beast.

I desire, And I crave.

Charles William Benesh

Three Songs

1. Portuguese Rainwater

- Joseph Meyers

Portuguese rainwater.

Tuscany.

tusks,

tusks.

where is the simple dirt, simple dirt? rain, lighted windowseyes lit beyond the screaming blue gums in the fresh San Francisco air.

Pain, pain is enough for all.

where to turn? simple rain, simple dirt, screaming blue gums-Misty path.

When does that brings and back down these olden pads back when life was simple, dirt. simple rain always screaming - where do i be?

Where do i be?

2. Santa Catalina Mountains in Wintertime

- Isabel de Pool

Cold dust comes down from heaven.

The kind that makes young kids and old ones like me smile every time I see it fall.

Without hurry or pause the fine snow weaves into a lovely shawl.

As the sun gets up high to the pristine sky.

Aha! A gasp of surprise breaks the cold morning.

The ancient mountains wear over her old shoulders a fantastic wrap of blue and white jewels.

3. Seven and a half

- Joseph Meyers

Seven and a half. Seven and a half.

Seven and a half.

Seven and a half.

....Blackness.

Why? No questions.

Just done.

This time old enough to remember.
Can't forget.
Quick and the spirit just flies out of the room.
Kristin is there, but not there.

Someday the jokes will echo without the origin. The giant hand will not be there.

Tan, brown, black even...now tissue paper.

Gone- someday soon. but now - I cherish.

The son he loves shall also set - someday.

Samuel Barber

Hermit Songs

The Monk and his Cat

Trans. W. H. Auden

Pangur, white Pangur, How happy we are Alone together, Scholar and cat. Each has his own work to do daily; For you it is hunting, for me, study. Your shining eye watches the wall; My feeble eye is fixed on a book. You rejoice when your claws entrap a mouse; I rejoice when my mind fathoms a problem. Pleased with his own art Neither hinders the other: Thus we live ever Without tedium and envy. Pangur, white Pangur, How happy we are, Alone together, Scholar and cat.

Sea Snatch

Trans. Kenneth Jackson

It has broken us, it has crushed us, it has drowned us, O King of the starbright Kingdom of Heaven!
The wind has consumed us, swallowed us,
As timber is devoured by crimson fire from Heaven.
It has broken us, it has crushed us, it has drowned us,
O King of the starbright Kingdom of Heaven!

Promiscuity

Trans. Kenneth Jackson

I do not know with whom Edan will sleep, but I do know that fair Edan will not sleep alone.

The Praises of God

Trans. W.H. Auden

How foolish the man who does not raise His voice and praise with joyful words, As he alone can, Heaven's High King. To whom the light birds with no soul but air, All day, everywhere laudations sing.

The Desire for Hermitage

Trans. Sean O'Faolain

Ah! To be all alone in a little cell with nobody near me; beloved that pilgrimage before the last pilgrimage to Death. Singing the passing hours to cloudy Heaven; feeding upon dry bread and water from the cold spring. That will be an end to evil when I am alone in a lovely little corner among tombs Far from the houses of the great. Ah! To be all alone in a little cell, to be alone, all alone: Alone I came into the world, Alone I shall go from it.

John Wallace Carter

Cantata

[all texts are taken from traditional spirituals]

3. Recitative, "Sometimes, I feel like a motherless child"

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child, a long way from home.

Sometimes I feel like I'm almost gone, a long way from home.

True believer, a long way from home.

4. Air, "Let us break bread together on our knees"

Let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees wid my face to da rising sun, Oh, Lord have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees wid my face to da rising sun, Oh, Lord have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees wid my face to da rising sun,

Oh, Lord have mercy on me.

Amen.

5. Toccata, "Ride on King Jesus, no man can a hinder me"

Ride on King Jesus, no man can a hinder me.

Ride on King Jesus, ride on,

no man can a hinder me.

He is king of kings. He is Lord of Lords.

Jesus Christ, first and last, no man works like him.

King Jesus rides a milk white horse, no man works like him.

The river of Jordan He did cross, no man works like him.

Ride on King Jesus, no man can a hinder me.

Ride on King Jesus, ride on,

no man can a hinder me.

Ride on Kind Jesus. Ride on. Ride!

No man,

can a hinder me.

David Barnett is a performer and teacher of modern and historical clarinets and recorder, whose musical interests span the gamut of medieval through modern. His playing has been called "as compelling as anything since the pied piper" (San Francisco Chronicle.) He was music director for the notorious San Francisco arts group the Noh Oratorio Society, with whom he performed the world and U.S. premieres of works by Harrison Birtwistle, Gordon Cross, Charles Shere and Richard Felciano among others. He also played numerous concerts on historical clarinet with his ensemble, Zeitgeist 1800.

For ten years David directed the SFEMS Recorder Workshops at Dominican College and has been a visiting artist at Cal Arts, Valencia CA. He has recorded for the Earthbeat, Pacific Artist and Centaur labels. He currently performs with recorderist Tom Bickley as the recorder ensemble Three Trapped Tigers. This concert marks David's first performance with soprano Lisa Delan and a return to Rorem's *Ariel*; a work he performed frequently in the 1970's.

Jarron Carlson is a composer and pianist currently living in San Francisco. From the time he was very young, he had an undeniable passion for creation. As a composer, Jarron relishes the process of collaboration and has a particular interest in working with living poets to write new works for the human voice. In early 2021, he received first prize in the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's Biennial Art Song Composition Contest in collaboration with mezzo-soprano, Lindsay Martin. His music is characterized by a clear economy of gesture and harmony, a strong sense of narrative, and an eclectic sense of musical style. As a pianist, he has performed as an accompanist, in chamber groups, and solo across the United States and Europe. As a person, Jarron enjoys poetry, 20th century French music, Stephen Sondheim, and his two dogs, Charlotte and Fräulein. He is an alumnus of the Gifted Music School in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he studied piano with Koji Attwood. He currently studies composition with Elinor Armer.

American soprano **Lisa Delan** has performed on some of the orld's leading concert stages. Her discography for Pentatone includes And If the Song be Worth a Smile, The White Election, The Hours Begin to Sing and Out of the Shadows: Rediscovered American Art Songs. Opera News featured her most recent recording, A Certain Slant of Light, as an editor's choice, praising her "naturally radiant timbre and fiercely communicative delivery" and identifying her as "a tireless and exemplary advocate of American song".

Soprano **Maryam Mahvi Donovan** born in Tehran, Iran has sung and played all over Europe, and the US, but calls California her home. As a winner of the Metropolitan International Music Festival, Maryam performed at Carnegie Hall. She was featured at the Festival of New American Music in Sacramento performing the songs of composer Kurt Erickson. Maryam also sang the role of Elmish in the new world opera Ammon and the King by composer Deon Nielsen Price. And she recorded the recently released album of Spirituals with Metropolitan Opera Star Baritone Lester Lynch. She was also an audience favorite and regional finalist of the Metropolitan National Council Auditions and holds a bachelor's degree in vocal performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Maryam plays the Prison Diva in Michael Meehans's indie comedy/crime film Hey Monster, Hands Off My City. She recorded the world premiere of Carlos Franzetti's opera Corpus Evita at Skywalker, singing the title role Eva Perón. Maryam also played La Diva in Teatro Zinzanni, San Francisco's long-running comedy extravaganza.

She is an active recitalist, performing in Los Angeles, New York, and London, singing Classical and Contemporary music, Traditional Persian Songs, and American Spirituals. Concerts include Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* at Carnegie Hall, contemporary choral pieces by composers Kurt Erickson, David Conte, and David Garner, and works by Tchaikovsky, Puccini, Aaron Copland, Virgil Thompson, and others.

Ericsson Hatfield (b. 1995) is a composer, performer, and educator. His compositions integrate classical and modern techniques to create a fresh musical language. As a composer, he collaborated with Czech historical performer Petra Matějová, receiving first prize for his work "Constellations" as the youngest applicant to the Tribeca New Music Festival. In 2020, he won the Kristen Pankonin Award at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, resulting in a commission to compose a song cycle for solo voice and piano, and received an Honorable Mention in the Conservatory's Biennial Choral Composition Competition. His work as an educator includes the textbook "Techniques of Canonic Counterpoint," to be published in. He studied Composition at the European American Musical Alliance in Paris with David Conte, with whom he is currently studying in the Master of Music program at the San Francisco Conservatory. As a violinist, Hatfield attended the Meadowmount School of Music for three summers where he studied violin with Sally Thomas and Ann Setzer. While pursuing his bachelor's degree in Performance at New York University, he studied under Cyrus Beroukhim, Stephanie Chase, Gregory Fulkerson and Radim Kresta. Hatfield remains an active teacher, solo performer, and chamber musician. He currently studies composition with David Conte.

Meghan Jolliffe is a mezzo-soprano, educator, and administrator who is passionate about fostering a vibrant and inclusive environment for all performing artists. As a performer, Meghan crosses over genres and has been seen in the Bay Area in Opera, Musical Theater, Early Music, and Choral settings. Recent performances include Nerone in Monteverdi's L'incoronazione di Poppea, and a complete performance of Schubert's Die Schöne Müllerin. Meghan holds degrees in voice from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and the New England Conservatory. She is a student of Catherine Cook.

Pianist **Shinae Kim** performs frequently across the United States and internationally. She debuted with the Seoul Symphony Orchestra at age 11 and has appeared as soloist with the Coro Symphony in Puerto Rico, the International Chamber Orchestra in California, and the Brevard Repertory Orchestra in North Carolina. As a collaborator, she has performed at Carnegie Hall, Symphony Space, and Merkin Hall, and has been featured on WQXR with flutist Conor Nelson.

Dr. Kim holds a Bachelor of Music degree from The Boston Conservatory, a Master's in Music Education from New York University, and a doctorate in piano performance from Stony Brook University. She attended the Franz-Schubert-Institut in Austria, where she studied Lieder intensively. As an educator, Dr. Kim has worked at LaGuardia Performing High School, Wagner School for Arts and Technology, and was an adjunct faculty member at New York University and Hebrew Union College.

In 2017, Shinae Kim founded the non-profit organization An die Musik NYC, and served as its artistic director for three seasons. After moving to California in the summer of 2020, she is excited to be part of the California music-making community and to be collaborating with musicians of the West Coast.

As an in-demand recitalist and coach, pianist **Kevin Korth** has collaborated with such legendary artists as Frederica von Stade, Isabel Leonard, Jake Heggie, Suzanne Mentzer, Nadine Sierra, Lise Lindstrom, Robert Mann, Joel Krosnick, Marnie Breckenridge, Nicholas Phan, Deborah Voigt, and Brian Asawa. Praised by Gramophone for playing that is "superb", and "full of color and character," his debut album, Out of the Shadows, a recording of American art song with soprano Lisa Delan and cellist Matt Haimovitz on the Pentatone Classics label was warmly received.

Reflecting his being in demand as an interpreter of contemporary work, the album features premieres by Jack Perla, Gordon Getty, and David Garner, in addition to previously unrecorded works by Norman Dello Joio and John Kander. Recent projects include an album of Robinson Jeffers settings by composer Christopher Anderson-Bazzoli with mezzo-soprano Buffy Baggott for the Delos label, and an album of songs by composer David Conte for the Arsis label. Upcoming engagements for 2021 include recitals with mezzo-soprano Catherine Cook, baritone Matthew Worth and soprano Rhoslyn Jones. Mr. Korth currently holds a position on the vocal coaching faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Lindsay Martin is a mezzo-soprano who started singing at the age of six. She continued her singing education at Canyon Crest Academy through their Vocal Conservatory program. Upon graduation in 2018, she was accepted into the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's undergraduate vocal program and began studying with Catherine Cook. She has performed as Adelberto in Handel's Ottone, Nutrice in Monteverdi's L'incoronazione di Poppea and sung lead roles in numerous operatic scenes including Massenet's Cendrillon, Gounod's Mireille, and Adamo's Little Women. Her upcoming roles include Giulio Cesare in Handel's Giulio Cesare and Annio in Mozart's La Clemenza di Tito. She has a particular interest in collaborating with living composers and librettists to create new vocal works which push the often conservative boundaries of the classical music world-thereby expanding the definition of classical music to be more inclusive and relevant to today's audiences. Lindsay is a student of Catherine Cook.

Pianist **Keisuke Nakagoshi** has received training from Emanuel Ax, Gilbert Kalish, Menahem Pressler and Paul Hersh and he has performed concert stages across the United States including the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall and Hollywood Bowl. In 2014, he made a solo debut with San Francisco Symphony on Ingvar Lidholm's Poesis with Herbert Blomstedt conducting. Keisuke and Swiss pianist Eva-Maria Zimmermann formed a piano duet, ZOFO and their first CD was nominated for Grammy award for best chamber music/small ensemble in 2013. Aside from ZOFO, Mr. Nakagoshi is a pianist in residence at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and also he serves as pianist in the production team for Opera Parallèle.

Soprano **Christa Pfeiffer** is honored to join in the 4th Kristin Pankonin American Art Song Award Showcase Concert. Her love of Art Song goes back to her days as a high school student in the SFCM preparatory department to getting her Bachelor's degree in vocal performance at Eastman School of Music, and on through many years of collaborating with Kristin Pankonin. Besides being heard in numerous recital venues including Old First Concerts, Noontime Concerts, Piedmont Art Center and Gualala Arts Center, Christa has established herself as a specialist in oratorio and chamber music. Whether she is singing Reich with the SF Ballet, Haydn at St George's Cathedral in Cape Town, SA or Purcell with American Bach Soloists, you will always see a smile on her face. Her 2022 performance schedule begins in January in Alice Tully Hall with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale performing Bach's Mass in B Minor.

Bruce Rameker possesses the rare ability to perform as both a baritone and a countertenor. He has appeared on the stages of Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Town Hall, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, and the Spoleto Festival in a diverse repertoire that includes ancient music, opera, oratorio, tango and new music. Bruce has sung with the Skylight Opera Theatre, Chicago Opera Theater, New York City Opera, Anchorage Opera, Waverly Consort, Voices of Ascension, Meredith Monk Vocal Ensemble, Sacred Music in a Sacred Space, Musica Sacra, and New York Ensemble for Early Music. Recordings include A Seeker's Faith, Meredith Monk's On Behalf of Nature, Just Another Hour with the Trillium Ensemble, ilberial with the Waverly Consort, and One Body, a piece written for him by John Kennedy featuring both baritone and countertenor ranges.

Acclaimed for her "heart-breaking poignancy" and "beautifully tuned soprano" by the San Francisco Chronicle, soprano **Shawnette Sulker** is a sought-after artist in the United States and abroad. A consummate performer, her recent operatic roles include Die Königin der Nacht (*Die Zauberflöte*); Amore (*Orfeo ed Euridice*); Pip (Heggie's Moby Dick); Clitennestra (Porta's Ifigenia in Aulide); The Visitor (Sankaram's Formidable); Carolina (Il matrimonio segreto). Further roles in the soprano's repertoire include Zerbinetta (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), Cunegonde (*Candide*), Constanze (*Abduction from the Seraglio*), Musetta (*La Bohème*), Susanna (*Le nozze di Figaro*) and Lauretta (*Gianni Schicchi*). Her concert repertoire includes Orff's Carmina Burana, Bach's Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen, Mozart's Exsultate, Jubilate, Bach's Mass in B Minor, and Scarlatti's Su le sponde del Tebro.

Ms. Sulker has sung with the San Francisco Opera, Mark Morris Dance Group, American Bach Soloists, Hawaii Opera Theatre, Opera Memphis, Eugene Symphony, Oakland Symphony, Union Avenue Opera, Opera Naples, Pacific Opera Project, Santa Rosa Symphony, Opera San Jose, West Edge Opera, Opera Modesto, and the Natchez Opera Festival, to name a few. Upcoming engagements include singing Floralba in Pallavicino's Messalina with Ars Minerva, Sister Rose in Heggie's Dead Man Walking with Opera Idaho, a vocal recital in Italy, and Cleopatra in Handel's Giulio Cesare with West Edge Opera.

Born in Vancouver, Canada, **Juri Yun** began the guitar at the age of 14. Originally self-taught, he won his first guitar competition the following year where he met his first guitar teacher.

He has performed in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Since 2014, Juri has won top prizes in both Canada and the US. Most recently, he made his debut at Carnegie Hall as the winner of the Elite International Music Competition. Juri has had the opportunity to study and have masterclasses with prominent guitarists such as Judicael Perroy, Meng Su, David Leisner, Jeffrey McFadden, and many more. He completed his Bachelor of Music in Performance at the University of Toronto under the tutelage of the esteemed and world-renowned guitarist, Dr. Jeffrey McFadden. Juri is a student of David Tanenbaum.