



Presents

Let It Be Said

A spoken word collaboration with writer Miesha Lowery

Featuring

Jada Lane and Mohammad Rohaizad Suaidi, performers
Katie Repka, clarinet
Michael Barranco, vibraphone



February 11, 2023, 2:00pm
The Writer's Center
4508 Walsh Street
Bethesda, MD 20815



February 25, 2023, 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm
Le Mondo
406 North Howard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

From Miesha Lowery's Pen:

"Let it Be Said is a mixed bag of ingredients, a sprinkle of mundane, a tablespoon of thoughtfulness, a dash of wisdom, a teaspoon of love, and a quarter of a cup of the daily grind. I created a realistic short story broken up into spoken words, and the Baltimore Composers Forum brought it to life from their inspiration. Let it Be Said is the epitome of fleeting thoughts, moments, and whispered feelings".

Let It Be Said

Ordinary

for male performer

Existence

for female performer, B ♭ clarinet and vibraphone

Janice Macaulay

"The idea for this short piece comes from the image of tossed stones creating widening ripples outward on the water's surface. The gentle and consonant mood of the music is meant to suggest an affirmative, or at least hopeful, response to the existential question posed."

Morning

for male performer, B ♭ clarinet and vibraphone

Gavin Brown

"Morning can be hard to get through, but fortunately, there is coffee to make it enjoyable! If you're a coffee lover, you have to have a cup to get going in your day!"

Dilemma

for male performer and B ♭ clarinet

Jin-Hwa Choi

"How many times am I interrupted by tiny conflicts during a day? Whether they are helpful or friendly to me or not, they're always dwelling under my consciousness. In this work, I tried to illustrate those invisible daily conflicts with the clarinet and male narrator."

Awake

for female performer and vibraphone

Ljiljana Becker

"Right from the start, I felt that 'Awake,' 'Thanks!' and 'Subliminal' were a part of the same story with a clear dramatic arc of the beginning, middle and end. My intention was to support my intuition through staging and prop choices as well as by a somewhat fragmented, collage-esque sound structures. All because: I was the person waking up with cold showers (not by a choice), trying not to leave too many crumbs on a plastic covered sofa belonging to [...], and spending nights by the flicker of a silent TV while hand copying the scores way back when."

Traffic

for male performer, B ♭ clarinet and vibraphone

Jonathan Newmark

"Writing 'Traffic' was a fun challenge. The text lent itself to being interspersed, rather than coming before or after the music. I hope the listener won't take it too seriously and that the players have fun with it. Profound it isn't."

Choices

for female and male performers, B ♭ clarinet and vibraphone

Gavin Brown

"The choices we make may come down to our approach more than anything else. Do we bring a positive energy or a negative energy into the decision? It can affect the choices we make."

Noise

for male performer and B ♭ clarinet

Jin-Hwa Choi

"Using restricted sound effects on the clarinet and giving indeterminacy to the narrator's reading duration, I tried to imitate the noise (even though I am not sure that I made a right one). Noise is everywhere. Are you sure that it is on your side?"

Thanks!

for female performer and A clarinet

Ljiljana Becker

See Awake

Subliminal

for female and male performers, A clarinet and vibraphone

Ljiljana Becker

See Awake

Reminder

for female performer, B ♭ clarinet and vibraphone

Gavin Brown

"A burning tale of joy and love."

Resting

for male performer, B ♭ clarinet and vibraphone

Garth Baxter

"I chose this particular section because I am a profoundly romantic individual, and this poem really struck me. The call specified that we were not to set the words as a song. I thought though, that somewhere after the midway point, I would like to have a singer vocalize a bit on her own, and then accompany the narrator in the last line of the poem."

Clarity

for female performer, B ♭ clarinet and vibraphone/percussion

Ray Fields

Cosmic

for female and male performers, B ♭ clarinet and vibraphone

Keith Kramer

Dedicated to Emeli and Sophia

Incredible

for female performer, B ♭ clarinet and vibraphone

Gavin Brown

"What is more incredible than love? And what is a more perfect way to end the day than with it?"

Extraordinary

for female and male performers

Writer



Baltimore-based writer **Miesha Lowery** is a lyricist and poet with an old soul; she can write lyrics and poetry for any genre and has collaborated on a Christmas CD called *Remembering December* with composer Gavin Brown. Recently two of her songs were chosen out of hundreds to be arranged into a musical score and performed for the Baltimore Composers Forum *Sonitus* Concert. Miesha is currently working on projects both within her profession and with other artists to enhance her body of work further and has been published in Kairos Literary Magazine.

Performers



For **Jada Lane**, a current student at the University of Towson, love for theatre, music and anything in-between, began when she was a child. Since then, Jada has become a working performer earning several different supporting and lead roles throughout the entirety of her college career. She possesses extensive knowledge in the field of the theatrical arts and music and plans to continue a pursuit of the arts upon the ending of her college career.



A graduate of the MFA Theatre program at Towson University, **Mohammad Rohaizad Suaidi** (he/him/his) performs as an actor and interdisciplinary artist; directs scripted plays and new devised works; and conceptualizes experimental performance pieces. He has worked in Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Kolonia (Micronesia), Honolulu, New York, Washington, DC as well as in Baltimore, a city he has called home since 1997. As an educator, Rohaizad has 20 years of professional teaching experience. He is currently an adjunct professor at the Theatre Departments at Towson University and UMBC. Rohaizad is also a trained ESL teacher. He has taught at the Adult Learning Center in Baltimore City since 2016, where he works with refugees and immigrants from Arabic-, French-, Mandarin Chinese-, and Spanish-speaking countries. In 2018, Rohaizad co-founded the Asian Pasifika Arts Collective (<https://baltimoreapac.org/>), a non-profit organization that advocates more diverse representation of Asian American and Pacific Indigenous American experiences and stories through the arts. But most importantly, Rohaizad is "Ayah" (Dad) to a six-year-old 1st Grader whom he loves very much, and every day they laugh and do silly dances together to music by Lil Nas X.



Katie Repka is a doctoral candidate studying clarinet performance at George Mason University. A native of Buffalo, NY, she received her bachelor's degree in music education and performance from the Crane School of Music and a

master's degree in performance from Pennsylvania State University. Currently, Katie teaches clarinet at George Mason University and the Mason Community Arts Academy. She has been a soloist with the Penn State Philharmonic performing Aaron Copland's *Concerto for Clarinet and Orchestra* and was awarded first place at the Penn State Graduate Exhibition playing Bela Kovacs' *Hommage a Manuel DeFallá*. She has performed at venues including the Kimmel Center, Carnegie Hall, and Hershey Theater. Katie has taken part in masterclasses for Thomas Lessels, YaoGuang Zhao, Hein Weidijk, Dan Gilbert, Chad Burrow, Michael Webster, Andy Brown, and Julie Detweiler. Her major teachers include Dr. Kathleen Mulcahy, Dr. Anthony Costa, Dr. Julianne Kirk-Doyle, and Ms. Patti DiLutis.



Dr. Michael Barranco currently resides in Fairfax, Virginia as a multifaceted musician in the fields of performance, education, and instrument repair. As an educator, Michael leads percussion studies at NOVA Community College and teaches K-6 general music at both Cameron and Groveton Elementary Schools. Additionally, he can be found assisting percussion programs in secondary schools throughout Northern Virginia. Michael's versatility as a percussionist allows him to perform with contemporary, chamber, orchestral, choral, wind band, and musical theatre ensembles. He currently holds the positions of principal percussionist with the American Festival Pops Orchestra and Washington Balalaika Orchestra. Furthermore, Michael is an avid scholar, with his current research focused on the timbral qualities of acoustic percussion instruments. Michael is endorsed by Artifact Percussion.

Composers in program order

Janice Macaulay has received awards from the International Alliance of Women in Music, including the Alex Shapiro Prize as well as several Honorable Mentions, two Best of Category Prizes for Chamber Music and Vocal Music in the Delius Competition, multiple grants from Meet The Composer, as well as grants from the National Women's Music Resource Center and the Cornell Council on the

Creative Arts. Dr. Macaulay taught at UMBC, AACC, Wells College, Brown University, Cornell University, Peabody Conservatory, and St. John's College. Her music is recorded on the Navona and Albany Records labels. For more information visit JaniceMacaulayMusic.com.

Gavin Brown's musical journey began with The Sting. He took up piano so he could play the ragtime music of Scott Joplin which was featured in that movie. He studied music at DePauw University and composition with Panamanian composer Roque Cordero at Illinois State University. His music draws from a number of influences from classical to jazz to rock and pop. A native of the American Midwest, he currently resides in Baltimore and is a member of the Baltimore Composers Forum.

Jin-Hwa Choi is a Korean composer who completed her DMA at the Peabody Conservatory in the studio of Michael Hersch. Choi's musical language is inspired by various aspects of life including painting, poetry, and her own daily experiences. She combines Asian and Western musical characteristics in her works. Her compositions tend to illustrate the impressions through boundary-less tonal and atonal language.

Ljiljana Becker is a multilingual composer, sound designer and Neues Musiktheater creator. She participated in the 2. Tonkünstlerfest Baden-Württemberg, Rheinisches Musikfest, Piazza virtuale (Documenta IX), MusikTriennale Köln, GEDOK Music Series, and won the first prize at Radio Belgrade's Radionica Zvuka. Her principal teachers include Željko Brkanović, Ulrich Süße, Mauricio Kagel, and William Kleinsasser, and she holds the MFA Theatre degree from Towson University. June 22, 2022 marked the 30th anniversary of the Piazza virtuale project, and Ljiljana premiered her radiophonic collage, *Ceci n'est pas une pipe - Revisited* at Goethe Institute in Belgrade, Serbia, as part of the *Slobodanka Stupar: Das ist keine Pfeife/zum zweiten Mal* exhibition. <https://jovanovicljiljana.weebly.com>

Jonathan Newmark received his composition MM from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in 2015. Teachers included Joel Hoffman, Douglas Knehans, and Michael Fiday at CCM, as well as Jonathan Kolm, Gloria Wilson Swisher, and James McVoy. His works are published by TrevCo Varner Music and BrassArts Unlimited, and appear on 3 CD's on the Navona, PnOVA, and Music Unlimited labels. A 1974 graduate of Harvard College, he earned his MD degree from Columbia University in 1978. He is a board-certified neurologist, on faculty at USUHS and George Washington University, retired

Colonel, US Army Medical Corps, and one of the nation's leading authorities on medical response to chemical warfare and terrorism.

Composer **Garth Baxter** is noted for his modern traditionalist style of writing. Baxter was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1946. He earned music degrees from Pepperdine University and California State University at Northridge. He studied composition with Robert Hall Lewis, Joseph Wagner, and William Thornton. Baxter's compositions have been performed throughout the world. His music has been featured on radio and on-line programs worldwide. He has received numerous awards, commissions, and honors. His music has been the topic of Doctoral and Masters Theses. There have been four highly praised commercial albums of his music released from PARMA Recordings and Centaur Records. Baxter's works are published by Columbia Music Company, ALRY Publications, Les Productions D'OZ, Doberman-YPPan, Guitar Chamber Music Press, Mel Bay Publications, Theodore Presser and North Star Music. www.garthbaxter.org

Ray Fields has composed music for orchestra, chamber ensembles, choir, the stage, and film. His works have premiered at Imani Winds Chamber Music Festivals, DC New Music Conferences, MilkBoy ArtHouse, the University of Illinois, Prince George's Community College, the University of Maryland, and the Children's Discovery Museum in Acton, Massachusetts. His liturgical works have been included in worship services in Kensington, Maryland and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In addition to composing music, he has written a book analyzing Morton Feldman's Piano and String Quartet, published by Rowman & Littlefield. He has studied with Thomas DeLio, Robert Gibson, Mark Edwards Wilson, and Christopher Pavlakis.

Keith Kramer is a composer of over 40 works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, solo instruments and electronic media. The London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Miran Vauptović, recently recorded Keith's work for cello and orchestra, *Luce del Sole*, featuring cellist Ovidiu Marinescu. Keith's music has also been performed and recorded by the Slovak National Symphony Orchestra, the Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, David Taylor, Leonard Garrison and many others. Recent performances of his work include two highly successful all-Kramer programs at New York's Merkin Hall, documented on the DVD *Beyond Sonic Boundaries Live!*. Additional all-Kramer releases include the critically

acclaimed albums *Causal Dualism* and *Emerge*. Keith's work *Sogni* was recently première and toured by acclaimed British pianist Martin Jones and a European première of his work *Rinnova*, for piano and percussion, featured internationally renowned pianist Anna D'Errico. Keith's work *Suspension of Disbelief* for piano trio enjoyed its New York City première at Carnegie Hall in 2019. www.keithkramer.org

Announcements

Land of Mary: 30th Anniversary Celebration

May 20, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

February 25, 2023, 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm



406 North Howard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Intersegmental 38: Seoul

June 24, 2023, 8:15pm

baltimorecomposersforum.com/concerts/intersegmental-38-seoul

Another first for us, this project is a collaboration with Baltimore/Seoul based visual artist Mina Cheon, and will be realized in two parts: Seoul and Baltimore. In this first segment BCF's member Jin-Hwa Choi leads a group of composers from Kookmin University in the quest for "composing the global peace". The second, Baltimore, segment featuring our current members will take place in person in fall of 2023, and subsequently in the Washington Metropolitan Area.

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