

Sunday, October 13, 2024- 3:00 P.M.  
E. Desmond Lee Concert Hall, 560 Music Center

# Hub New Music: Birthday Mixtape

Harold Blumenfeld Concert



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Music

# Program

*New Addresses* (2020)

i. *To Breath*

ii. *To My Heart at the Close of Day*

iii. *To "Yes"*

Christopher Cerrone

*Stagnation Blues* (2024)

Elijah Daniel Smith

*How the Stars Vanish . . .* (2021)

Dai Wei

*For Alvin Singleton* (2024)

Tyshawn Sorey

*Concertina* (2024)

Donnacha Dennehy

## **Christopher Cerrone, *New Addresses* (2020)**

The title *New Addresses* was suggested by a collection of poetry by Kenneth Koch, a member of the much-beloved New York School. I was inspired by the emotional immediacy of Koch's work and wanted to echo that in my quartet for the fabulous Boston-based quartet, Hub New Music. The poems in Koch's collection are addressed, in the second person, to a specific object or person of interest ("the Italian Language," "My Father's Business," "Piano Lessons").

Each of the three interconnected movements in *New Addresses* are inspired by one the poems from the eponymous collection. The first, "To Breath," features the insisting chuffing of the flutist. The second "To My Heart at the Close of Day" evokes, via a long violin solo, the protagonist's melancholic mood at dusk. And the last, "To 'Yes,'" is a rhythmic, energetic march that insists—affirmatively—on the same note. It is dedicated, with affection, to Hub.

Commission Credit:

Commissioned by Hub New Music, Ashmont Hill Chamber Music, and Denver Friends of Chamber Music.

## **Elijah Daniel Smith, *Stagnation Blues* (2024)**

Growing up playing electric guitar in Chicago, the Blues were my natural first musical stop. As I got older and fell in love with other genres and traditions, Blues fell by the wayside, at least until a few years ago. During the long overdue reckoning with America's racist history following George Floyd's murder, I decided to dig a little deeper into my own family's history and lineage.

Blues originated in the early 1900s in the Mississippi Delta, and it eventually made its way north to Chicago during the great migration. All of my grandparents passed away before I was born, but my dad's parents were born in the heart of the Delta, and both came to Chicago during the Migration. It was the realization that my musical roots in the Blues were more than just a geographic circumstance, but a cultural and hereditary tradition that goes deeper than I had previously realized. This piece explores the way in which Blues has subtly and subconsciously influenced my compositional voice while also experimenting with the sound of iconic blues riffs and licks.

Commission Credit:

Written for Hub New Music as part of a residency with Princeton Sound Kitchen.

## Dai Wei, *How the Stars Vanish . . .* (2021)

The title *How the Stars Vanish...* came from a phrase of a poem written by the Persian poet Rūmī. This piece is based on my observation and imagination of the stars. I think stars always try their best to be stable in their whole life. When a massive star runs out of fuel, it swells, suddenly collapses, and a very dense core will be left behind, along with the expanding nebula. Looking at stars sometimes can be a very personal thing. It doesn't require this knowledge to create an intimate, poetic conversation between you and the stars. When it comes to dark, I look up at the sky. We are just a mote of dust floating among the vast and tranquil Milky Way. Suddenly, a shooting star glides down the sky, while Orion and Pegasus are silently sharing their stories. Some of the stars are coming towards us, while some of them are vanishing. - Dai Wei

Notice how each particle moves.  
Notice how everyone has just arrived here  
from a journey.  
Notice how each wants a different food.  
Notice how the stars vanish as the sun comes up,  
and how all streams stream toward the ocean.

—Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī, *Notice*

Commission Credit:

Written for Hub New Music as part of a residency with Princeton Sound Kitchen.


## Tyshawn Sorey, *For Alvin Singleton*

2024 Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and multi-instrumentalist Tyshawn Sorey is celebrated for his extraordinary ability to blend composition and improvisation in his work, while also offering incomparable virtuosity, and effortless mastery of highly complex scores. He has performed globally with his own ensembles, as well as alongside industry titans including John Zorn, Bill Frisell, Joe Lovano, Vijay Iyer, Jason Moran, King Britt, Claire Chase, Roscoe Mitchell, and Steve Lehman, among many others.

As a 2017 MacArthur Fellow and a 2018 United States Artists Fellow, the bar is set high for Sorey's continued evolution and success. His composition *Monochromatic Light (Afterlife)* was honored as a Finalist for the 2023 Pulitzer Prize in Music, and has been recorded with the Houston Chamber Choir and DaCamera for release in 2024. Adding to his reputation as a multi-faceted talent, *Downbeat Magazine* recognized Sorey with its 2023 Critics Poll Award as a Rising Star Producer, while frequently placing him near the top of its Composer and Drum Set performance lists. Other recent accolades include the Fromm Fellowship, the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Goddard Lieberman Fellowship, and the Koussevitzky Prize.

Sorey has composed works for the International Contemporary Ensemble, Talea Ensemble, soprano Julia Bullock, PRISM Quartet, JACK Quartet, TAK Ensemble, cellist Seth Parker Woods, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, bass-baritone Davóne Tines, Alarm Will Sound, pianist Awadagin Pratt and vocal group Roomful of Teeth, violinist Johnny Gandelsman, and tenor Lawrence Brownlee, as well as for countless collaborative performers. His music has been performed in notable venues such as the Walt Disney Concert Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Hollywood Bowl, the 92nd Street Y, Park Avenue Armory, the Donaueschinger Musiktage, Lucerne Festival, and the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center. His compositions are published by Edition Peters.

Sorey joined the composition faculty of the University of Pennsylvania in the Fall of 2020, where he maintains a vigorous touring schedule in addition to his academic duties. He was selected as a Peabody Resident at Johns Hopkins University for Fall 2023, and has taught and lectured on composition and improvisation at an impressive assortment of institutions, including: Columbia University, Harvard University, Darmstadter Ferienkurse, Wesleyan University, The



New England Conservatory, University of Michigan, The Banff Centre, Berklee College of Music, Mills College, University of Chicago, and The Danish Rhythmic Conservatory.

In spring 2023, Sorey debuted a musical collaboration with percussion ensemble Yarn/Wire titled *Be Holding*, a multimedia adaptation of the book-length poem by Ross Gay about the beauty and cultural significance of Julius Erving's momentous sky hook dunk during the 1980 NBA Finals. The production included performances by professional wordsmiths Yolanda Wisher and David A. Gaines, along with students from Girard College, and was featured in the New York Times. In the future, Sorey plans to continue pushing boundaries, extending cultural norms, and reformulating public perceptions of modern Black/Afrodiasporic creative practice through the breadth and depth of his works.

### **Donnacha Dennehy, *Concertina* (2024)**

The concertina, with its expanding and contracting bellows, seems like an apt metaphor for the way this piece works. In fact, I thought of the name very early on, and this oscillating motion of filling-out and squeezing-in, influences the piece on every level, from the pattern through the metrically shifting phrases to the larger shape. It was a joy to write this piece for the wonderfully focused players of Hub New Music. - Donnacha Dennehy

Commission Credit:

Commissioned by Hub New Music for the ensemble's 10th anniversary.





SUNDAY

10/20

7 PM

E. DESMOND LEE  
CONCERT HALL

# ZLATOMIR FUNG, CELLO AND JUHO POHJONEN, PIANO WITH ERIN SCHREIBER, VIOLIN

## FEATURING CHRISTOPHER STARK'S *OTHER PINES*

Illustrious Finnish pianist Juho Pohjonen will be joined by Juilliard faculty member Zlatomir Fung, the youngest cellist to win 1st prize at the International Tchaikovsky Competition, in a recital of impressive duos by Prokofiev, Say, and Debussy. St. Louis' own violin star Erin Schreiber will join the duo for Christopher Stark's composition *Other Pines*.

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CHRISTOPHER STARK



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**Yefim Bronfman, piano**

Sunday, March 2 @ 7 PM

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