



Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 8:00 PM
Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Princeton Sound Kitchen presents **Nick Photinos**

Princeton Sound Kitchen presents cellist **Nick Photinos**, performing new works by Princeton University graduate student composers **Ellie Cherry, Francisco del Pino, Kennedy Taylor Dixon, Soo Yeon Lyuh, Lucy McKnight, and Nathan Schram.**

DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC
AT PRINCETON

About the Department of Music

The Department of Music at Princeton University provides its undergraduates—whether they major or minor in Music—the opportunity to learn from a world-renowned faculty of scholars and composers. Performance opportunities include student-led and departmental ensembles like symphony orchestras, multi-genre choruses, jazz, contemporary music, African music, steel band, laptop orchestra, and much more, and students have access to private instrumental and voice lessons from eminent performing artists. The graduate program offers two distinct and prestigious PhD programs in composition or musicology; graduate students receive fully-funded, immersive experiences conducting research, advancing their craft, and collaborating with faculty within Princeton University’s inspiring, interdisciplinary campus.

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

Francisco del Pino	<i>Vitraux</i>
Soo Yeon Lyuh	<i>Ether</i>
kennedy taylor dixon	<i>mirror, mirror</i>
Lucy McKnight	<i>crinkle cuddle crumple crunch</i>
Ellie Cherry	<i>Fractured, Shattered, Filigreed</i>
Nathan Schram	<i>Plant Church</i>

PERFORMERS

Nick Photinos, cello

with

Bobby Ge, piano

Soo Yeon Lyuh, haegeum

The use of photographic, video, or audio equipment is strictly prohibited.
Please turn off or mute electronic devices for the duration of the performance.

PROGRAM NOTES

Francisco del Pino

Vitraux

A baroque-inspired prelude of sorts, this piece started as an extended exploration of one single chord that is multiplied through what Messiaen called the “stained glass window” effect. I owe to Dmitri Tymoczko for his insights on this subject!

Soo Yeon Lyuh

Ether

Bobby Ge, piano

Soo Yeon Lyuh, haegeum

This piece is an ode to the years of friendship I shared with the cellist Joan Jeanrenaud, who played a key role in my life as a musician. Leaving Seoul and arriving in the San Francisco Bay Area, I found myself immersed in a sea of musical influences, a vast wave of unfamiliar sounds. It was Joan who graciously invited me to join her in jam sessions, opening my eyes to the art of improvisation and forever changing my musical journey. Whenever we improvised together, it felt as if we went beyond the here and now, venturing “into the ether.” We forgot all the shackles that pull us down and liberated our creative spirit.

In this composition, I use the intertwining melodies of the cello and haegeum to represent the joy of our time together. Moreover, I let the piano parts emerge in some unexpected ways, indicating how, in the present day, I often fondly reminisce about the emotions we shared during our times. Joan, my dear friend, this music is for you.

kennedy taylor dixon

mirror, mirror

mirror, mirror, on the wall
there's more to the story
after all
isn't there?

Lucy McKnight

crinkle cuddle crumple crunch

Ellie Cherry

Fractured, Shattered, Filigreed

This is a piece about ice and how amazing I think it is :)

Nathan Schram

Plant Church

1. The Beginning
2. Stepping Out
3. Social Psilocybin
4. Coming Home

ABOUT

Ellie Cherry is a composer of acoustic and electroacoustic music whose work is fundamentally compelled by the philosophy that an artist is first and foremost an observer: She believes that every element in perceptible reality—be it the acoustic properties of a species of tree or the childhood memories of an audience member—are phenomena that tangibly influence the identity of her music. Her composition therefore takes a holistic approach, in which spectral theory, physics, psychoacoustics, and historical and political context are thoughtfully intertwined.

Francisco del Pino is a Buenos Aires-born composer and guitarist with an affinity for music that is meticulous, expressive, and patient. Drawing influence from both classical and vernacular traditions, his work revolves around process and pattern and is usually characterized by an extensive use of counterpoint. Francisco's debut album *Decir*, a song cycle on texts by Argentinian poet Victoria Cocco, was released on New Amsterdam in 2021. His music has been described as “sheer beauty” (*Bandcamp Daily*), “lucid, entrancing” (*I CARE IF YOU LISTEN*), and “ethereal, yet heavy, distinguished, yet humble—and always beautiful” (*Classical Post*). Francisco is a PhD candidate in the Music Department and a fellow in the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities.

Kennedy Taylor Dixon is a composer, violist, and scholar currently residing in Princeton, New Jersey. Described as a “vibrant musical voice,” Dixon often writes for herself and is also passionate about collaborating with members in her musical community. Recent highlights of her career include recipient of Westminster College's inaugural Hear and Now Emerging BIPOC Composer Commission (April 2023), Tetractys New Music: Here Be Monsters Commission (May 2023), New Music Gathering performer participant (June 2023), and Bang on a Can Composer Fellow (July 2023). Dixon has worked with numerous artists throughout her career, such as JACK Quartet, Sō Percussion, ~Nois, F-Plus, Boston Children's Chorus, Parker Ramsey, Michael J. Love, and more. Dixon holds a MA in Music Composition in addition to her dual undergraduate degrees in Viola Performance and Music Composition from Western Michigan University. Dixon is currently pursuing her PhD in Music Composition at Princeton University as a President's Fellow.

Bobby Ge is a Chinese-American composer and avid collaborator who seeks to create vivid emotional journeys that navigate boundaries between genre and medium. He has created multimedia projects with the Space Telescope Science Institute, painters collective Art10Baltimore, the Scattered Players Theater Company, and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Winner of the 2022 Barlow Prize, Ge has received commissions and performances by groups including the Minnesota Orchestra, the New York Youth Symphony, the Albany Symphony, the US Navy Band, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, the Harbin Symphony Orchestra, Interlochen Arts Academy, Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra, Guangzhou Symphony Youth Orchestra, Seattle Symphony Youth Orchestra, Music from Copland House, the Pacific Chamber Orchestra, the Bergamot Quartet, and Mind

on Fire. He is currently pursuing his PhD at Princeton University as a Naumberg Fellow, and holds degrees from UC Berkeley and the Peabody Conservatory.

Soo Yeon Lyuh is a composer, improviser, and master of the haegeum, a two-stringed Korean bowed instrument. Hailing from Daegu, South Korea by way of Princeton, New Jersey, Lyuh draws inspiration from traditional Korean music to perform a meld of improvisatory and experimental sounds. She is currently pursuing her second PhD in composition at Princeton University, after receiving the first doctorate in Korean music at Seoul National University. As a performer, Lyuh possesses flawless technique and a full command of the haegeum's traditional repertoire. For twelve years, she was a member of South Korea's National Gugak Center, which traces its roots to the 7th Century Shilla Dynasty and is Korea's foremost institution for the preservation of traditional music. To weave authentic styles into new musical domains, Lyuh relocated in 2015 to the San Francisco Bay Area and drew inspiration from its dynamic improvised music scene. In 2017, she was invited to collaborate in a series of concerts with the Kronos Quartet, and this work set her on the path of becoming a composer. As a composer, Lyuh asks classically trained performers to think outside the box, drawing out fresh sounds that, once understood, sound organic. Although these sounds are uneasy to visualize with notation, Lyuh can communicate a lot of them and often demonstrates the parts by joining and performing with the ensemble. Ultimately, Lyuh is all about making a bridge between cultures across borders, and breaking down any walls.

Lucy McKnight (she/they) is an artist who works with colors, textures, and sounds to create environments where she and others can explore intense emotions and ways of surviving them. She is interested in using touch, connection, movement, and sound to build mutually cathartic experiences. Recent mediums include wood, strings, pots, paint, ceramics, tinfoil, magnets, fabric, her cello, her own body and voice, and her friends' bodies and voices. Her work has been performed across the US and in Europe by artists including Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Yarn/Wire, ~Nois, Parker Ramsay, Dither Quartet, Longleash Trio, and Transient Canvas. In her spare time, she loves to swim in natural bodies of water, with particular affinity for the Pacific Ocean off the coast of her hometown, Los Angeles. Currently, she and her three deeply affectionate cats live in her wildly colorful home in Trenton, New Jersey while she works on her PhD in Music Composition at Princeton University.

Four-time Grammy Award-winning cellist **Nick Photinos** is one of the most innovative and multifaceted cellists of our time. An ardent advocate of new music, he has worked closely with many of the foremost composers of this era and has premiered hundreds of works throughout his career. He has received Musical America's Ensemble of the Year Award, the MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions, the inaugural Chamber Music America Visionary Award, the Naumberg Award, and the Concert Artists Guild Grand Prize. Described as a "commanding soloist" (*ClevelandClassical.com*) whose "virtuoso cello playing is scintillating" (*Chicago Classical Review*) and "outstanding for his exquisite precision" (*SFCV.org*), Photinos has collaborated and toured with an incredible array of artists including rock/pop artists Björk, Wilco, Bryce Dessner, Bonnie "Prince" Billy, film composer Gustavo Santaolalla, classical artists Dawn Upshaw, Philip Glass, the Bang on a Can All-Stars, and jazz

artists including Sheila Jordan, Laurence Hobgood, Zach Brock, and Matt Ulery. He has appeared as soloist with numerous orchestras including the Cleveland, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Toronto, Utah, and Atlanta Symphonies, the last with whom he recorded Jennifer Higdon's *On a Wire*. He has performed across the globe including the Sydney Opera House, the Barbican in London, KBC Hall in Seoul, Carnegie Hall in New York City, Walt Disney Hall in Los Angeles, and Red Rocks Amphitheater in Denver. Photinos recently gave solo debuts in Australia, Romania, and Canada, as well as solo and chamber concerts throughout the United States. He has performed across nine US states and returned as a soloist to the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival and the Bang on a Can Summer Festival, where he has taught since 2007. In 2019 he reached millions of listeners on "Live from Here" with Chris Thile and on Netflix's original movie *The Two Popes*. Photinos' recordings span the Cedille, Nonesuch, New Amsterdam, Greenleaf, and Naxos labels. He recorded for Wilco on their Grammy-nominated album *The Whole Love*, and with Autumn Defense on their album *Once Around*. His debut solo album, *Petits Artéfacts*, deemed "a bold solo debut from one of the most notable artists in contemporary music today" by PopMatters, was released on the New Amsterdam label in 2017 and features first recordings of the most acclaimed names in new music (David Lang, Bryce Dessner, David T. Little, Andrew Norman) as well as a younger generation of groundbreaking composers (Pascal Le Boeuf, Molly Joyce, Florent Ghys, Angelica Negrón). During Photinos' 24-year tenure as the founding cellist and co-Artistic Director of Eighth Blackbird, he performed over 1000 concerts and premiered hundreds of new works, including Steve Reich's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Double Sextet* and works by Andy Akiho, Michael Gordon, Amy Beth Kirsten, David Lang, David T. Little, Nico Muhly, Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez, Julia Wolfe, and Pamela Z, among many others. Eighth Blackbird held multi-year residency positions at the Curtis Institute of Music, the University of Chicago, and at the University of Richmond. Photinos currently serves as Professor of Chamber Music and Eminent Scholar at the University of Cincinnati, and previously served on the faculties of the Longy School of Music of Bard College, the University of Michigan, and Northwestern University. He is faculty at the Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival and performs in the Grossman Ensemble at the Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition. He is a graduate of Northwestern University, the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. For more information, go to nickphotinos.com.

Nathan Schram is a member of the Attacca Quartet and the Founder & Artistic Director of Musicambia, an organization that develops music education programs in prisons throughout the United States. Albums of his original music have been released on New Amsterdam and Better Company Records. He has a wife and daughter and adores living in Princeton.



What is PSK?

A lab for Princeton University composers to collaborate with today's finest performers and ensembles, Princeton Sound Kitchen is a vital forum for the creation of new music. Serving the graduate student and faculty composers of the renowned composition program at the Department of Music at Princeton University, PSK presents a wide variety of concerts and events throughout the year.

Upcoming Princeton Sound Kitchen events

Tuesday, October 24, at 8:00 PM, Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Tom Morrison: 'Train Dreams' + Mixtape 1

Two sets of music in the course of one evening: Princeton University composition alumnus and current lecturer Tom Morrison presents a new work 'Train Dreams'; and PSK's first Mixtape concert for the academic year, in which various artists and ensembles perform new works by Princeton University graduate student composers. This concert features works by Francisco del Pino and Nina Shekhar.

Tuesday, November 14, at 8:00 PM, Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Mixtape 2

PSK's second Mixtape concert for the academic year, in which various artists and ensembles perform new works by Princeton University graduate student composers. This concert features works by Ellie Cherry, Bobby Ge, Travis Laplante, James Moore, and Gemma Peacocke.

Tuesday, November 28, at 8:00 PM, Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Wednesday, November 29, at 8:00 PM, Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

JACK Quartet

String quartet JACK perform two concerts—each with a different program—over two consecutive nights, featuring new works by Princeton University faculty member Juri Seo, and graduate student composers Kennedy Taylor Dixon, Liam Elliot, Bobby Ge, Travis Laplante, Soo Yeon Lyuh, Lucy McKnight, Christian Quiñones, Nathan Schram, Max Vinetz, Connor Elias Way, and Justin Wright.

Tuesday, February 6, at 8:00 PM, Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Composing for Improvisers Concert

Princeton University graduate student composers enrolled in the seminar MUS 541 'Composing for Improvisers,' directed by faculty member Dmitri Tymoczko, show their new works, performed by various artists and ensembles. Works by Dai Wei, Francisco del Pino, Travis Laplante, Soo Yeon Lyuh, and Isaac Santos, and Dmitri Tymoczko.

Tuesday, February 20, at 8:00 PM, Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

TAK

Chamber ensemble TAK performs new works by Princeton University faculty composer Eric Cha-Beach, and graduate student composers Gladstone Deluxe, Lucy McKnight, Gemma Peacocke, Christian Quiñones, Elijah Daniel Smith, and Max Vinetz.

Tuesday, February 27, at 8:00 PM, Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Gallicantus

Vocal ensemble Gallicantus performs new works by Princeton University graduate student composers Francisco del Pino, Bobby Ge, Hannah Ishizaki, Travis Laplante, Hope Littwin, Gemma Peacocke, Isaac Santos, Connor Elias Way, and Justin Wright.

Tuesday, March 19, at 8:00 PM, Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Hub New Music

Flute, clarinet, violin, and cello ensemble Hub New Music perform new works by Princeton University faculty composer Donnacha Dennehy, and graduate student composers Chen Yihan, Francisco del Pino, Aliayta Foon-Dancoes, Hope Littwin, Elijah Daniel Smith, and Max Vinetz.

Tuesday, April 16, at 8:00 PM, Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Generals

Princeton University second-year graduate student composers, Ellie Cherry, Kennedy Taylor Dixon, Bobby Ge, Travis Laplante, and Nathan Schram, in partial fulfillment of the General Examination, create new works in response to the work of other, established artists. Various artists and ensembles perform the works.

Tuesday, May 7, at 8:00 PM, Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Wednesday, May 8, at 8:00 PM, Taplin Auditorium, Fine Hall

Sō Percussion

Princeton University ensemble-in-residence Sō Percussion perform two concerts over two consecutive nights featuring new works by Princeton University graduate student composers Ellie Cherry, Francisco del Pino, Gladstone Deluxe, Kennedy Taylor Dixon, Liam Elliot, Aliayta Foon-Dancoes, Bobby Ge, Hannah Ishizaki, Travis Laplante, Soo Yeon Lyuh, Lucy McKnight, Christian Quiñones, Isaac Santos, Nathan Schram, Max Vinetz, and Justin Wright.

**Keep up to date about Princeton Sound Kitchen events
on the Current Season page of our website princetonsoundkitchen.org**

