Princeton Sound Kitchen presents

Terrain

Princeton Sound Kitchen presents *Terrain*, an evening of new works, including final dissertation pieces by graduate student composers Florent Ghys and Matt McBane, and new works by graduate student composers Gulli Björnsson, Natalie Dietterich, and James Moore, all written for visiting guest artists, cellist Ashley Bathgate, guitarist JIJI, and Mantra Percussion.

As guidelines change, visit musicprincetoninfohub.com/covid for the latest safety requirements. The use of photographic, video, or audio equipment is strictly prohibited. Please turn off or mute electronic devices for the duration of the performance.

For more information about the Department of Music and other upcoming events, and to sign-up for our mailing list, please visit music.princeton.edu.
PROGRAM

Gulli Björnsson  
*Dirrindi*

James Moore  
*Three Solo Guitar Pieces*

Natalie Dietterich  
*Abigail*

Florent Ghys  
Selections from *Ritournelles & Mosaïques*

INTERMISSION

Matt McBane  
*Terrain* (new work for cello, percussion, synthesizer, and piano)

PERFORMERS

Ashley Bathgate, cello
Florent Ghys, upright bass, electronics, video
JIJI, guitar

**Mantra Percussion:**
Joseph Bergen, percussion
Caitlin Cawley, percussion
David Friend, keyboards / percussion
Mika Godbole, percussion
Christopher Graham, percussion
Mark Utley, percussion

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to access an expanded program with bios, notes, and more.
**Natalie Dietterich**  
*Abigail*  
JIJI, acoustic guitar

*Abigail* is meant to capture the essence of a dear friend who has enriched our lives.

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**Florent Ghys**  
*Selections from Ritournelles & Mosaïques*  
Florent Ghys, upright bass, electronics, video

*Ritournelles & Mosaïques* is my new double album to be released on Cantaloupe Music on May 20, 2022. This album is also the portfolio part of my Ph.D. dissertation.

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**Gulli Björnsson**  
*Dirrindi*

**LINÜ:**  
Gulli Björnsson, electric guitar  
JIJI, electric guitar

Lóa (European Golden Plover) is a migratory bird that returns to Iceland in the spring. Its song is called ‘dirrindi.’ I was imagining birds making an ascent up into the skies, flapping their wings together and finally singing to each other at their new home.

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**James Moore**  
*Three Solo Guitar Pieces*  
JIJI, electric guitar

The first two pieces in this collection resulted from a prompt by guitarist Louis O’Neal who commissioned a cohort of composers to write music to coincide with the hours of the day. I wrote these two *Eleven O’Clock Numbers* (one for 11 AM and one for 11 PM) during the first summer of the pandemic, taking the titles from poetry by Emily Dickinson, who felt like an appropriate muse for that slow and reclusive time. I associate the morning hour piece with my semi-successful gardening efforts of that summer, and the evening hour piece with a spider who we watched spin an elaborate web in front of the porch almost every night. The final piece, *Turning*, was written in 2019 to be the Yale Guitar Department’s audition piece at the request of my guitar teacher Benjamin Verdery, and was premiered by Rene Izquierdo. I am honored to develop these pieces as a set for my friend, the amazing Jiji.

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**Natalie Dietterich**  
*Abigail*  
JIJI, acoustic guitar

*Abigail* is meant to capture the essence of a dear friend who has enriched our lives.
American cellist Ashley Bathgate has been described as an “eloquent new music interpreter” (The New York Times) and “a glorious cellist” (The Washington Post) who combines “bittersweet lyricism along with ferocious chops” (New York Magazine). Her “impish ferocity,” “rich tone,” and “imaginative phrasing” (The New York Times) have made her one of the most sought after performers of her time. The desire to create a dynamic energy exchange with her audience and build upon the ensuing chemistry is a pillar of Bathgate’s philosophy as a performer. Dynamism drives her to venture into previously uncharted areas of ground-breaking sounds and techniques, breaking the mold of a cello’s traditionally perceived voice. Collaborators and fans alike describe her vitality as nothing short of remarkable and magical for all who are involved. Bathgate was a member of the acclaimed sextet Bang on a Can All-Stars for ten years from 2009 – 2019. She is also a member of the chamber music group HOWL, TwoSense with pianist Lisa Moore, and Bonjour, a low-strung, percussive quintet. In 2015 Bathgate gave the world premiere of What Moves You, a collaborative performance project with jookin’ dance sensation Lil Buck at the Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, SC, as well as the world premiere of a new Cello Concerto written for her by Kate Moore for the Gaudeamus Festival in Utrecht, NL. Her debut solo album, Stories for Ocean Shells, featuring a set of works for cello composed by Moore, was released in 2016 on Cantaloupe Music. That year Bathgate also commissioned the composer collective Sleeping Giant to write ASH, a six-movement suite for solo cello, which was released on New Amsterdam Records in the fall of 2019. Her forthcoming album, 8 Track, featuring new multitrack works by Alex Weiser and Emily Cooley, as well as a new rendition of Steve Reich’s Cello Counterpoint, is due this season on New Focus Recordings. Her latest project is a new evening length work by Michael Gordon, House Music, which premiered at the 2018 Cello Biennale in Amsterdam, NL. Bathgate’s radio/television appearances include performances on BBC Radio 3, WKCR, WMHT, WQXR’s Meet the Composer podcast with Nadia Sirota, NPR’s Performance Today, WYNC’s New Sounds Live, SiriusXM, Late Night and The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon. Her recorded work can be found on Albany Records, Cantaloupe Music, Innova Recordings, La-La Land Records, Naxos, New Amsterdam Records, Nonesuch, Starkland and Uffda Records. She has also recorded for several podcasts presented by Wondery, Gimlet and Stitcher.

Matt McBane

**Terrain** (new work for cello, percussion, synthesizer and piano)

Ashley Bathgate, cello

**Mantra Percussion:**

Joseph Bergen, percussion
Caitlin Cawley, percussion
David Friend, keyboards / percussion
Mika Godbole, percussion
Christopher Graham, percussion
Mark Utley, percussion

This is a collection of several movements from a longer piece and album project that is part of my dissertation. This is my final PSK! {sheds tear} Thank you so much to all the Princeton faculty, colleagues and staff who have made the last seven years such a great experience!
Bathgate studied at Bard College with Luis Garcia-Renart (B.M.) before continuing her education at Yale University with renowned cellist Aldo Parisot (M.M. and A.D). Originally from Saratoga Springs, NY, Bathgate began her cello studies with the late Rudolf Doblin, principal cellist and assistant music director of the Buffalo Philharmonic in the 1950’s. After his passing, she resumed her tutelage with Ann Alton at Skidmore College. A member of the Empire State Youth Orchestra at the time, Bathgate was also the unprecedented two-time winner of the Lois Lyman Concerto Competition, performing the Saint-Saens and Schumann Cello Concertos with the orchestra at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. While at Bard College, she was invited to perform both the d’Albert and Barber Cello Concertos with the American Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Leon Botstein and then went on to win Yale University’s Concerto Competition in 2008, performing with the Yale Philharmonia in New Haven’s legendary Woolsey Hall.

Gulli Björnsson
Gulli Björnsson is a guitarist and composer from Iceland whose music typically ties electronics, live instruments and visuals to experiences in nature. Gulli’s music has been described as “hypnotic” (News Gazette) “a knockout—wondrously inventive” (Soundboard Magazine) and “virtuosic, modern, occasionally discordant, but still accessible” (Classical Guitar Magazine). Gulli is currently a candidate for the Ph.D. degree in composition at Princeton University.
www.gullibjornsson.org
www.facebook.com/gulli.bjornsson
www.instagram.com/gulligitar

Natalie Dietterich
Natalie Dietterich likes making music and sweaters.

Florent Ghys
Florent Ghys is a composer, bass player, and video artist from Bordeaux, France. He’s been described as “the best composer in the world” by his mom. His favorite color is blood orange.

JIJI
Applauded by the Calgary Herald as “…talented, sensitive…brilliant,” JIJI is an adventurous artist known for her virtuosic performances that feature a diverse selection of music, ranging from traditional and contemporary classical to free improvisation, played on both acoustic and electric guitar. Through her impeccable musicianship, compelling stage presence, and constant premieres of new musical works, JIJI’s intriguing programming solidifies her reputation as a 21st-century guitarist. The Washington Post selected JIJI as “one of the 21 composers/performers who sound like tomorrow.” The Kansas City Star described JIJI as “a graceful and nuanced player,” adding that “… she presented an intimate, captivating performance” in reviewing her recent concerto debut appearance with the Kansas City Symphony. As a major highlight of her 2019 – 2020 season, JIJI performed Hillary Purrington’s concerto Harp of Nerves at Zankel Hall of Carnegie Hall with the American Composers Orchestra and conductor George Menahan. Other highlights from this season include JIJI’s Lincoln Center debut Great Performers series in April 2019 and the world premiere of four new pieces in her concert at 92nd Street Y in November 2019. Upcoming major performances include an electric guitar concerto written for her by the emerging Latvian composer Krists Auznieks, which will be premiered in Riga, Latvia with Sinfonietta Riga in December 2021 and JIJI’s solo recital at Caramoor this July 2021.
Recent highlights encompass a wide array of venues, including: Lincoln Center, David Geffen Hall, Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall, 92nd Street Y, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Moss Arts Center, Green Music Center, National Art Gallery, National Sawdust, Miller Theater, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Purdue Convocations, Mass MOCA, Le Poisson Rouge, Virginia Arts Festival, Festival Napa Valley, and The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Her performances have been featured on PBS (On Stage at Curtis series), NPR’s From the Top, WHYY-TV, FOX 4-TV, Munchies (the Vice Channel), The Not So Late Show (Channel 6, Kansas), and Hong Kong broadcast station RTHK’s The Works. Following the success of her EP recording, Underglow, JIJI is currently working on recording her new project, UNBOUND, which features commissioned music written specifically for her. After becoming the first guitarist to win the Concert Artists Guild competition 1st prize in 30 years, JIJI was granted BMI commissioning fund; it was awarded for her outstanding performance in the Concert Artists Guild Competition, to aid composers with funding for their projects. Using this fund, JIJI commissioned Nina C. Young to write her a new guitar piece for premiere in an upcoming performance. JIJI’s most recent chamber music endeavors include touring with Latin Grammy winners Cuarteto Latinoamericano, Carla Canales, Verona Quartet, Soprano Molly Netter, and Brasil Guitar Duo. In 2018, JIJI joined the ASU Music school faculty as an Assistant Professor of Guitar. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking and creating weird sounds on Ableton. JIJI is currently sponsored by D’Addario Strings and GuitarLift by Felix Justen.

**Matt McBane**

Matt McBane is a composer, producer, violinist, curator, and Ph.D. candidate at Princeton. His next album, Bathymetry for percussion and synthesizer with (2022 Grammy nominees) Sandbox Percussion will be released on Cantaloupe Music in October 2022. His music will also be featured on the Hulu/BBC show Conversations with Friends based on the Sally Rooney novel and directed by Leanne Welham and Lenny Abrahamson to be released in mid May. www.mattmcbane.com

**Mantra Percussion**

Mantra Percussion, Inc. is a future-focused arts organization committed to a lasting influence on percussion music, developing equitable music communities, fostering high-level musicianship for underserved youth, and engaging international audiences by challenging the standard concert format through evening-length events that look toward a grander artistic vision. Our flagship ensemble, Mantra Percussion, founded in 2009, has been featured around the world and has commissioned / premiered over 100 new works for percussion ensemble. Recap, a quartet of alumni from Mantra Youth Percussion, released their debut album Count To Five on Innova Recordings last fall receiving praise for “upending the percussion paradigm” (NPR Music). Mantra Youth Percussion, our free tuition youth ensemble has been featured at Carnegie Hall and the New Music Gathering having mentored hundreds of students since its inception, and The Necessary Noise Festival has programmed over 100 percussion ensembles from around the region from elementary school through college.
James Moore
James Moore is a composer, guitarist, and bandleader whose multifaceted career has earned him the titles of "local electric guitar hero" by *Time Out New York* and "model new music citizen" by *The New York Times*. James is a founding member of the raucous electric guitar quartet Dither, the whimsical acoustic quartet The Hands Free, and the sloppy-math / avant-grunge rock band Forever House. Currently in his fourth year of the composition program at Princeton, James writes music for an eclectic community of players from classical, folk, jazz, experimental, and indie rock scenes. As a chamber and orchestral performer, James’s credits include appearances with Dawn Upshaw & Gilbert Kalish, Alarm Will Sound, Bang on a Can, Roomful of Teeth, Sō Percussion, The Crossing Choir, The LA Phil New Music Group, and Santa Fe Opera. As a sideman, he has backed up vocalists Toshi Reagon and Rhiannon Giddens, and performed with members of Yo La Tengo, Sonic Youth, Wilco, and The National. Other collaborators include playwright Richard Maxwell, choreographer Susan Marshall, instrument builder Ellen Fullman, guitarist Marc Ribot, soprano Alicia Hall Moran, and an extensive list of composers including Robert Ashley, Eve Beglarian, David Lang, Pauline Oliveros, Larry Polansky, Steve Reich, and John Zorn.