

# RUTGERS

Mason Gross School  
of the Arts

## **Women in Music: A Celebration**

Organized by the Research Group on  
Women in Art Music (WAM!)  
[wam.rutgers.edu](http://wam.rutgers.edu)

**Sunday, April 8, 2017 | 5:00 p.m.**  
Shindell Choral Hall  
Robert E. Mortensen Hall  
Douglass Campus  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

## Program

September, At the River

Fanny Mendelssohn  
(1805–1847)

Abraham Alinea, piano

Liebst du um Schönheit

Clara Schumann  
(1819–1896)

Rebekah Daly, mezzo-soprano  
Abraham Alinea, piano

Nocturne for violin and piano

Lili Boulanger  
(1893–1918)

Nathan Bishop, violin  
Joseph Ferguson, piano

Femmes en Fables

Isabelle Aboulker  
(b. 1938)

- I. La jeune veuve
- II. La femme noyée
- III. La cigale et la fourmi

Rachael Lansang, mezzo-soprano  
Nina Phillips, piano

\*\*\*

**Video Interlude**  
**WAM Research Group**

\*\*\*

Nocturne Op. 6, No. 2

Clara Schumann

Siyi Chen, piano

Cello Prelude No. 3  
Con Sordino—Senza Sordino

Sofia Gubaidulina  
(b. 1931)

Katherine Van Varick, cello  
Incantation (1995)

Augusta Read Thomas  
(b. 1964)

Alec Tonno, violin

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)  
Arranged by Myra Hess  
(1890–1965)

Leslie Theseira, piano

String Quartet in E-flat Major  
(1834)

Fanny Mendelssohn

IV. Allegro molto vivace

Alec Tonno, violin 1  
Samuel Weinglass, violin 2  
Glynnis Gourhan, viola  
Katherine Van Varick, cello

## About the Project

Women in Art Music (WAM!) is a research project based in the Department of Music at the Mason Gross School of the Arts. Women's participation in music—as, for example, composers, performers, patrons, instrument builders, copyists, and directors—is very little discussed in the public sphere, yet there are scholars who are actively researching these topics and writing about them for a specialized readership. The WAM research team seeks to promote this research and provide a platform to make it accessible to a wide public audience, thus enriching the understanding of women in art music among performers, teachers, students, ensemble directors—anyone who enjoys music!

The WAM research group is pleased to launch its web site, [wam.rutgers.edu](http://wam.rutgers.edu), which will host original content and serve as a venue for scholars to present their own work in a friendly, accessible way. We recently created documentary video interviews with Dr. Nancy Yunhwa Rao on Ruth Crawford Seeger and with Dr. Angela Mace Christian on Fanny Mendelssohn. We hope to expand the web site in the coming months and years. Please visit and let us know what you think!

Special thanks to the Aresty Research Center and to Francesca Giannetti, the Digital Humanities Librarian, for their assistance and support.

—The WAM Research Group

Nathan Bishop, Rebecca Cypess, and Tracey Crystal Miller

## About the Artists

**Abraham Alinea** is a third-year undergraduate pianist, currently studying with Vladimir Valjarevic. He has been featured as a pianist in an ADDO Chamber Choir production of Brahms's *Ein Deutsches Requiem*. Additionally, he has participated in a national heritage concert at Carnegie Hall featuring a number of Rutgers pianists. A winner of the 2017 Rutgers Sinfonia Concerto Competition, he will be performing Rachmaninoff's Third Concerto with the Rutgers Sinfonia. In addition to piano, Alinea has experience as an organist and composer, and also co-directs the Rutgers undergraduate new music ensemble.

**Nathan Bishop** began serious study with Nancy Roth, and is currently a third-year undergraduate studying music education and violin under Dr. Chernova-Davis. He is the founder of the Rutgers University String Ensemble, the concertmaster of Rutgers Sinfonia, and a member of the Rutgers Symphony Orchestra, Kirkpatrick Choir, and the Rutgers Baroque Players. An avid fiddler, he is planning on pursuing graduate degrees in ethnomusicology with a concentration American folk music. When not in New Brunswick performing or studying, he can be found in Flemington conducting the Hunterdon Music for Youth orchestras, teaching various folk styles, or on his farm outside of Clinton tending to his sheep.

Born in Xiamen, China, **Siyi Chen** started learning piano in 2002. In 2012, Chen participated in the International Piano Academy Freiburg, in Germany, where she studied with Prof. Jura Margulis and performed in two concerts. In the summers of 2012 and 2013, she gave piano solo recitals in Gulangyu Concert Hall. In 2015, Chen was the youngest pianist to perform in "The Unknown Diabelli Variations" concert in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. In the summer 2016, Chen went to Brevard Music Festival in North Carolina as a scholarship recipient. Chen has studied with Paul Hoffmann, Barbara Gonzalez-Palmer, and Matti Hirvonen and is now studying with Vladimir Valjarević.

**Rebekah Daly** is a fourth-year Bachelor of Music candidate in voice performance, studying with Susan Quittmeyer. Daly has studied and performed as a vocalist at Songfest, The Castleton Music Festival, and the Chautauqua Institute. This summer she will be participating in Houston Grand Opera's Young Artist Vocal Academy.

**Joseph Ferguson** is a student-pianist from Little Silver, New Jersey. He began his musical studies at a young age with local piano teacher Elvira Major, remaining under her tutelage throughout his pre-college years. During this time, he participated in a number of choral and instrumental ensembles and was exposed to a wide variety of music. Currently, Joseph is a second-year undergraduate Piano Performance major at the Mason Gross School of the Arts where he studies with renowned pianist and pedagogue Daniel Epstein. He recently won the Rutgers Sinfonia Concerto Competition with his interpretation of Dohnányi's Variations on a Nursery Theme, Op. 25.

**Glynnis Gourhan** is a first-year student at Mason Gross. Having started on violin at the age of nine, she began studying viola in high school with Dr. Aundrey Mitchell. She participated in multiple youth orchestras, including the NJSO Academy Orchestra, and performed at venues such as NJPAC and Carnegie Hall. She also attended Kinhaven Music School's Senior Session for two summers as a scholarship student, where she studied viola and participated in orchestra, chamber music, multiple choirs, composition, and conducting workshops. At Mason Gross, Glynnis has participated in ensembles such as the Kirkpatrick Choir, Rutgers Sinfonia, Rutgers Symphony Orchestra, Rutgers Baroque Players, and Rutgers University String Ensemble. She is double-majoring in music education and viola performance and is also pursuing a minor in Spanish. She currently studies with Craig Mumm, a violist with Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

**Rachael Lansang**, mezzo-soprano, is a candidate for the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Musicology at Rutgers University. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in vocal performance at the

University of Connecticut. Her dissertation project is titled, “Women’s Bodies in Song: Text, Performance and Embodiment” and focuses on new methodological approaches to contemporary art song by women composers. An active performer specializing in operatic and contemporary repertoire, she is a member of the C4: the Choral Composer/Conductor Collective in New York City, and has performed with numerous opera companies throughout the U.S. and Europe.

South African pianist **Nina Phillips** made her debut with the Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra at age nine, and has since performed regularly with orchestras, excelled in various competitions and performed across Africa, Europe, and America as both a soloist and chamber musician. For two years, Nina played in the University of Pretoria Piano Trio, and subsequently formed the UP Piano Quintet. She is regularly invited to participate in music festivals in both South Africa and the United States. Nina is based in New York City, where she recently completed her Master’s degree at Mannes College under the tutelage of Thomas Sauer.

**Leslie Theseira** began serious study of the piano under Tedd Joselson at the age of 13. He has also had training in musical analysis by Dr. Robert Casteels. In 2008, Leslie gave his debut recital at the Victoria Concert Hall with works by Mozart, Chopin, and Rachmaninoff. Since then, he has gone on to give numerous performances, performing concertos of Mozart, Beethoven, and Tchaikovsky at the Piano Concerto Festival in Singapore, as well as Rachmaninoff’s Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini with the Rutgers Sinfonia.

Leslie is currently pursuing both business and music at Rutgers University. Studying under Daniel Epstein, he has won first place in both the American Fine Arts Festival and Rutgers concerto competitions. An avid chamber musician, Leslie has worked with groups ranging from string quartets to wind quintets. He is also an organist and has served in that capacity in churches for over 10 years. Having a keen interest in the arts, Leslie founded *Great*

*Performances*, a company which promotes arts events in Singapore. Most recently, the company brought in musical comedy duo, Igudesman & Joo, for their Singapore debut. In his free time, Leslie loves travelling and taking film photographs.

**Alec Tonno** began his violin studies in 2010 with Milan Milinkovic and Brennan Sweet. In 2014, he was awarded Third Prize and the Heifetz Award in the Wharton Music Center Young Artists Competition. As a chamber musician, he has received coachings from members of the Emerson and Calidore string quartets and performed in venues such as Weill Recital Hall and Steinway Hall. He has been a member of ensembles such as the New Jersey and New York Youth Symphonies, the Rutgers Symphony Orchestra, Rutgers Baroque Players, and the Rutgers University String Ensemble. Additionally, he has participated in summer festivals such as Chautauqua Institute, Kinhaven Young Artists Seminar, and Center Stage Strings. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree at Mason Gross School of the Arts, studying with Francesca dePasquale.

**Katherine Van Varick** began music instruction at the age of five and has been studying cello for more than 14 years, most recently with Jonathan Spitz. A first-year cello performance student at Mason Gross School of the Arts, she is currently a member of the Rutgers Symphony Orchestra and the Rutgers University String Ensemble. In addition to her musical pursuits, Katherine has a penchant for books, tea, and her cats.

**Samuel Weinglass** has been playing violin since the age of 3 and currently studies with Carmit Zori. At the age of 6, he joined Stretto Youth Chamber Orchestra in Princeton, NJ, and has since been an active chamber musician, touring Europe and China with Stretto and attending Blue Mountain Festival, a summer program that offers extensive scholarships for underprivileged children, every year since 2011. At Rutgers, Samuel is a part of Rutgers Symphony Orchestra, Rutgers University String Ensemble, and Rutgers Sinfonia. He is currently a

freshman pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree from Mason Gross and a Bachelor's degree in Cell Biology and Neuroscience from the School of Arts and Sciences.

## **About the Music Department**

The mission of the Music Department at Mason Gross School of the Arts is to develop well-educated professional musicians who have a deep historical and theoretical understanding of all aspects of music. With access to all the resources of a music conservatory situated within a nationally ranked research university, students receive traditional, well-grounded conservatory training and preparation for the ever-changing world of the arts. The Music Department's 35 full-time and 100 part-time faculty include principals and members of the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, among other distinguished ensembles. Approximately 500 students are enrolled in the department's seven degree programs: bachelor of music, bachelor of arts, master of music, master of arts, artist diploma, doctor of philosophy, and doctor of musical arts.