

The Artists

BU Composers: Past and Present

A concert presented by Boston University School of Music in partnership with ALEA III, featuring music by Thomas Weaver and former Boston University faculty composers, performed by Thomas Weaver, piano, musicians of ALEA III, and others.

November 12, 2022

Boston University
College of Fine Arts
Concert Hall

Presented as part of the 150th anniversary
of the founding of the Boston University School of Music.

The conductor

Justin Casinghino, *composer, conductor*



Justin Casinghino composes in a variety of genres, striving to create works that are lyrical, rich in harmony and possess a sound structural integrity. Also a performer in the worlds of jazz, blues, soul and rock, these styles are often present in Casinghino's concert pieces, but commonly at subtle levels. Dr. Casinghino is a Lecturer in the Department of Composition and Theory at Boston University, a Lecturer in Composition at Keene State College, the Director of the Young Artists' Composition Program and Electroacoustic Composition Workshop at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and teaches on the faculty of the Rivers School Conservatory in Weston, MA. He has also held positions at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Brandeis University, the Longy School of Music at Bard College, and University of Massachusetts Lowell, and is regularly recruited as a guest speaker on a variety of topics including composition, popular music and music education.

His studies of composition include work with, amongst others, Gunther Schuller, Lukas Foss, Theodore Antoniou and Richard Cornell. Dr. Casinghino has had pieces requested and performed by groups including the Boston Symphony Orchestra's Family Concert Series, Boston Musica Viva, the Rivers Symphony Orchestra, ALEA III, the Longy Chamber Orchestra, the Lorelei Vocal Ensemble and Vento Chiaro. His music has been commissioned via the New England Foundation for the Arts and the Free for All Concert Fund, has been featured on programs of the Rivers School Conservatory's Annual Seminar on Contemporary Music for the Young, the International Society of Bassists, the International Trumpet Guild, the North American Saxophone Alliance and SEAMUS, and has received recent premieres and performances in venues including The Walt Disney Concert Hall in LA, multiple appearances in New York's Carnegie Hall, Tanglewood's Seiji Ozawa Concert Hall, the Symphony Center in Chicago and D.C.'s Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Casinghino performs throughout the New England area on piano, Hammond organ, SATB saxophones and as a vocalist with a number of ensembles in various genres. Justin lives outside of Boston with his wife and four daughters. Samples of Casinghino's music can be heard at www.jdcas.com.

The soloists

Aija Rēķe, violin



Aija Rēķe is a violinist, chamber musician, published composer, concert presenter, and pedagogue. She graduated from Boston University (MM, 2015) under Dana Mazurkevich, with a CFA Full Tuition Scholarship, and Rotterdam Conservatory (BM, 2013) in the Netherlands under Benzion Shamir.

She released her album "Latvian Reflections" under Spice Classics label (July 2021). It was presented on National Latvian Radio Channel 3 and as well as Latvian National TV station 1 and other Latvian media nationally and abroad. Henry Fogel, one of the most respected music personalities in the USA, reviewed the album positively for Fanfare Magazine. Latvian Reflections solidifies Aija's passion for promoting Latvian heritage - particularly 20th-century Latvian composers. As a composer, her *Meditation-Prayer* was published in 2019 by Musica Baltica (Edition Peters).

Aija won the Solo Bach Competition at Boston University (2014), is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda, American National Music Honor Society (since 2015), and is a recipient of the Boston Latvian Cultural Heritage award (2014). She has performed extensively in Europe and North America as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral musician. Aja performs regularly with ALEA III - Contemporary Music Ensemble in Residence at Boston University, the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, and Odyssey Opera.

Her Baltic Duo performed in the USA and Latvia, premiering and popularizing rare Baltic compositions. As a passionate teacher, Aija has taught in the Boston Music Project, Brookline Public Schools, the El Sistema program, and also in private schools.

In 2021, she led an international masterclass sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Riga, Latvia in Ventspils Music High School in Latvia. As a presenter, Aija co-founded the High Street Concert Series at the Latvian Lutheran Church of Boston and serves as Artist Director.

Her collaboration with several composers led to multiple world premieres, including microtonal *Musings* (2013) for violin solo by Lara Poe, *Double Images* (2017) by Ketty Nez, *Latvian in New York* (2017) by Marite Dombrovska (dedicated to the Baltic Duo) and *Dawn* (2018) by Janis Porietis (dedicated to the Baltic Duo). Aja also commissioned a *Violin Concerto* from Lara Poe and received a dedication from John Manuel Pacheco for his *Second Violin Sonata*. One of her great passions is advocating for and popularizing lesser-known repertoire and composers from the Baltic states.

www.aijareke.com

Thomas Weaver, composer, pianist



Thomas Weaver is an American composer and pianist whose active solo and chamber career has included performances both in the United States and abroad. With playing that has been hailed as displaying both "sensitivity" and "incredible dexterity," Weaver has appeared in the prominent concert halls of many cities including New York, Philadelphia, Boston, San Diego, Chicago, Washington DC, Nashville, Dallas, and Berlin, in addition to festival appearances at Tanglewood Music Festival and Red Rocks Music Festival. Weaver has performed with a number of eminent musicians such as Elmira Darvarova, Jess Gillam, Kenneth Radnofsky, Eric Ruske, Jennifer Frautschi, Gene Pokorny, and members of the New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, and Boston Symphony Orchestra. Weaver is currently a member of the Amram Ensemble, Trio Ardente, and New England Chamber Players and is the Music Director of the Marian Anderson Historical Society. A champion of

new music, Weaver has premiered many new compositions, including works by David Amram, David Loeb, Anthony Plog, John H. Wallace, Francine Trester, and Christopher LaRosa. Weaver regularly spends his summers teaching and performing at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, which included a performance of Leonard Bernstein's *Symphony No. 2 "Age of Anxiety"* (Bruce Kiesling, cond.) for the centennial celebration of the composer's birth. His playing and arrangements can be heard on the albums *David Amram: So In America* and *Astor Piazzolla - Genius of Tango*, both released by Affetto Records.

An award-winning composer, Thomas Weaver's music has been performed in halls throughout four continents, in cities such as Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Berlin (Germany), Vienna (Austria), Itami (Japan), and Sydney (Australia). His works have been commissioned by a number of organizations and musicians including The New York Chamber Music Festival, Elmira Darvarova, Kenneth Radnofsky, Dr. Brittany Lasch, Joshua Blumenthal, the Pharos Quartet, Alea III, and the Daraja Ensemble. Weaver's works have also been performed by large ensembles such as the Boston University Symphony Orchestra and Mannes American Composers Orchestra. Weaver's compositions have won multiple awards and competitions, including the Bohuslav Martinu Award and the Boston University Composition Competition.

An active educator, Weaver holds faculty positions at the Curtis Institute of Music and Boston University Tanglewood Institute. Weaver has presented lectures and classes at a variety of locations, including Northwestern University, Murray State University, Austin Peay State University, and The People's Music School in Chicago. Weaver's primary piano teachers include Anthony di Bonaventura, Victor Rosenbaum, and Pavel Nersessian. His primary composition teachers include David Loeb, Dr. John Wallace, and Dr. Martin Amlin, in addition to supplementary studies with Samuel Adler, Gunther Schuller, and Theodore Antoniou. For more information please visit www.thomaseweaver.com.

Jacqueline DeVoe, *flute*



Flutist **Jacqueline DeVoe** is an active freelancer throughout New England and has performed with Cantata Singers, Rhode Island Philharmonic, Boston Ballet, Alea III, Springfield Symphony, Symphony New Hampshire and other ensembles.

Ms. DeVoe is the principal flute of the Berkshire Symphony, as well as former principal flutist of the Mexico City Philharmonic, a Tanglewood Music Center Fellow and has performed with the Vienna Chamber Orchestra. Additionally, she has been presented in solo and chamber music concerts in Europe, Mexico and the US, including 4 solo recitals in Jordan Hall. A strong advocate of music education in public schools, Ms. DeVoe plays with the North Winds Quintet, which presents educational concerts in schools throughout Massachusetts under

the auspices of Young Audiences. Ms. DeVoe served for 8 years as president of the James Pappoutsakis Memorial Flute Competition, which hosts an annual competition for Boston-area flutists.

Ms. DeVoe holds faculty positions at Williams College and Amherst College. She has taught at the New England Conservatory Preparatory School faculty since 1990 and for the past 8 summers at the International Music Academy in Cremona, Italy.

In addition to B.M. and M.M. degrees from New England Conservatory, she was a two-time recipient of the Frank Huntington Beebe Fund grant and the Austrian Government's Stipend for Foreigners, and completed a diploma at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna, Austria. Her primary teachers were Claude Monteux, John Heiss and Wolfgang Schulz.

Catherine Weinfield-Zell, oboe



Described as an "arresting" (Boston Globe) and "strikingly beautiful" (Miami Herald) musician, **Catherine Weinfield-Zell** served as second Oboe and English Horn with the Florida Grand Opera in Miami, FL from 2012-2016. From 2009-2013, Ms. Weinfield-Zell held the position of both Assistant Principal Oboe and principal English Horn with the Honolulu (now Hawaii) Symphony and the Hawaii Opera Theater. Ms. Weinfield-Zell has also performed with the Cleveland Orchestra, the Metropolitan Opera, the San Diego and Charleston Symphonies, the Portland Symphony, the Naples Philharmonic, the new-music ensembles Alarm Will Sound and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, the Orchestra at Indian Hill, the Boston Philharmonic, the Boston Lyric and Odyssey Opera Companies, and Emmanuel Music. Additionally, she has also performed at the Strings, Opera North, Lake George, Opera in the Ozarks, Breckenridge, Spoleto FestivalUSA, Aspen, Sitka, Alaska, Kent/Blossom, and Britten-Pears Aldeburgh World Orchestra Music Festivals.

As a dedicated teacher, Ms. Weinfield-Zell is currently on faculty at Phillips Exeter Academy and formerly held positions at Williams College and Brookline Music School. She is also the co-founder with her husband, percussionist Michael Weinfield-Zell, of Music at the Substation, a chamber music series at the Turtle Swamp Brewery in Boston. Ms. Weinfield-Zell's principal teachers include Elaine Douvas at Mannes College of Music in New York City, John Mack and Frank Rosenwein at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and Ray Still at Northwestern University.

Hsing-Ho Hou, piano



Born in Chiayi, Taiwan, **Hsing-Ho Hou** is a first year Performance Diploma student at Boston University studying Piano Performance under the tutelage of Professor Boaz Sharon. He holds two degrees from BU--Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Cum Laude) and Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance.

Hou has received prizes from competitions, including the Boston University at Carnegie Hall Competition, the First Prize of Singapore International Classical Piano Competition, the First Prize of 2nd International Franz Liszt Center Piano Competition, First Prize of Golden Classical Music Awards, Second Prize of Valencia International Piano Academy Competition, the Bronze Medal of WPTA Singapore Piano Competition, Third Prize of the 11th Chopin International Piano Competition in Hartford, Connecticut, Honorable Mention of Carles and Sofia Piano Competition, and more. He was also selected as one of the 19 participants of the International Franz Liszt Piano Competition in Weimar-Bayreuth,

Germany. The venues he has performed at include Carnegie Hall (Zankel and Weill Hall), Boston Symphony Hall, Richard-Wagner-Saal at Städtischen Musikschule Bayreuth, Centre del Carme Cultura Contemporania, Lee Foundation Theatre (Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts), and more. As a prize winner of the concerto competition of Summer Piano Institute at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Hou recently performed Liszt Totentanz with Sinfonia da Camera at Smith Recital Hall.

Hou also participates in festivals frequently. He attended Philadelphia Young Pianists' Academy, Music-A Braine l'Alleud Piano Festival, Ian Hobson Piano Festival in Puerto Rico, Valencia International Performance Academy and Festival in Spain, Miami Classical Music Festival, Asia International Piano Academy and Festival in Seoul, Korea, Montecito International Music Festival in California, and more. During these festivals, Hou studied with Dmitri Alexeev, Hie-Yon Choi, Nelson Delle-Vigne Fabbri, Ian Hobson, Alexander Kobrin, Pavel Nersessian, Alexandre Moutouzkine, Boris Slutsky, Pascal Nemirovski, Eric Zuber, Anton Nel, Daniel Shapiro, and more. Hou also attended masterclasses given by Dang Thai Son, Sara Davis Buechner, Ellen Mack, Robert Roux, Irina Osipova, and more.

Hou works closely with student composers. He recently premiered *Colorblind Quintet* by Jason Leonard, *A Short Hike* for piano solo and *Sea Glass* by Alexander Petshaft. He also composes and arranges music

himself, including piano sonatas, lieder, suite on folk songs, a cadenza of a Mozart Piano Concerto, and more.

Hou started his first piano lesson at the age of 4 with Huei-Min Cho. He studied with Yuchen Huang and Dr. Nam Yeung later on. Before entering his current field of study, Hou also majored in Education for two years at National Kaohsiung Normal University (Taiwan). Hou served as the Senior Advisor, President, and Treasurer of Taiwanese Overseas Students Association at Boston University in the past 3 years, and is currently a member of "Pi Sigma Alpha", the National Political Science Honor Society in the US. Academically, Hou has been named 5 times to both the College of Arts and Sciences and College of Fine Arts Dean's List. Hou will be serving as the 2022-2023 Keyboard Departmental Assistant at Boston University School of Music.

Hou is invited to perform two concerto concerts with the Taipei International United Youth Symphony Orchestra in Taiwan in the summer of 2023. He will be performing both Prokofiev Piano Concerto Op. 10 and Brahms Piano Concerto Op. 15.

Jeannette Lee, *mezzo soprano*

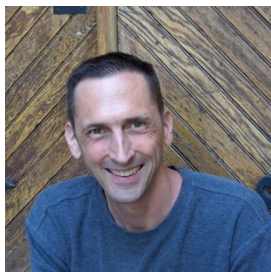


Described to have "a lovely mezzo voice with lots of color, warmth and vibrancy," Hong Kong mezzo soprano **Jeannette Lee** is a sought-after versatile performer who recently received the Hilda Harris Mezzo Soprano Prize at the 2022 George Shirley Vocal Competition. She was also the runner-up in the 2021 NATS Artist Award (New England Region) and a semifinalist with an honorable mention at the 2019 Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod Pendine Voice of the Future.

On the concert stage, she appeared as a soloist and cover for Mr. Reginald Mobley with the Cantata Singers in Handel's *Dixit Dominus*. Other solo appearances of note include Britten's *Cantata Academica* with Vivian Ip and Monteverdi's *Marienvespers* with Wolfgang Katschner and the Lautten Compagnie. She also sang the Asian premiere of Jacobsen's *For Sixty Cents* with Cong Quartet. She will be a solo singer in Osvaldo Golijov's *Oceana*, a groundbreaking Latin jazz cantata, inspired by J.S. Bach, conducted by Noah Horn.

Jeannette's recent operatic appearances include Angelina in Rossini's *La cenerentola* with Random Opera Company (United Kingdom) and Antonia in Wagner's *Das Liebesverbot* with Cambridge Chamber Ensemble. Jeannette is engaged to premiere in Beth Ratay's *In the House of Serenity* as Becca in Boston Opera Collaborative's Opera Bites production and Emily Koh's *HER:alive/un/dead* with Guerilla Opera in 2023.

Martin Amlin, *composer, pianist*



Composer and pianist **Martin Amlin** has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Massachusetts Artists Foundation, and the Massachusetts Council for the Arts. He is the Mildred P. Gilfillan Professor of Music and Chair of the Composition and Music Theory Department in the College of Fine Arts at Boston University. He is also Senior Director of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute Young Artists Composition Program and Director of the BUTI Composition Fundamentals Workshop. His music has been performed around the world and is published by the Theodore Presser Company. Martin Amlin has made recordings on the Albany, Ashmont Music, Centaur, Crystal, Hyperion, Koch International, MSR Classics, and Wergo labels.

Stephen Marotto, *violoncello*



A native of Norwalk, Connecticut, **Stephen Marotto** has received a Bachelors degree with honors from the University of Connecticut, and Masters and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from Boston University. Stephen's formative teachers include Michael Reynolds, Kangho Lee, Marc Johnson, and Rhonda Rider. A passionate advocate for contemporary music, Stephen plays regularly with groups such as Sound Icon, Callithumpian Consort, the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, and also performs on various new music concert series in the Boston area and beyond. Stephen has attended music festivals at the Banff Centre, Cortona Sessions for New Music and SoundSCAPE festival in Italy, and the Summer Course for New Music in Darmstadt, Germany. Stephen has a wide range of musical interests that include contemporary chamber music, improvisatory music, and electroacoustic music. As a soloist, Stephen has commissioned several new works for the instrument, and is concerned with expanding and augmenting the tonal pallet of his instrument both with and without technology. Stephen can be heard as a featured artist on Mode Records. In his spare time, Stephen is an avid hiker and outdoorsman.

Diane Heffner, *clarinet, saxophone*



Diane Heffner is an active freelance clarinetist and saxophonist on both modern and historical instruments. She plays period clarinets with Handel & Haydn Society, Arcadia Players, Boston Baroque, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra (San Francisco), and "Rumbarocco" Latin jazz-baroque fusion ensemble, and Eudamonia, a Boston-based period instrument ensemble.

As a modern clarinetist Ms. Heffner performs regularly with Dinosaur Annex Music Ensemble, Alea III, Solar Winds, the Boston Gay Men's Chorus, and various other freelance ensembles. She plays sax and clarinet as a jazz/blues freelancer and is a member of Boston's only all-women swing big band, "The Mood Swing Orchestra." She teaches clarinet at Tufts University and clarinet and sax at The All Newton Music School.

Ms. Heffner received both BM and MM degrees with honors from the New England Conservatory where she studied clarinet with Joseph Allard and chamber music with Rudolph Kolisch and Leonard Shure.