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Pianist Sarah Cahill Announces Future Programming

"Cahill has been instrumental in bringing to life the music of many of our greatest living composers." - *Keyboard Magazine*

"A leading light of the new-music piano scene..." - *The New York Times*

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Pianist Sarah Cahill announces new concert programs, offered for the 2021-2022 concert season and beyond.

Sarah remains strongly committed to making music during these challenging times, and is also offering several programs of virtual livestreamed or pre-recorded performances with live Q&A sessions this season. Based in Berkeley, CA, she is available throughout the 2020-2021 season to perform live concerts for socially distanced audiences, either indoors or outdoors, in central and northern California.



The Future is Female

The Future is Female is an investigation and reframing of the piano literature featuring more than sixty compositions by women around the globe, from the Baroque to the present day, including new commissioned works. This flexible program is available as an evening-length recital performance or as a marathon performance and is ideal for concert halls, museums, and gallery spaces. The marathon performance duration is between four to seven hours,

allowing audience members to sit and listen for any length of time, with the ability to come and go, as well as the ability to walk around the space.

Featured composers include Élisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre, Maria de Alvear, Galina Ustvolskaya, Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Florence Price, Hannah Kendall, Anna Thorvaldsdottir, Kui Dong, Meredith Monk, Vítězslava Kaprálová, Tania León, Fannie Charles Dillon, and many others.

Of recent performances of *The Future is Female*, *Chatham Lifestyle* lauded, “*The Future is Female* was truly a treat: a trip through time and place through a wonderful variety of classical styles,” and *Indy Week* acclaimed, “There's something invitingly contemporary about it, a vital complement to preservation for the vitality of classical piano music.”

In conjunction with *The Future is Female*, Sarah offers online sessions to work with faculty and students about these composers and their music. Sessions can include lectures and demonstrations as well as “blind listening” workshops during which Sarah plays works by both men and women without identifying the composers, and talks with participants about what we conceive as gender in music, as a way to confront our implicit biases. She has also compiled a curated database of solo piano music by women composers through history, which she can share with university/conservatory piano departments. Sarah hopes that students integrate music by women into their repertoire, so that female composers will be heard more often in concert halls.

Endless Shout

Sarah Cahill has worked with George Lewis, Tania León, and Mary Watkins since the mid-1990s, and she premiered and recorded Lewis' four-movement *Endless Shout* under the composer's supervision. For this program comprising works written by Black and POC composers, Sarah revisits these favorites and juxtaposes them with recent works, including new commissions from Mary Watkins and Regina Harris Baiocchi.

Tania León: *Mistica*

Regina Harris Baiocchi: new commission

George Lewis: *Endless Shout*

Aida Shirazi: *Albumblatt*

Reena Esmail: *Rang de Basant*

Mary Watkins: *Summer Days*

Trevor Weston: *Eurythmy Variations*



Be Kind to One Another

Sarah Cahill has commissioned Frederic Rzewski to compose a substantial solo piano work in honor of Terry Riley's 85th birthday. Cahill has worked closely with Terry Riley since 1997, when she commissioned his four-hand piece *Cinco de Mayo* for a festival at Cal Performances celebrating Henry Cowell's 100th birthday—the first of six works she has commissioned from him.

Of Riley, whom he has known since 1964, Rzewski writes, "I guess he is what you might call a 'good man.' There are not many of these in the world of contemporary music, where generally the rule 'Nice guys finish last' tends to apply. Fortunately, Terry is pretty much recognized for what he is: a good composer and a good person. I was really happy when Sarah Cahill asked me to write a piece for his 85th birthday." The commissioned work, in six movements, is called *Humanitas*.

Rzewski adds, "The word 'humanitas' means roughly the same as the Greek word 'philanthropia,' or 'love of humanity'. It is found in a letter of Cicero to his brother Quintus, who was governor of the province of Asia, which was found by the poet Petrarca in the 14th century while working in a library in Liège, which says: 'Even though chance has put

you in a situation of power over lesser peoples, you owe it to your humanitas to treat them decently'. The word later inspired the cultural and scientific movement known as humanism."

Sarah pairs Rzewski's *Humanitas* with works by Terry Riley, Margaret Bond, Theresa Wong, and Ingram Marshall. All but Bonds' *Troubled Water* were commissioned by Sarah, and all contribute to the powerful message of encouraging decency and compassion. The title of the program comes from Terry Riley's work of the same name, which is a quote from the writer Alice Walker a few days after 9/11: "We must learn to be kind to one another now."

Frederic Rzewski: *Humanitas*

Margaret Bonds: *Troubled Water*

Ingram Marshall: *Movement (Deep in My Heart)*

Theresa Wong: *She Dances Naked Under Palm Trees*

Terry Riley: *Be Kind to One Another*

New Commissions

Commissioning new works is an integral part of Sarah Cahill's mission as an artist. Below is a list of recent and upcoming works that she has commissioned. Sarah is pleased to collaborate with presenters in order to create unique programs featuring selections from this list.

Solo Piano

Frederic Rzewski: *Humanitas*

Robert Pollock: *Enneagram*

Mary Watkins: *Summer Days*

Regina Harris Baiocchi: new work

Violin and Piano (to be performed with violinist Kate Stenberg)

Pamela Z: *Presence* for violin, piano, voice, electronics, and video

Roscoe Mitchell: new work

Maija Hynninen: new work

Two Pianos

Riley Nicholson: *Up*

Sarah Cahill, recently called “a sterling pianist and an intrepid illuminator of the classical avant-garde” by *The New York Times*, has commissioned and premiered over sixty compositions for solo piano. Composers who have dedicated works to Cahill include John Adams, Terry Riley, Pauline Oliveros, Julia Wolfe, Yoko Ono, Annea Lockwood, and Ingram Marshall. *Keyboard Magazine* writes, “Through her inspired interpretation of works across the 20th and 21st centuries, Cahill has been instrumental in bringing to life the music of many of our greatest living composers.” She was named a 2018 Champion of New Music, awarded by the American Composers Forum (ACF).

Cahill enjoys working closely with composers, musicologists, and scholars to prepare scores for each performance. She researched and recorded music by prominent early 20th-century American modernists Henry Cowell and Ruth Crawford, and commissioned a number of new pieces in tribute to their enduring influence. Cahill has worked closely with composer Terry Riley since 1997, and for his 80th birthday, Cahill commissioned nine new works for solo piano in his honor and performed them with several of Riley’s own compositions at venues across the country. Cahill also had the opportunity to work closely with Lou Harrison, and has championed many of his works for piano.

Cahill’s latest project is *The Future is Female*, an investigation and reframing of the piano literature featuring more than sixty compositions by women around the globe, from the Baroque to the present day, including new commissioned works. Featured composers include Elizabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, Maria de Alvear, Galina Ustvolskaya, Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Florence Price, Hannah Kendall, Anna Thorvaldsdottir, Kui Dong, Meredith Monk, Vítězslava Kaprálová, Tania León, Fannie Charles Dillon, and many others. Cahill is performing this project in museums, galleries, and concert halls in current and future seasons. Recent and upcoming performances of *The Future is Female* include concerts presented by The Barbican, Carolina Performing Arts, Carlsbad Music Festival, Detroit Institute of Arts, Bowling Green New Music Festival, North Dakota Museum of Art, and Mayville State University.

Cahill has performed classical and contemporary chamber music with artists and ensembles such as Jessica Lang Dance; pianists Joseph Kubera, Adam Tandler, and Regina Myers; violinist Stuart Canin; the Alexander String Quartet; New Century Chamber Orchestra; Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, and many more. She also performs as a duo with violinist Kate Stenberg.

Sarah Cahill remains strongly committed to making music during these challenging times. Recent and upcoming livestream concerts include performances presented by the Bang on a Can Marathon, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, Old First Concerts, Harrison House, Musaics of the Bay, and the Ross McKee Foundation. Cahill also continues to perform outdoor concerts for socially distanced audiences in public parks throughout the Bay Area.

Sarah Cahill's discography includes more than twenty albums on the New Albion, CRI, New World, Tzadik, Albany, Innova, Cold Blue, Other Minds, Irritable Hedgehog, and Pinna labels. Her 2013 release *A Sweeter Music* (Other Minds) featured musical reflections on war by eighteen composer/activists. In 2015, Pinna Records released her two-CD set of Mamoru Fujieda's *Patterns of Plants*, a fusion of nature and technology created by identifying the musical patterns in the electrical impulses of plants. In September 2017, she released her latest album, *Eighty Trips Around the Sun: Music by and for Terry Riley*, a box set tribute to Terry Riley, on Irritable Hedgehog Records. The four-CD set includes solo works by Riley, four-hand works with pianist Regina Myers, and world premiere recordings of commissioned works composed in honor of Riley's 80th birthday.

Cahill's radio show, *Revolutions Per Minute*, can be heard every Sunday evening from 8 to 10 pm on KALW, 91.7 FM in San Francisco. She is on the piano faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory.

For more information, visit www.sarahcahill.com