



CalArts Music Showcase

Music

JAN 17, 2024

8:30 PM

PRESENTED BY

REDCAT

Roy and Edna Disney

CalArts Theater

CaLARTS

California Institute of the Arts

We gratefully acknowledge that we operate on the traditional lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash peoples—including the Gabrieleño, Fernandefío, and Venturefío; members of the Takic and Chumashan language families; and other Indigenous peoples who made their homes in and around the area we now call Los Angeles. We honor their ancestors past, present, and future, and recognize their continued existence and contributions to our society.

CalArts Music Showcase

The CalArts Music Showcase features performances by graduate student creators from the Herb Alpert School of Music at California Institute of the Arts.

UMBRA

EMMA-ROSE BAUMAN

Emma-rose Bauman (flute and electronics)

You Could Die Just the Same on a Sunny Day

IVAN CUNNINGHAM

Andrew Chanover (percussion); Geneviève Cecile (flute); Grace Dashnaw (cello); Ivan Cunningham (alto saxophone); Nelle Anderson (voice); Nic Brannen (piano and percussion)

Superlative

NELLE ANDERSON

John Abernethy (drums); Alex Grant (bass); Nelle Anderson (vocals and guitar)

subDOMINANT

++

Matt LeVeque (microphone feedback); Daniel Newman-Lessler (megaphone and electronics); M A Harms* (costume designer)

Inner Wind Blows Blue

ZHU DONGCHEN

Jules Evens (piano); Exodus Moreno (vocals); Geneviève Cecile (flute); Grace Dashnaw (cello); Ivan Cunningham (alto saxophone); Matthew Haramia (percussion)

— INTERMISSION —

I Can Feel

GPT

Arlo Tomeček (voice and synthesizer); Junson Park (visuals and synthesizer); Daniel Gonzalez (synthesizer)

Winters

ALICE SANDAHL

Alice Sandahl (voice); Telesmar Sanchez (guitar); Greg Coates (upright bass); Elizabeth Goodfellow (drumset and backup vocals)

Have You Seen the Moon These Days?

ZAC BURGENBAUCH

You, Me, + the Whales Sextet: Brody Scott (saxophone); Elif Dinçer* (harp); Zac Burgenbauch (guitar); M A Harms* (vibraphone and percussion); Lucas Lenique* (drumset); Devin Burgenbauch* (bass)

Arranca

BECKY G & OMEGA EL FUERTE

La Travesía

JUAN LUIS GUERRA & 4.40

Te Iré a Buscar

SUJETO ORO 24

ft. DON OMAR & FARRUKO

Tambora Desafinada: Rebeca Perez (voice); Ángel Miguel López (voice); Shane Vincent* (trumpet); Simone Summers (trumpet); Cameron Bessicks (trumpet); Christopher Galindo (saxophone); Dominic Martinez (saxophone); Alan Gonzalez (piano); Andreas Hester (bass); Joshua Salgado (güira); Sebastián Nassar (tambora); Nestor Gonzalez (congas); Sam Haupt** (drumset)

* CalArts Alumnx Artist / ** Guest Artist

Please note: CalArts Music Showcase contains loud sound and strong language.

Runtime: Approx. 75 minutes, with intermission

Performers

ALAN GONZALEZ — Performer-Composer BFA4

ALEX GRANT — Jazz BFA4

ALICE SANDAHL — Performer-Composer MFA3

ANDREAS HESTER — Jazz BFA4

ANDREW CHANOVER — Jazz BFA3

ÁNGEL MIGUEL LÓPEZ — School of Theater, Acting MFA2

ARLO TOMEČEK — Music Technology MFA1

BRODY SCOTT — Composition and Experimental Sound Practices MFA2

CAMERON BESSICKS — InstrumentalArts MFA1

CHRISTOPHER GALINDO — InstrumentalArts BFA1

DANIEL GONZALEZ — Music Technology MFA1

DANIEL NEWMAN-LESSLER — Performer-Composer DMA2

DEVIN BURGENBAUCH — Jazz Performance Alumnx

DOMINIC MARTINEZ — Jazz BFA3
ELIF DINÇER — Composition and Experimental Sound Practices Alumnx
ELIZABETH GOODFELLOW — Guest Artist
EMMA-ROSE BAUMAN — InstrumentalArts MFA2
EXODUS MORENO — Composition and Experimental Sound Practices MFA1
GENEVIÈVE CECILE — Composition and Experimental Sound Practices MFA1
GRACE DASHNAW — Composition and Experimental Sound Practices MFA1
GREG COATES — Guest Artist
IVAN CUNNINGHAM — Performer-Composer MFA1
JOHN ABERNETHY — Jazz BFA3
JOSHUA SALGADO — Music Technology BFA4
JULES EVENS — Composition and Experimental Sound Practices MFA1
JUNSON PARK — Music Technology MFA1
LUCAS LENIQUE — Jazz Performance Alumnx
M A HARMS — Performer-Composer Alumnx
MATT LEVEQUE — Performer-Composer DMA1
MATTHEW HARAMIA — InstrumentalArts Percussion BFA2
NANCY ZHU — Composition and Experimental Sound Practices MFA1
NELLE ANDERSON — Performer-Composer MFA2
NESTOR GONZALEZ — Performer-Composer BFA4
NIC BRANNEN — Composition MFA2
REBECA PEREZ — VoiceArts BFA3
SAM HAUPT — Guest Artist
SEBASTIÁN NASSAR — World Percussion Performance MFA2
SHANE VINCENT — School of Music Alumnx
SIMONE SUMMERS — Performer-Composer BFA3
TELESMAR SANCHEZ — Jazz Guitar MFA2
ZAC BURGENBAUCH — Performer-Composer MFA2

Creative and Production Team

Creative and Art Director: DYLAN ALLEN TODD — Music Technology BFA5

Curator and Associate Producer: KIERNAN ROBINSON — Composition and Experimental Sound Practices MFA2

School of Music Faculty Advisor and Producer: MADS FALCONE

Curator and Associate Producer: SIMONE MAURA — InstrumentalArts MFA2

ABOUT THE WORKS

UMBRA is an ambient deconstruction of my recorded track by the same name, taking the same melodic elements, pulling them off their grid, and rhythmically warping them. It features asymmetric loops built from sonic closeups of flute/air/breath sounds to evoke a lack of oxygen and an introspective mood.

You Could Die Just the Same on a Sunny Day | Train tracks have two rails that run parallel to each other. Participants hop from rail to rail; meanwhile, both sides are moving forward down the tracks at a steady rate.

Superlative | In my senior year high school yearbook, I was given the superlative “Most Likely to Become a Rockstar.” Then, I went to the East Coast and became an opera singer. This song bridges that gap.

subDOMINANT is a work for megaphones, microphone feedback, and electronics. Through the visual and sonic juxtaposition of materials - megaphones (with the connotation of political resistance) and mini-amps (mounted on a leather BDSM harness, with the implication of sexual submission and promiscuity) - the piece explores utopian potential hidden within porous and open power structures. Although the sonic character of the piece is often harsh and loud, it dramatizes new ways of interacting with one another, and imagines a world in which noise is but one way of expressing relationality.

Inner Wind Blows Blue employs meditative breathing-playing as an approach to musical creation. It proposes a methodology of practicing any instrument by anyone, for any number of players. The ensemble sees its performers’ bodies not as vessels for generating sound but as ends in themselves. In a reversal of the traditional understanding of musician and instrument, the notes being played become gusts of wind plucking the heart chord of the performers. The inner wind blows with each and every in-breath and out-breath; it blows blue. The performance is inspired by the group’s shared love of experimental music, an ongoing Yoga practice, and the respiratory limitations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I Can Feel | In this artistic odyssey, virtual intelligence embarks on a quest through the kaleidoscopic realm of the human unconscious, guided by the symphony of life. It navigates a labyrinth of electronic soundscapes, where each layer resonates with the pulsating heart of human experience. This journey, illuminated by a tapestry of abstract visuals, mirrors the intricate dance of shadows and light in the modern world, revealing the poignant beauty and inherent conflicts within. Here, in this fusion of silicon and soul, this work becomes a mirror, reflecting not just the aesthetics of existence but the profound realization that within the chaos and harmony of our days lies the true, undying beauty of being.

Winters | My piece Winters is a song about grappling with the complexity of emotions that come when we uproot ourselves from a place we love and take a risk to explore the unknown and unexpected in our lives. The video explores the idea of experiencing time in layers and being in connection with the past, present, and future parts of ourselves. My goal is to create a connection within the audience through the interactive experience of music and performance with universal themes of grief and change, ultimately bringing a collective healing through this body of work to as many listeners as possible.

Have You Seen the Moon These Days? | You, Me, + the Whales Sextet is a special project that has been able to combine musicians with widely different backgrounds, personalities, and metiers into a cohesive and vastly original whole. This composition “Have You Seen the Moon These Days?” draws upon rich instrumentation, suite-like compositional structures, and improvised moments of freedom, in order to guide the audience through an experience of sound that is beyond genre. Originally formed at CalArts, the incredible chemistry of this ensemble has propelled it forward into various recordings studios and venues within Los Angeles, each member of the ensemble contributing their unique voice to the seamless construction of sound. Inspired by spiritual jazz practices, Cage-ian aesthetics, as well as co-leaders Zac and Devin Burgenbauch’s upbringing in the Eastern Sierra Mountains, YMATW Sextet seeks to combine modal compositions with non-traditional notations and improvisations in an effort to encapsulate the environmental expansiveness of Rural America.

Arranca; La Travesía; Te Iré a Buscar | The band Tambora Desafinada was created to further refine our understanding and performance of the musical idioms of Dominican Merengue. We celebrate the heritage and influence of the Dominican Republic through this musical tradition which has roots in European, African, and Indigenous cultures. We deliberately chose to emphasize contrast in our setlist to offer a glimpse into a few of the many aesthetics within the style of music.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

++ is a Los Angeles-based experimental music duo consisting of Matt LeVeque and Daniel Newman-Lessler. Inspired equally by concert music, noise, installation, and theater, the duo aims to imagine new modes of being through the construction and synthesis of unconventional materials. Through this exploration, their work reveals abject, erotic, horrific, and playful potentialities.

Alex Grant is a BFA4 Class of 2024 Jazz Student at CalArts. Alex studies double bass under Darek Oles and Oscar Hidalgo. At CalArts, he has played with and studied under Jonathan Pinson, Joe LaBarbara, Alphonso Johnson, Larry Koonse, Steve Lehman, and Marvin Smith. Alex writes and performs in various genres, from Jazz, New Music, Classical, Pop, and Punk/Rock.

Alice Sandahl is an LA-based artist better known for her work with Seattle’s surf-noir band La Luz. On her solo debut record *Bright and Blue*, Alice Sandahl excavates with unvarnished vulnerability themes of loss, grief, and hope for the future with keyboard-driven music that combines pop, jazz, and the Great American songbook—Nina Simone meeting Harry Nilsson in a smoky bar anywhere in the world.

Andreas Hester is a BFA4 bassist. While primarily studying in the Jazz department under Darek Oles, he has taken an interest in a wider variety of genres and proficiency in both acoustic and electric bass.

Andrew Chanover is an experimental percussion and laptop musician. With one foot in tradition and another in the unheard sounds of the world, Andrew looks to push what music can be.

Arlo Tomeček, a transdisciplinary artist, weaves creative expression with activism, spanning music technology, dance, choreography, and poetics. With a global showcase of work, including „Controlling the UNcontrollable,” Arlo is pursuing a Master’s in Music Technology at the California Institute of the Arts. Their approach seeks to reimagine possibilities in the face of obstacles, inspiring individuals to find power in the powerless, control in the uncontrollable.

Beth Goodfellow’s selected credits include *Iron & Wine* (Who Can See Forever, 2023), Julia Holter, boygenius, Madison Cunningham, Calexico, Allison Russell, and Gaby Moreno (“Alegoría”, Grammy-nominated 2023). Beth’s on-screen credits include *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, *James Corden*, *Steven Colbert*, *The Ellen Show*, and *Sara Bareillis*’ “Little Voice”, as well as films “Confess, Fletch” and “80 For Brady.”

brody scott is an artist, noise manipulator, and improviser primarily making noises on saxophone and found objects.

Daniel Gonzalez In the enigmatic realm of sound and rhythm, GS Daniel emerges as a cosmic wanderer, decoding the universe’s secrets since 2011. With an eccentric flair, he conjures meaning from the whimsical dance of frequencies, leaving audiences entranced. A peculiar journeyman of the bizarre beats, GS Daniel’s performances are a kaleidoscopic adventure into the surreal symphony of his musical odyssey.

Noted by the LA Times for his “luxuriant theatricality”, **Daniel Newman-Lessler** is a composer, pianist, installationist, conductor, singer, and educator. Daniel is pursuing a DMA at California Institute of the Arts, where he directs the Contemporary Vocal Ensemble and studies composition with Nick Deyoe and Andrew McIntosh. He is a member of the free improvisation bands (placeholder) and ++.

Devin Burgenbauch is a multi-instrumentalist and composer-improviser based in Los Angeles. Focused on the extraordinariness of simplicity and the personal, his music searches for collisions of moments and emotions, expanding their significance. He uses a variety of techniques to dissect the current while looking to the past. In addition to solo work, he has worked with artists such as Vinny Golia, Chris Speed, and Steve Lehman, and co-runs Little Mango Recordings with his brother.

Elif Dinçer has spent her time researching and developing a large instrumental vocabulary ranging from extended playing techniques to alternate tuning systems. She is an active harpist and composer based in Los Angeles. Alongside the experimental jazz ensemble You, Me, + the Whales Sextet, her recent projects include solo harp performances, electro-acoustic duos with Marcel Rodriguez-Riccelli and Zac Burgenbauch, Berkeley Gamelan Ensemble, and a live symphonic concert with producer Metro Boomin.

Emma-rose Bauman (she/they) frequents the stage as an electro-ambient flutist, jazz/no-wave saxophonist, experimental dancer and actor, multi-style vocalist/screamer, baroque traversière flutist, and punk band front-person, in addition to their mainstay as a contemporary-classical-jazz flutist who regularly premieres works written by their peers in solo, chamber, and ensemble settings alike.

Geneviève Cecile is an interdisciplinary artist studying composition and experimental sound practices at CalArts. Their work explores themes of decay, destruction, and rebirth with evocative visuals and soundscapes. Geneviève uses their flute and voice to pull you into their environments with a whimsical charm and a menacing otherworldly glow.

GPT, an electronic music group originating from the CalArts Music Technology MFA program, brings together diverse artistic backgrounds, including visual programming, music production, and live performance. Their current endeavor is to merge these varied practices into a single project, aiming to innovate and challenge traditional norms in the art world.

Grace Dashnaw is an accomplished cellist, composer, and multimedia artist. Dashnaw studies and creates within the disciplines of music, visual art, animation, sculpture, poetry, film, and fiber arts. Their current focus is multimedia creations. Dashnaw's interests are rooted in exploring emotional depth; longing, nostalgia, frustration, anger, and tranquility are paramount in their work.

Greg Coates is a multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and veteran of the Los Angeles music scene for the last 30 years. Indulging in all styles of rock, R&B, funk, punk, folk and "free jazz" musings with the likes of NOLA legends to indie rockets in the studio, on stage, and worldwide.

Ivan Cunningham is interested in music, but he is even more interested in the people who create

music. As a composer, he intends to encourage an optimistically absurdist alternative to reality, cultivating a “universe of garish colors and bilious time signatures, inhabited by strange characters whose speech borders on nonsense” (The Wire Magazine, 2023).

John Abernethy is a drummer based out of Los Angeles. He is currently studying at California Institute of the Arts under Jonathan Pinson and Andrew Grueschow with a focus on jazz and West African drumming.

Jules Evens is a musician and visual artist. Through methods of playful analog improvisation and digital experimentation, his work evokes unique sentiments characterized by contradiction. By way of surprising turns of melody, intrusive or off-putting timbral elements, vocals that may be most expressive in their garbled-ness, and a misalignment between lyrical substance and melody, he pushes on and absurd-ifies traditional Western concepts of “song”.

Junson Park is an artist blending experimental electronic music with digital media art to create immersive experiences. His work emphasizes the synergy between different expressions, challenging and connecting audiences with the digital realm. He explores the human-technology relationship, seeking to understand its impact on the human experience.

Kiernan Robinson is a multidisciplinary artist and noise-maker from Atlanta, Georgia, with a deep connection to place and memory. Their most recent works have focused on our relationship to home and what it means to be losing those threads in the face of catastrophic climate change.

Lucas Lenny is a musician from Paris, France, based in Los Angeles. Heavily influenced by legends like Elvin Jones or Jack DeJohnette, as well as having a deep interest in world music, Lenny has traveled throughout the world. He has collaborated with Elhadji Sora, a fantastic kora player from Senegal, with whom he released an EP in 2021. He composed and produced his Debut EP ‘At First’, which came out in August 2023.

Matt LeVeque (b.1996) is a percussionist, composer, and improviser based in Los Angeles. His work centers around questions of intimacy, relationality, nostalgia, and absence, in pursuit of an aesthetic of queer futurity. Matt is currently pursuing a Performer-Composer DMA at the California Institute of the Arts, where he studies with Tim Feeney and Michael Pisaro-Liu.

Matthew Haramia is a percussionist/drumset player. He has been playing drums for about 17 years and percussion for 14 years.

M A Harms is a Los Angeles-based composer, performer, and instrument builder who explores the intersections between grief, gender, and sex through a combination of text and sound. Their practice centers performance art and interdisciplinarity, imagining and creating sound using sculptural installations, found objects, electronics, mannequins, and placing equal significance

on the visual experience of their work.

Soprano, composer, and performance artist **Nelle Anderson** seeks the nexus of opera, pop, and free improvisation. An alumna of Bard College, she has toured internationally as a baroque opera soloist, produces experimental pop as Soubrette, and uses singers' practice exercises to radically deconstruct and physicalize classical vocal pieces.

Nestor Gonzalez is a Mexican-American Artist focusing on Drums & Percussion, Improvisation, and Soundscapes. As a member of Tambora Desafinada (Percussion Section), Nestor fills the role of Conguero, along side Sebastian Nassar (Tambora), Sam Haupt (Multi-Percussion), and Josh Salgado (Güira).

Nic Brannen's art practice tries to hear silenced sounds with an exploration into the politics of meaning and social sculpture. Mirroring the three ecologies (mind, social, and environmental), Nic's sonic works have a background in piano performance, trans-voice, and experimental jazz.

Shane Vincent graduated from the School of Music under the Performer-Composer metier in 2022. After performing with the CalArts Salsa band as a student, he continued his love for Latin dance music with Timbora Desafinada. Professionally, Shane works in the fields of Sound Design and Audio Engineering.

Simone Maura is a violinist, producer, educator, and multimedia artist based in Los Angeles. Recent CalArts production credits: CalArts Expo 2024 (Venue Curator); *The Cunt Cave Diaries* (Producer); *Vigil for Palestine: Interactive Altar & Open Mic* (Producer). REDCAT performance credits: *Music for Transitions* (violin); *Celebrating Anthony Braxton* (violin). Instagram: @simone.maura

Simone Summers is a musician from Baltimore who is a junior in the BFA program at CalArts. She enjoys exploring a variety of different types of music and is happy to be joining the merengue band this evening.

Tambora Desafinada is a thirteen piece, student-led, big band at CalArts which performs contemporary music of the Dominican Republic, particularly the rich, diverse, and danceable traditions of Merengue. The group is led by Sebastián Nassar, and all charts are arranged by Sam Haupt and Sebastián Nassar.

Telesmar Sanchez is a Los Angeles-based jazz guitarist, composer, and music educator from Austin, Texas. He has played with notable Austin and LA-based jazz musicians, including Adam Jackson, Barclay Moffitt, Peter Gemus, and Andre Hayward. He is currently pursuing an MFA in jazz guitar studies at CalArts.

You, Me, + the Whales Sextet is an experimental jazz ensemble that brings together American

primitive guitar textures with spiritual jazz, open improvisations, field recordings, Indian classical influences, and a lot of bells. Co-led by brothers Zac Burgenbauch (guitar) and Devin Burgenbauch (bass), YMATW Sextet also features Brody Scott (saxophones), Elif Dinçer (harp/electronics), MA Harms (vibraphone/percussion), and Lucas Lenny (drumset).

Zac Burgenbauch is a Los Angeles-based composer, producer, and guitarist. He is co-leader of You, Me, + the Whales Sextet and You, Me, + the Whales Sustained Tone Trio, as well as duo project OZ with saxophonist David Otis and a duo with harpist Elif Dinçer. He has released solo music under the moniker z.bach and co-runs the label Little Mango Recordings.

Zhu Dongchen is a mixed-media artist born in China and currently active in Santa Clarita. Zhu has been working in sound and visual art, performance, and installation. Their work has been seen in Wuzhen, Kunshan, and Shanghai. Deeply inspired by Xiamen Dada artists, especially Huang Yongping, Zhu utilizes music as fuel in the combustion of East/Western culture, power dynamics, and personal and collective experiences.

REDCAT TECHNICAL STAFF

Technical Director: ADAM MATTHEW
Interim Technical Director: TONY SHAYNE
Associate TD, Sound and Video: PETE PACE
Associate TD, Lighting: CHU-HSUAN CHANG
Stage Manager: CHRISTA TROESTER
Audio Engineer: OLIVIA POPEJOY

Audio Assistant: CALEB VEAZEY
A2/QLab: MAX KNOUSE
Lighting Operator: RACHAEL NEINAST
Deck: ANDREW CHILD
Camera Operator: NAT NICHOLAS

REDCAT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Steven D. Lavine Executive Director of REDCAT &
Vice President for Cultural Partnerships: JOÃO RIBAS
Facilities and Production Manager: JACQUES BOUDREAU
Box Office and Visitor Services Manager: BRENT CHARLES
Executive Producer: PETE GALINDO
Assistant Curator: TALIA HEIMAN
Deputy Director, Finance and Operations: ALLISON KEATING
Front of House Manager: NAOMI OPPENHEIM
Chief Curator and Deputy Director, Programs: DANIELA LIEJA QUINTANAR
Administrative Manager: ROLANDO RODRIGUEZ
Executive Producer: DIANA WYENN

UPCOMING AT REDCAT

Aya Ogawa: *The Nosebleed*

February 1 - 3

Are we doomed to repeat the mistakes of our parents? Through a series of absurd, autobiographical vignettes, innovative playwright, performer, translator, and director Aya Ogawa's hit 2022 Obie Award-winning show irreverently and boldly delves into what it takes to forgive. A trip to Ogawa's home country of Japan, a child's nosebleed, and the reality TV show *The Bachelor* come together in this darkly comical and psychologically insightful theatrical tribute to Ogawa's father. Part theatrical memorial performed by an ensemble of five, part healing ritual for the audience, this darkly humorous, tender, and inventive play considers how we inherit and bequeath failure, and what it takes to forgive.

Sans Soleil with William Parker and Lesley Mok: *Bandung*

February 17

Sans Soleil is a multi-genre ritual duo focused on deepening Black and Asian American solidarity, created and led by Chris Williams and Patrick Shiroishi. The duo's REDCAT premiere, *Bandung*, is an evening-length composition weaving field recordings, pan-Indigenous instrumentation, and free jazz expression, in collaboration with expanded ensemble members William Parker and Lesley Mok. Williams and Shiroishi have taken inspiration from social histories and their personal ancestral history and experiences, diving into cultural themes, as well as political underweavings. Connecting the past with the present while looking into the future, Sans Soleil blends musical genres while continuing to grow their collective voice.

Delbert Anderson and Mali Obomsawin

February 24

Occupying the cutting edge of jazz, Indigenous musicians Delbert Anderson and Mali Obomsawin bring their fresh perspectives to REDCAT with a double bill. Navajo (Diné) jazz trumpeter Delbert Anderson is joined by Robert Muller (keyboard), Evan Suiter (bass), and Khalill Brown (drums). Bassist, singer, and composer from Odanak First Nation, Mali Obomsawin will take the stage to perform pieces from her debut album, *Sweet Tooth*, and new works featuring: Allison Burik (reeds), Magdalena Abrego (guitar), and Evan Woodle (drums).



KCRW is the Official Media Sponsor of REDCAT

Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @calartsredcat

For more information, email redcat@calarts.edu or visit redcat.org