Akiva Jacobs '22
Bass

Emily Liushen '22, Synthesizers
Lesley Mok, Drums
Cleek Schrey GS, Fiddle
Nati Arbalaez Solano '22, Cello

Evan DeTurk '23, Saxophone
Eden Girma GS, Voice
Jeffrey Gordon '22, Guitar
Maya Keren '22, Piano and Voice

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This program will be performed without an intermission. The use of photographic, video or audio equipment is strictly prohibited. Please turn off or mute electronic devices for the duration of the performance.

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Scan this QR code with your smartphone to access an expanded program with bios, notes, and more.
A NOTE FROM AKIVA JACOBS ’22

sammyblammybibablebabungalowgroguDESKJOB

I sometimes fall into thinking that music is a skill to be learned. That it is something to master and perfect. I sometimes forget that music is nothing more than sound, and sound is everywhere.

Music is not something to be reached or achieved. Rather, it is something to be recognized and nurtured. All the music there is, resides in our own bodies and in the world around us. Notation sets the musician against the insurmountable task of concretizing the abstract. Of putting sound to symbol, as if there were a perfect sound that is impossible to reach. But there is no perfect sound. There is only what we hear and what we feel.

As the saying goes, the Torah is not in the heavens or beyond the sea, rather it is in your mouth and in your heart.

sammyblammybibablebabungalowgroguDESKJOB is a piece made out of collaboration and improvisation. My role as a composer, as someone who writes notes on a page, is minimal. Truly, every member of the band composes this piece.

sammyblammybibablebabungalowgroguDESKJOB is created communally—through listening, exploring, and taking risks.

The title is a confluence of future turtles, best friends, and gender pronouns.

Chanting

Ornette is my good friend. He’s been with me through it all. Science Fiction got me into improvised music, This Is Our Music taught me what a band can be. Friends and Neighbors: Live at Prince Street and Virgin Beauty have carried me through this pandemic.

I first heard Chanting (which is on Virgin Beauty with Ornette’s Prime Time band), on July 14th, 2020, the morning after my dear friend Yonim Schweig passed away. I must have listened to it 100 times that week. It was the heart of the pandemic, and I wasn’t able to be in community with our shared loved ones until over a year after Yonim’s death. Ornette brought me through it. He’s been with me the whole time. I’ve been listening to Chanting regularly like prayer ever since.
ABOUT

Akiva Jacobs '22, Bass
Akiva is a bassist, guitarist, songwriter, and composer from Newton, Massachusetts. Lately, they have been enjoying slowly writing songs by process of long-walks and occasional journaling, as well as organizing weekly conduction sessions at 2D, a no-barrier-to-entry, everyone-is-welcome music making environment. Akiva plays upright bass and electric bass in a handful of rock and improvised-music bands that are all different combinations of the same six people who are mostly named Maya.

Akiva loves making music that facilitates connecting with others in fun and easy ways. They also love sullenly writing love songs late at night alone in their room.

While not making music, Akiva loves reading (some favorite authors are Toni Morrison and Marilynne Robinson), listening (some favorite bands are Big Thief, Empath, and The Guggenheim Grotto), and going on long adventurous walks (some favorite spots in Princeton are the Stony Brook river, Mountain Lakes, and Penn’s Neck Cemetery).

Akiva also dabbles on the clarinet and enjoys playing in the pool.

Evan DeTurk '23, Saxophone
Evan is a saxophonist, composer, and arranger from Seattle, Washington. He is a junior studying Molecular Biology and pursuing a certificate in Jazz Studies. At Princeton, Evan plays in multiple jazz groups as well as the Triangle Club Pit Orchestra and has studied with Rudresh Mahanthappa, Darcy James Argue, and David Liebman. He also plays in the R&B/Neo-Soul band Hot Jupiter and led the Evan DeTurk VGM band, which performed his jazz fusion arrangements of classic video game songs. His current projects include writing original jazz-funk music and saxophone choir arrangements of film, TV, and video game music.

Eden Girma GS, Voice
Eden is a multi-instrumental musician, singer, and composer hailing from Madison, WI. As a child of Ethiopian immigrants to the Midwest, Eden grew up at the nexus of widely varying and vibrant musical traditions; today, they draw from these crossings to create through a variety of audio-visual-technological media, bridging realms such as popular music, improvisatory collaboration, expressionism, and experimental electronics. Through a genre-bending compositional ear and a poetic lyricism, Eden aspires to create art that not only resonates with individual hearts, but brings people closer together in a spirit of intimacy and empathy.
Jeffrey Gordon ’22, Guitar
Jeffrey is a musician from Boston, MA who wrote his bio mere moments before it was due.

Maya Keren ’22, Piano and Voice
Maya is a pianist, vocalist, composer, and songwriter from Philadelphia. They are interested in the process of environing people, voices, instruments, and sounds in ways that invite connection with one’s erotic instinct, embody compassionate and queer relations with the self and the collective, and destabilize learned systems of domination. Recently they have been listening to Lomelda, Abdullah Ibrahim, and Saba’s new album, but this is bound to change by the time you’re reading this bio.

Emily Liushen ’22, Synthesizers
Emily is a contemporary composer and clarinetist. She writes music because, like so many others, she is ineffably drawn to commiseration. Her primary compositional interests include wind instruments, additive rhythms from speech, and musical framing narratives.

Lesley Mok, Drums
Lesley is a drummer, composer, and improviser based in Brooklyn, NY. Interested in the ways social conditions shape our beings, Lesley’s work focuses on transposing, augmenting, and overacting humanness to explore ideas about normalcy, alienness, and privilege. She explores this by writing in a way that subverts traditional instrumental roles, often utilizing extreme ranges and unconventional timbres, while creating a context that allows for simultaneously different musical perspectives. By maintaining an agile and improvisatory approach, Lesley creates fantastical and evocative sound worlds through the use of dissonance.

Collaborating with artists such as Jen Shyu, Cory Smythe, and Tomeka Reid, Lesley has honed a unique voice as a drummer and percussionist by employing a dynamic range of timbres and orchestrations. Her ongoing explorations with composition and improvisation are most notably documented in her nine-piece improvising chamber ensemble, The Living Collection.

Lesley’s work has been recognized by the ASCAP Foundation and the Asian American Arts Alliance, and has been performed by International Contemporary Ensemble, Metropolis Ensemble, and JACK Quartet.

Cleek Schrey GS, Fiddle
Cleek is fiddler, improviser, and composer from Virginia, now based in NYC. Recent engagements include the Big Ears Festival (TN), the Kilkenny Arts Festival (IR), SuperSense Festival of the Ecstatic (Aus) and the Issue Project Room (NYC) with electronic music pioneer David Behrman. He collaborates with musicians from a wide spectrum of scenes and styles.
Frequent collaborators include David Behrman, the viol da gamba player Liam Byrne, traditional fiddle icon Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh, and the avant-pop collective Exo-Tech. The journal Sound Post has noted that Cleek “possesses a rare combination of traits: deep respect for traditional music and the people who make it, and an unbounded curiosity about new directions for sound.” He is currently a Sound Artist-in-Residence on Governor’s Island and pursuing doctoral studies in Music Composition at Princeton University.

**Nati Arbelaez Solano ’22, Cello**

Nati is a senior in the Comparative Literature department and a cellist in the Princeton University Orchestra (PUO) and, until recently, Sinfonia. She has been trying to expand the kind of music she plays and the kind of ensembles she plays in so is very excited and very honored to be a part of this performance.