



THE LAST DANCE

MUSIC, IMPROVISATION & THE RESILIENT BRAIN

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PRESENTER & COLLABORATOR BIOGRAPHIES



Kaitlin Casaletto, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Memory and Aging Center. As a neuropsychologist, she is passionate about understanding factors that protect

the brain against age and neurodegeneration. Her program of research bridges molecular fluid biomarkers with deep behavioral phenotyping of lifestyle and cognition to interrogate these processes. She has published over 80 peer-reviewed articles, holds grant support from the NIA, Alzheimer's Association, and Hillblom Foundation, and her works have been featured in the popular press (including CNN, New York Times, One Mind, and AARP). Kaitlin obtained her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the UCSD/SDSU Joint Doctoral Program in 2016.



Kimberly Cole is a Billboard charting recording artist, songwriter, and multidisciplinary creative. She has been featured in VEVO, MTV, Billboard, iHeart Radio, Nylon Magazine, iTunes New and Noteworthy to name a few with

countless placements in TV, film, and commercials. Garnering a large social media following early in her career, she has had campaigns with Revlon, Coach, Skittles and more. The Orange County native and UCLA graduate has had major releases with Atlantic Records, Warner, and Universal Music penning songs for herself as well as other artists. She acted as host and presenter for the American Music Awards, her own show FM, and has toured the US, Europe, and Asia with her most recent music collaboration becoming a 2019 summer radio hit in France. Her passion for storytelling, the human experience, and years as a musical artist have led her to step behind the camera as a creative director and executive producer teaming up with Critical Content and John Legend's Get Lifted Film

Co. to develop several TV projects as she readies to her next musical release.



Jean-Yves Ducornet (aka Jeeve) is a fixture of the music and entertainment world. Well known for being a one-of-a-kind musical architect, crafting as a producer, musician, songwriter, engineer, and composer, he has created a catalog

of music that has been used for countless films, TV shows, commercials and music projects. In 2004, Jeeve was nominated at the Latin Grammys for Producer of The Year (DJ Kane: DJ Kane). In 2013, Jeeve won a Latin Grammy for the best Pop/Rock Album (Beto Cuevas: Transformacion) – Production and Songwriting. In 2017, Jeeve was nominated at the Latin Grammys for Best Contemporary Pop Vocal Album – Production, Songwriting and Mixing. Jeeve works with a select team of the industry’s top co-writers and co-producers such as Philip Lawrence, Dave Gibson, Babyface, Tricky, Diane Warren, the Writing Camp and Claudia Brant to name a few. Jeeve has worked with a huge variety of accomplished and widely known recording artists worldwide. Jeeve has an extensive list of credits in TV & Film which include providing music for fifteen seasons of “America’s Next Top Model” and featured music in numerous popular shows along with music for several networks. A dual citizen of the US & France, Jeeve spent his early years traveling back and forth between both countries, where he developed his broad musical skills. After studying at the studio Des Varietés in Paris, France and Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA he relocated to Los Angeles where he currently resides.



Neus Falgàs, MD, PhD, Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health, is a neurologist and researcher specializing in the diagnostic assessment of cognitive disorders and their clinical management. The overarching goal of her research is to improve the diagnostic framework of Alzheimer’s disease. Falgas completed a neurology residency at the Hospital Clínic de Barcelona where she was awarded as the best training resident (2016, 2017). In 2016, she was granted by the hospital to complete her training as a behavioral neurologist (predoc

fellowship) at the Alzheimer’s Unit while developing a three-year research project. This project, which was awarded by the Spanish Society of Neurology (2016), allowed her to complete her PhD thesis centered on the performance of diagnostic biomarkers in early-onset Alzheimer’s disease (Universitat de Barcelona, 2019). After the inspiring experience as an Atlantic Fellow at GBHI, she is currently working at UCSF researching sleep-wake alterations and related biomarkers in collaboration with the Alzheimer Unit (lead by Dr. Raquel Sánchez-Valle) and Sleep Unit (lead by Dr. Alex Iranzo) at Hospital Clínic.



Kris Grant is a classically trained musician and multi-media artist with particular expertise in sound design, synthesis techniques, and electronic composition for digital media. He has been producing and mixing electronic music under the

moniker ‘Idea Unsound’ for over a decade with various software systems, developing a strong understanding of computer-music interfacing, as well as an instrument-like level of comfort within the digital environment. Currently, Grant teaches a year-long course on music production using Ableton Live for the San Francisco Conservatory of Music pre-college department.



Lee Jones, MD, is the Associate Dean for Students at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF). Jones received his BA degree from Dartmouth College and medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians

and Surgeons. After completing a psychiatry residency and chief residency at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Neuropsychiatric Institute, he entered a consultation-liaison fellowship at Cornell Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center followed by a research fellowship at the University of California at San Diego (UCSD). Jones has worked in medical school curricular affairs, graduate medical education, admissions, and student affairs at Tulane, University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), UCSF, University of Texas at San Antonio, the University of Arizona at Tucson, and University of California at Davis (UCD) before returning to UCSF as the Associate Dean for

Students. Jones has been a Liaison Committee for on Medical Education (LCME) Site Team member and Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Holistic Review Site Team member. He serves on the Board of Directors at AAMC and the Chair of the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) Task Force.



Magda Kaczmarska, MFA, Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health, is a teaching artist and creative-aging advocate based in New York City. She received her MFA in Dance Performance & Choreography and her BS in

Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics from the University of Arizona. She spent 10 years working in neuropharmacology research and over 15 years in community-based education settings in dance and creative expression for persons of all ages, specifically older adults. As an interdisciplinary artist, Kaczmarska's work draws on her classical folk, ballet, modern and jazz training and blends it with post-modern and improvisational techniques to explore infrastructures of language and identity. Her solo and collaborative work have been presented at festivals, galleries and theaters in the US, Switzerland and Taiwan. She serves on the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) Dance & Disability Special Interest Group, supporting access, equity and inclusion in the dance education community. As an Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health at GBHI, she is working to design and expand access to creative aging programs that support brain health across the lifespan. www.magdakaczmarska.com



Camellia Latta, MLA, is the Alumni Relations Manager at the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) based out of the University California, San Francisco (UCSF). She co-leads alumni engagement efforts to build robust opportunities for Atlantic

Fellows for Equity in Brain Health. She also manages the partnership with the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She brings extensive experience from the philanthropic and nonprofit sectors in international human rights, network and relationship building, program design, and funding. Latta managed communities of stakeholders in her nonprofit work,

advanced strategic partnerships at the Sandler Foundation and Open Society Foundations and conducted research and outreach with social justice organizations in New York, San Francisco, and Sierra Leone. She is also a flutist in the San Francisco Bay Area where she performs in community settings and has served twice as a grants panelist with the San Francisco Arts Commission. Latta received her Bachelor of Arts with honors in History and Feminist Studies from Stanford University and studied flute performance there under the instruction of the music faculty. She holds a Master of Liberal Arts degree in Human Rights Studies from Columbia University.



Charles Limb, MD, is the Francis A. Sooy Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and the Chief of the Division of Otology, Neurotology and Skull Base Surgery at UC San Francisco. He is also the Director of the Douglas

Grant Cochlear Implant Center at UCSF and holds a joint appointment in the Department of Neurosurgery. Limb is the principal investigator of a National Endowment for the Arts Research Lab that studies the neural basis of musical creativity. He is also currently serving as the Co-Director (with Dr. Julene Johnson) for the National Endowment for the Arts Sound Health Network. His work on creativity and music perception in cochlear implant users has been featured in media and venues worldwide including National Public Radio, TED, National Geographic, the New York Times, PBS, CNN, Scientific American, the British Broadcasting Company, the Kennedy Center, Smithsonian Institute, the Library of Congress, the Sundance Film Festival, Canadian Broadcasting Company, Wired, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and the American Museum of Natural History.

Jacob Mendel is an independent filmmaker and works as an editor at Flawless Post. His work ranges from narrative to music video, to documentary, often exploring unique intersections of cinema and music. Jacob was selected to participate in the Kyoto Filmmakers Lab in Japan and was admitted to the cinematography program at the Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. He has received numerous filmmaking awards including 'Best Foreign Short Film' at LA

Action On Film Festival and 'Director To Watch' at Los Angeles 3D Film Festival and was selected to be a speaker at TEDx University of Michigan. His portfolio is online at flawlesspost.com/editorial/jacob-mendel/jacob-mendel-featured.



Bruce Miller, MD, is the A.W. and Mary Margaret Clausen Distinguished Professor in Neurology, Director of the Memory and Aging Center (MAC) at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), and co-director of the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI). He is a behavioral neurologist whose work in neurodegenerative conditions emphasizes brain-behavior relationships and the genetic and molecular underpinnings of disease. He is the principal investigator of the NIH-sponsored Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and program project on frontotemporal dementia. Additionally, he helps lead the Tau Consortium and the Bluefield Project to Cure Frontotemporal Dementia. He was awarded the Potamkin Award from the American Academy of Neurology and elected to the National Academy of Medicine.



Molly Miller, PhD, Since she picked up a guitar at age seven, Molly Miller has been captivating audiences with her sophisticated and raw style. She's one of Los Angeles's most sought-after musicians, recording and touring with artists such as Jason Mraz, Black Eyed Peas, Donna Missal, and Morgxn, at venues such as the Hollywood Bowl, Royal Albert Hall, Coachella, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, and Walt Disney Concert Hall. In her feature in the renowned magazine, *Guitar*, Michael James Adam notes, "she slings the guitar like a wordsmith, wry and sarcastic with a playful slant and flows from hushed whisper to bursts of elation with aplomb". Miller is featured on Jason Mraz's 2018 album *Know* and his latest release *Look for the Good*. She is in the house-band on The Bachelor's newest ABC primetime show, *Listen To Your Heart*. Soon after earning her Doctorate in Musical Arts from the University of Southern California in 2016, she became the chair of the Guitar Department at Los Angeles College of Music, a position she still holds. When Miller's not

on tour, running a guitar department, or in the studio, she heads her own trio, Molly Miller Trio, showcased on NPR's *Fresh Air*. The second album by Molly Miller Trio is slated for release in 2021.



Sammy Miller, MM, A native of Los Angeles, Sammy Miller has become known for his unique maturity and relentless focus on making music that "feels good" as a drummer, singer, and bandleader. Upon completing his master's degree at

The Juilliard School, Sammy formed his ensemble, The Congregation. As a band they are focused on sharing the power of community through their music—joyful jazz. And while independently the band members have performed/recorded with notable artist including Wynton Marsalis, O.A.R, Iron and Wine, Joshua Redman, Lee Fields, Jason Moran at venues including the White House, Lincoln Center, and the Hollywood Bowl, The Congregation has opted to stick together and create globally conscious music to spread joy throughout the world.



Samuel C. Nedel is a composer, double bassist and choral musician, originally from Kent, Ohio. He began his professional career singing in the Cleveland Opera Chorus, the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, and as a pit musician for theatrical productions in Ohio and Maine. In 2008 Nedel moved to New York City where he performed at many of the city's renowned venues, including The Juilliard School, St Bartholomew's Church, Avery Fisher Hall, The Stonewall Inn, The DiMenna Center, and Carnegie Hall. He composed and performed several choral works for Chromatic Voice Exchange, a new music chorus, and was a double bassist in The Chelsea Symphony and the Queer Urban Orchestra. In 2014, Nedel made his television debut as a member of the fictitious "New York Symphony" in Amazon Studios' original series, *Mozart in the Jungle*. Sam began studying music composition at Mannes with Lowell Liebermann and is continuing his studies at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music with David Garner.



Mia Pixley, PhD, is a clinical psychologist and artist who uses her cello, voice, and music performance to playfully study and represent aspects of self and other, community, and the natural world. Similar to the collaborative lens

from which she approaches her psychotherapy practice, Pixley’s artistic collaborations lead with curiosity, honesty, humility, and humor. She began playing the cello at the age of four through the University of Texas at Austin Youth String Project. A Nigerian and Venezuelan girl in predominantly white American spaces — music was a way for Mia to access and communicate her emotional life and sense of isolation. She continues to use music in this way, choosing to play the cello in a unique manner that speaks to her ancestral heritage, life experience, and the way she rolls. Pixley has a professional studies diploma in cello performance from San Francisco Conservatory of Music (Class of '18). She has studied classical cello with Joel Beckett, Wendy Sutter, (previous cellist of *Bang on A Can*), and Jennifer Culp (previous cellist of *Kronos Quartet*). Pixley has also studied with Mark Summer (previous cellist of the Turtle Island Quartet) to learn extended cello techniques and study composition. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from Columbia University in Urban Studies and Psychology, a master’s degree in Psychoanalytic Developmental Psychology from University College, London, and a PhD in Clinical Psychology from City University of New York.



Jonathan (Jon) Schor, PhD, is an MD/PhD student at the University of California, San Francisco and currently a post-doctoral fellow in the lab of Dr. Alexandra Nelson. His research focuses on understanding Deep Brain Stimulation

(DBS), a therapy that is used to treat movement disorders such as Parkinson’s Disease and which is currently being investigated for use in drug addiction, depression, and chronic pain. He is also passionate about music, formerly playing cello in a folk trio in Los Angeles and currently collaborating on hip hop production with a group of other musicians. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, Schor did his undergraduate training at the California

Institute of Technology in Pasadena, CA before moving up to San Francisco to continue his training.



David H. Stull, MM, became President of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music on July 1, 2013, having served previously as Dean of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music since 2004. Recognizing the success of Oberlin’s innovative

academic programming and contributions to American education, President Barack Obama presented the Oberlin Conservatory of Music with the National Medal of Arts, which Stull accepted on behalf of the institution in February 2010. From 1993 to 2000, Stull held positions at Lawrence University’s Conservatory of Music in Appleton, Wisconsin, as a member of the brass faculty, director of conservatory admissions and assistant dean. Stull was also associate director of admissions for The Juilliard School from 1990–1993. He has been heard on Public Radio International’s *From the Top*, National Public Radio’s *Performance Today*, and on WCLV/WVIZ radio in Ohio. A native of Cincinnati, Ohio, Stull earned degrees in tuba performance and English literature at Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music. He attended the Aspen Music Festival and pursued further study at The Juilliard School in the American Brass Quintet program before completing a Master of Music degree at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.



Victor Valcour, MD, PhD, is the Executive Director of the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) and the Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health training program, and a Professor of Geriatric Medicine at the University of

California, San Francisco. At GBHI, Valcour aims to improve brain health worldwide by training a new generation of experts to meet community needs. With expertise in geriatric medicine, dementia, and international research, he offers unique opportunities for Atlantic Fellows to understand the connections between aging and cognitive disorders from a global perspective, and to appreciate the inequities of brain health rooted in economic and social conditions. Valcour is an advocate for underserved populations and a voice for elders and their

role in society. Valcour's international research portfolio addresses the high frequency of cognitive disorders in the setting of HIV. He has engaged a global audience by conducting this research in the United States, Asia, and Africa. He founded the SEARCH research group in Thailand in 2005 and is a founding Investigator for AFRICOS, a cohort study of HIV in Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria. In 2013, he received a PhD for his international work in HIV. His research underway in San Francisco addresses the interplay of HIV-related brain injury and Alzheimer's disease in people over the age of 60 living with HIV.

Enrique Vargas is a third-year student at the UCSF School of Medicine planning to apply to neurosurgery. His research interests were molded by his undergraduate research studying the effects of transcranial lasers in older adults as part of the Gonzalez-Lima Lab at UT Austin. Enrique is also an aspiring composer and is inspired by his grandfather, a classically trained pianist.



Jonas Wright, Dean and Chief Academic Officer, is responsible for the academic program at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music (SFCM). In addition to leadership and cultivation of the faculty, he oversees and implements changes to the curriculum. He is guided by a commitment to the student population, who represent some of the finest musicians in the country, with a focus on academic achievement, student engagement, and efforts to attract new students of the highest caliber to SFCM. While serving as Registrar, Wright successfully led the initiative to move the Conservatory to online registration and grade reporting, creating a more user-friendly experience. Before joining SFCM, Wright served first as Operations Manager, then as Registrar, at the Presidio Graduate School, where he established the school's first Registrar's Office. He's also held positions at the American Film Institute, supporting a student population consisting of the most driven, focused, and talented aspirants to film and television production. Since September 2016, Wright has served as Board Chair for Little Opera, an after-school arts and music program. Originally from Buffalo, New York, Wright received his Bachelor of Arts in film studies from the University of Buffalo.