



**CCM**

FACULTY ARTIST SERIES  
PRESENTS

# COMMUNITY

AYANE KOZASA, VIOLA

Catharine Lees, viola

Rachel Calin, double bass

Ming-Li Liu, piano

**Tuesday, January 31, 2023**  
**Robert J. Werner Recital Hall**  
**7:30 p.m.**

# PROGRAM

Jig and Pop (arr. for viola)

Tessa Lark  
(b. 1989)

ko'u inoa

Anne Leilehua Lanzilotti  
(b. 1983)

2 Duos in G Major

York Bowen  
(1884-1961)

Catharine Lees, viola I

3 American Folk Hymn Settings

Kenji Bunch  
(b. 1973)

- I. Prologue*
- II. "What Wondrous Love is This"*
- III. "In Lonely Mountain Ways" — "I Come With Joy" — Finale*

Catharine Lees, viola I

through the filtering dawn of spreading daybright

Jeffrey Mumford  
(b. 1955)

Rachel Calin, double bass

Buoyant Forces, Sonata for Viola and Piano

Paul Wiancko  
(b. 1983)

- I. Paracosm*
- II. Maladaptive Dreams*
- III. Charivari (Theme & Variations)*

Ming-Li Liu, piano

# PROGRAM NOTES

Community is a program celebrating the rich and vibrant musical community of the College-Conservatory of Music and the greater Ohio region. It is also an appreciation program for the school, the city, and the people that have welcomed me so warmly, and this program conveys my excitement to begin a new chapter in the Midwest. The music on tonight's program features some of the incredible faculty and students at CCM, an alumni who studied with one of our illustrious teachers, and some works that are near and dear to my heart.

Tessa Lark has been a long-time friend of mine, ever since we met at Chicago's Ravinia Festival Steans Music Institute. She is a phenomenal violinist, who champions everything from soloing with major orchestras to fiddling with the great bassist Edgar Meyer. Recently, she was appointed Artistic Director of Musical Masterworks, a beautiful concert series in Connecticut, and I had the pleasure of hearing her play this work: "Jig and Pop was inspired by a fiddle-sounding motif my fiance', Michael Thurber, asked me to play and improvise on for one of his pop songs," she says. "The bustling optimism immediately sparked more ideas for this piece, a virtuosic moto perpetuo inspired by the feel of an Irish fiddle master playing a simple tune over and over but ever new and entrancing each time." Lark was also a Starling Project student, commuting to CCM from Kentucky to study with our very own Kurt Sassmannshaus. I am truly honored to be entrusted with the viola version of this piece and highlight the great talent that has come out of CCM!

Anne Leilehua Lanzilotti describes her ko'u inoa as "a homesick bariolage based on the anthem Hawai'i Aloha." Dr. Michael-Thomas Foumai, lecturer at the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu writes: "ko'u inoa translates from 'ōlelo Hawai'i to 'my name is' and frames a perspective and statement to absorb the meaning of identity... For five minutes, ko'u inoa invites us to listen on three planes: to listen closely (focus on immediate changes), listen broadly (connect changes over time), and listen metaphorically (distill meaning from sound). If there is an allegory in music, this is a well-spring; Lanzilotti offers the awakened Hawaiian consciousness, a journey of one distantly far from home but connected with resounding clarity." I love the multi-layer meaning within this oscillating and meditative piece, and I have had the pleasure of hearing it performed by different instrumentalists, each identifying with the music in their own way. The personal connection I feel with this piece is one of transformation: as a person born in Japan who immigrated to the US at age four and moved multiple times from state to state, I have said "my name is...." an exhausting number of times, subtly changing the pronunciation of my name to accommodate my audience. It wasn't until recently that I began to fully embrace my original name, and that moment of change was liberating... and a realization of how much identity our names hold.

In the summer of 2022, I was introduced to Bowen's Fantasia for Four Violas, and my love for that piece quickly snowballed into a discovery of all the wonderful music that Bowen gifted to the viola community.

## PROGRAM NOTES (cont.)

CCM viola professor Dr. Catharine Lees invited violist Louise Landsdown from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire this past fall, and Landsdown's lecture on some of the great English composers who fortified the viola repertoire (Bowen included) was inspiring. I love this kind of spirit that is characteristic of violists: an excitement to unearth and share hidden gems by way of wonder and exploration.

Following the Bowen, Kenji Bunch's piece 3 American Folk Hymn Settings showcases Bunch's abilities to highlight the virtuosic side of the viola as well as his roots in folk writing. Oregon ArtsWatch describes his music as "emotional Americana," and one can really feel his deep love for these 3 hymns that he beautifully weaves into classical sonorities. A graduate of Juilliard and now currently living in Portland, Oregon, Bunch's contribution to the viola repertoire is paramount. I am honored to perform these two works tonight with Dr. Lees.

The program continues with a fellow Ohio resident's music, Jeffrey Mumford, who is currently Distinguished Professor at Lorain County Community College in Northern Ohio. Mumford's piece through the filtering dawn of spreading daybright was commissioned and premiered by violist Wendy Richman and bassist Scott Dixon (now member of the Cleveland Orchestra), and Mumford describes the work as, "a mini concerto for viola and contrabass. As the work unfolds, the viola seeks to free itself from the contrabass's "orchestral" fabric, with varying degrees of success. Eventually, amid often turbulent divergences of the two personalities, the viola asserts its independence and a more tranquil mood prevails between both instruments culminating in a serene state of suspension. The title suggests my experience of how early morning light filters its way through layers of sky and defines the day to come." I have always admired this work, and it gives me great joy to be able to perform it with CCM bass professor Rachel Calin.

Our evening concludes with cellist, composer, and my partner Paul Wiancko's Buoyant Forces for viola and piano. About this piece, Wiancko writes: "composed primarily at the end of 2016 and start of 2017, this piece is an account of weakness, departure and defiance, as well as a study of what has become an increasingly critical theme in many of our lives: resisting downward-pulling forces. This piece explores three potential responses. In the first, we create a paracosm—a highly detailed fictional universe. Maladaptive daydreaming—a concept largely ignored by modern psychology—is so intense and constant that it interferes with our sense of reality. Finally, the charivari—a cacophonous protest often involving the use of pots and pans—frees us from denial. All in all, this music is meant to fulfill a need—be it an escape or a catalyst." CCM student Ming-Li Liu joins us on this 22-minute journey.

Thank you for being here — it is a joy to be a part of this community!

-Ayane Kozasa

# BIOGRAPHIES



Hailed for her “magnetic, wide-ranging tone” and her “rock solid technique” (Philadelphia Inquirer), violist **Ayane Kozasa** is a sought-after chamber musician, collaborator, and educator. Since winning the 2011 Primrose International Viola Competition, Ayane has appeared on stages across the world, from Carnegie, Wigmore, and Suntory Hall to Ravinia, Aspen, and the Marlboro Music Festival. She is a passionate advocate for the expansion of viola repertoire, and has commissioned multiple new works featuring the viola, including “American Haiku” by Paul Wiancko and “K’Zohar Harakia” by Judd

Greenstein.

Ayane Kozasa is a founding member of the Aizuri Quartet, who were the grand prize winners of both the Osaka String Quartet Competition and MPriZe Chamber Arts Competition. The Aizuri Quartet’s debut album, *Blueprinting* was nominated for a Grammy Award and named one of NPR’s top 10 classical albums of 2018. The Aizuri Quartet is devoted to education as well, working with young musicians from around the world and regularly leading student composer workshops at institutions such as the University of Southern California, Princeton University, and New York Youth Symphony. In 2020, the quartet launched *AizuriKids*, an interactive web series for children that explores relationships between music and themes ranging from astrophysics to cooking.

Ayane is also a member of the duo *Ayane & Paul* with composer and cellist Paul Wiancko, with whom she performed on Norah Jones’ recent album “Pick Me Up Off the Floor.” She has taught at Adelphi University in Long Island, had served as guest faculty at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and is currently Assistant Professor of Viola at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.



**Catharine Lees**, viola, joined the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music in 1993. She has enjoyed an active performing and teaching career in the US and abroad, presenting master classes at major universities and conservatories of music. Currently, her primary professional focus is helping her students and others to achieve their goals. For a complete biography, please visit [www.SoundingPoints.com](http://www.SoundingPoints.com).

# BIOGRAPHIES



Celebrated for her proficiency as both a pedagogue and a performer, **Rachel Calin** has been called “a lyrical soloist in command of her instrument,” by the New York Times. In 1994 she won the Juilliard Concerto Competition, making her concerto debut at Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall with the Juilliard Orchestra. Subsequently, she has made concerto appearances with the Burlington Ensemble, Metamorphosen Chamber Orchestra, and the Sejong Soloists.

As a chamber musician, Calin has appeared in concert throughout Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the United States. She can be heard on NPR’s Performance Today, both in live and recorded broadcasts, and has collaborated with Myung-Wha Chung, Lawrence Dutton, Leon Fleisher, Frank Huang, Ron Leonard, Itzhak Perlman and Gil Shaham, among others.

She has performed frequently with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic, and has made appearances at the Aspen Music Festival, Live from Lincoln Center, Mostly Mozart, and Ravinia. Calin can also be heard on numerous movie and commercial soundtracks, including *The Departed* and *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*. She has given the world premieres of works by composers such as Lera Auerbach and D. Edward Davis, and has performed with many contemporary music ensembles including *Sequitur*, *Composers Concordance*, and *Metropolis Ensemble*.

Calin received a BM and MM from the Juilliard School, where she studied with both Homer Mensch and Eugene Levinson. In addition to Juilliard, she also trained with Jeff Bradetich, Paul Ellison and Denise Searfoss. She was the recipient of an instrument loan from the Karr Foundation, and currently performs on a double bass crafted by Carlo Giuseppe Testore in 1690.

# BIOGRAPHIES



Taiwanese pianist **Ming-Li Liu** is active in solo performance, collaborative piano, and chamber music. Ming-Li has given multiple performances and gotten numerous awards in Taiwan and the US. In 2019, she received the Special Award in Wideman International Piano Competition. She was also the first prize winner of Soochow University Concerto Competition in 2016 and performed Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 with the Soochow University Orchestra. In 2014, she participated in the Rong-Hsing Music Competition in Taiwan, winning the first prize in the concerto competition and third prize in solo performance.

In addition to her solo achievements, Ming-Li has great experience in chamber music and collaborative piano. She has won the first prize and "Best interpretation of music by an American composer" in 2022 Gershwin International Music Competition with her piano quintet, second prize in the United States International Duo Piano Competition, third prize in MTNA-Stecher and Horowitz Two Piano Competition, and the first prize in Taiwan Chamber Music Competition. Besides, she has collaborated with numerous renowned musicians: violists Ayane Kozasa, Jordan Bak; cellists Deborah Pae, Dmitri Atapine, Sæunn Thorsteinsdóttir; flutist Demarre McGill; clarinetist Pavel Vinnitsky; oboists Keisuke Wakao, Dwight Parry.

Ming-Li is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in piano performance under the guidance of Professor Ran Dank at the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati, where she has earned two Master's degrees in piano performance and collaborative piano.

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