



Wednesday, November 16, 8:00 PM
Taplin Auditorium

Princeton Laptop Orchestra: Cat's Cradle

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| Director | Jeff Snyder |
| Associate Director | Liam Elliot |
| Assistant Director | Davis Polito |

Ensemble

Ian Acetta
David Borts
Lola Constantino
Liam Esparraguerra
Claire Hu
Gan Luyang
Lucy McKnight
Tom Morrison
Yue Qiao
Grady Trexler
Bora Yoon

*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

Bora Yoon + PLOrk

Cat's Cradle

Co-created with Jeff Snyder and Davis Polito.

Performed by:

David Polito and Tom Morrison, longitudinal tethers

Liam Elliot, Yue Qiao, Lola Constantino, Lucy McKnight, lateral tethers

Bora Yoon and Claire Hu, hands (HotHand sensors)

“Cat’s Cradle” is a multimedia, interdisciplinary performance piece featuring a kinetic sound sculpture amplifying the architecturally installed web of tethers (GameTrak controllers), and hand-controlled motion sensors, manipulating elements and components of music and sound, rhythm and pitch.

2 players play a pantomimed game of Cat’s Cradle while hand motion sensors translate controller rotation sensor data into filters and large scale controls of the arrangement and composition.

6 other players perform the kinetic sound installation and installed tethers along longitudinal and lateral axes within a time-based performance, generating spectral harmonic drones, rhythmic phasing and beating, grooves and drones, between elements of the resultant soundscape.

Visual shapes and kinetic patterns develop and dictate the form of the work akin to a game of Cat’s Cradle, but in this new intermedia context resulting in audible loops, progressions, and a musically delightful entanglement of shapes and musical co-creatio.

“Cat’s Cradle” is inspired, influenced, and Informed by the work of creator/composer Ellen Fullman, inventor of the Long String Instrument (50-ft long string instrument installed in resonant spaces), bringing together the kinetic, sonic, and visual, in new forms for the exciting interdisciplinary medium of the Laptop Orchestra.

Special thanks to Jeff Snyder, Davis Polito, Collin Costa, Carlos Dias Jr., and Justin Stanley.

PROGRAM

**Guðmundur Steinn
Gunnarsson**

8 Light Pieces for Pauline Oliveros

8 light pieces for Pauline Oliveros were made in a residency at the Guesthouse in Ireland (Cork more specifically). It was the same week that Pauline Oliveros received an honorary doctorate at the University of Cork. I worked on my piece in an abandoned old Franciscan library, a fact that I found very fascinating. While I was working on it I had a dream. In the dream I was looking for an instrument or an object to use in a performance that was planned with me and some Irish Sound Artists in the very same room. In the windowsill I found an interesting object. The next day I woke up and search in that very place and didn't see anything other than a book called Kenosis: "The emptying of the self and the path of christian service" by American Franciscan monk Kevin Cronin. Pauline Oliveros came to this same space a few days later and led a performance where she read 108 descriptions of sounds that a lot of musicians were following at the same time. The performance took exactly 1 hour and 8 minutes.

Lola Constantino + PLOrk

Ukelear Power

Coded by: Liam Elliot and Jeffrey Snyder

Composition: Lola Constantino, Jeffrey Gordon, Christian Quinones, Liam Elliot, Jeffrey Snyder, Davis Polito, and the PLOrk ensemble

Arrangement: Lola Constantino

The beginnings of this piece go back to the fall of 2021, when the PLOrk ensemble, endowed with a ton of Ukuleles and GameTrak Real World Golf video game controllers, decided it was time for the fusion of the century.

The composition process was very much a collaboration among the PLOrk ensemble members. After several weeks of experimentation, key playing techniques and textures were identified and refined for playability. An abridged version of this piece was performed in April of 2022 for the Spring PLOrk concert.

For this new arrangement of the piece, Jeffrey Snyder will send instructions to players over a network to coordinate transitions to new movements and solos. When creating the arrangement, Lola Constantino split the piece into five movements: Nuclear Weapons, Destruction, Sustainable Power, Fall out, and Recovery. All movements have different play techniques and several player solos.

ABOUT

PLOrk: Princeton Laptop Orchestra: First performing in 2006, the Princeton Laptop Orchestra, or PLOrk, takes the traditional model of the orchestra and reinvents it for the 21st century. Each laptopist performs with a laptop and custom designed hemispherical speaker that emulates the way traditional orchestral instruments cast their sound in space. Wireless networking and video augment the familiar role of the conductor, suggesting unprecedented ways of organizing large ensembles.

Originally founded by Dan Trueman and Perry Cook, the group is currently directed by composer and instrument designer Jeff Snyder, and features new electronic instruments that arise from his research. Performers and composers who have worked with PLOrk include Zakir Hussain, Pauline Oliveros, Matmos, Sō Percussion, the American Composers Orchestra, and others. In the past 16 years, PLOrk has performed widely— presented by Carnegie Hall, the Northwestern Spring Festival in Chicago, the American Academy of Sciences in DC, the Kitchen (NYC), 92Y and others — and has inspired the formation of laptop orchestras across the world, from Oslo to Bangkok.