

2021 NATIONAL YOUNGARTS WEEK + GUEST ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

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STACIE AAMON YELDELL | Guest Speaker | Stacie Aamon Yeldell is a Board Certified Music and Vocal Psychotherapist and international speaker with 15 years of experience in mental health treatment. She has treated thousands of individuals in dozens of institutions, hospitals and treatment centers. Aamon Yeldell's transformative work was featured on *CBS News* and most recently, in the docuseries *Proven*. She received a master's degree in music therapy from New York University and a certification in sound and music healing from the Open Center in New York City. She is also a Vocal Psychotherapist (AVPT), which emphasizes the use of the voice as a path to wellness and healing. As a speaker and presenter, Aamon Yeldell has presented at numerous events, including the Grammy Foundation, Women In Music and Akon's Disclosure Fest. In addition to speaking, she is a staunch advocate for music and the creative arts as healing modalities. She creates customized programs and facilitates trainings for organizations across the globe.

TERESA BARCELO | Interdisciplinary Guest Artist | Cuban-Spanish Miami native Teresa "Toogie" Barcelo is an internationally acclaimed choreographer and movement artist. She is on Billboard's top 12 Most Iconic Choreographers of The Decade list for her work on Dua Lipa's "New Rules," and has received an MTV VMA nomination for 'Best Dance Video' for Dua's "Electricity." Trained classically and culturally in a plethora of movement techniques and philosophies from ballet to popping to improvisation, she is a pioneer of the hybridization of contemporary and urban techniques. Barcelo also has extensive experience in the theatre and commercial worlds. She is known among her peers as a chameleon, able to adapt to any creative context. Based in Los Angeles, Barcelo is the Associate Artistic Director at Heidi Duckler Dance, creating site-specific work in unconventional spaces. She works as a movement director/coach, choreographer for artists such as Dua Lipa, Tove Lo, Lauv, Calvin Harris, Diplo, Perfume Genius, Phantogram, Troye Sivan, St. Vincent, Sabrina Carpenter, Alina Baraz, M83, Kesha, Daya, Alice Glass, Lawrence Rothman and The Naked & Famous. She has worked with brands like Nike, Marriott, Kenzo, and The Sydney Opera House to name a few. She also teaches a weekly improvisation based class at The Movement Lifestyle called Creating Movement. As a guest artist with YoungArts, Barcelo facilitates movement through a holistic approach, creating a space for experimentation and catharsis. It is her objective to create an environment where all people can embody their individuality by expanding their awareness and exercising their imagination.

LAUREN CREW | Interdisciplinary Guest Artist | Lauren Crew is a Los Angeles-based artist who specializes in photography. Her imagery ranges from portraiture to fine art and can be found in global commercial campaigns as well as travel and lifestyle commissions. Crew's work is emotional; her process serves to emotionally lift both the viewer/client and herself towards greater awareness.

RENÉE FLEMING | Guest Speaker | Renée Fleming is one of the most highly acclaimed singers of our time. Winner of four Grammy Awards, and recipient of the U.S. National Medal of Arts, she has sung for momentous occasions from the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony to the Diamond Jubilee Concert for Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace. In 2014, Fleming brought her voice to a vast new audience as the first classical artist ever to sing the National Anthem at the Super Bowl.

Her current schedule includes concerts in New York, Vienna, Paris and Beijing. In December 2019, Fleming brought her acclaimed portrayal of Margaret in *The Light in the Piazza* to Chicago, after appearances in London and Los Angeles. She sang the world premieres of André Previn's *Penelope* and Kevin Puts' *The Brightness of Light* at Tanglewood in summer 2019. Fleming appeared opposite Ben Whishaw in *Norma Jean Baker of Troy* to open The Shed at New York's Hudson Yards in April 2019. She earned a Tony nomination for her performance in the 2018 Broadway production of *Carousel*. Her new album *Lieder: Brahms, Schumann, and Mahler* was released by Decca in June 2019. She was heard on the soundtracks of the 2018 Best Picture Oscar winner *The Shape of Water* and *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*. As Artistic Advisor to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Fleming spearheads a collaboration with the National Institutes of Health focused on music, health, and neuroscience. Her many awards include the Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal, Germany's Cross of the Order of Merit and France's Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

RUDI GOBLEN | Interdisciplinary Guest Artist | Rudi Goblen (writer, dancer, actor, and music producer) was commissioned by Miami Light Project to create the solo performances *Insanity Isn't, Fair Welling*, and *PET*. He is also known as an acclaimed B-boy. Alongside his award-winning crew, Flipside Kings, he has toured internationally, competing, adjudicating and teaching. Rudi is a member of Teo Castellanos/D-Projects, a contemporary dance/theater company that fuses world arts and culture while examining social issues through performance. With D-Projects, Goblen toured internationally in *Scratch & Burn*, a meditation on the war in Iraq; and *FAT BOY*, a project exposing world hunger amid American consumerism and waste. He is a recipient of the Future Aesthetics Artist Re-grant (FAAR) funded by the Ford Foundation in conjunction with the Future Aesthetics Cohort, the Miami-Dade County's Choreographers Award (2013, 2018), and a FEAST Miami Grant for his book of poems and artwork *A Bag of Halos and Horns*. He has trained and worked with DV8 Physical Theater, Cirque De Soleil and is a founding member of Rosie Herrera Dance Theatre. He has released five instrumental albums and is currently enrolled at the Yale School of Drama for a Master of Fine Arts in Playwriting.

MARIKA HUGHES | Interdisciplinary Guest Artist | Marika Hughes is a native New Yorker, a cellist, singer and a storyteller on *The Moth*. She grew up in a musical family — Hughes' grandfather was the great cellist Emanuel Feuermann and her parents owned a jazz club, Burgundy, on the Upper West Side. As children, she and her younger brother were both regulars on *Sesame Street*, and attended the beloved Manhattan Country School. Hughes continued her education in the double degree program at Barnard College and the Juilliard School, graduating with bachelor's degrees in political science and cello performance, respectively. She currently holds the cello chair at the Broadway show, *Hadestown*. She has self-released three albums: *The Simplest Thing* (2011), *Afterlife Music Radio* (2011) and *New York Nostalgia* (2016). She happily leads her bands Bottom Heavy and The New String Quartet and is the co-founder and co-director of Looking Glass Arts, an artist residency and youth education program in upstate New York. Marika has worked with Whitney Houston, Lou Reed, Anthony Braxton, David Byrne, Adele, Henry Threadgill, D'Angelo, Idina Menzel, Nels Cline, Somi and Taylor Mac, among many others.

BABA ISRAEL | Interdisciplinary Guest Artist | Baba Israel was raised in New York by parents who were core members of the Living Theatre. He developed as a young artist exploring spoken word, hip-hop, and experimental performance at venues such as the Nuyorican Poets Cafe working with artists such as Akim the Funk Buddha. He began his career as an arts educator in Australia and has gone on to be a leading educator and consultant working with organizations such as Urban Word, BAM and the University of Madison. He has also worked as a cultural ambassador with the State Department delivering workshops and performances across Southeast Asia, the South Pacific, and in Gambia and Turkey. As a musician, he has released a number of albums and collaborations with artists such as DJ Logic, Ming and FS, Zion I, Invincible, DJ Kiva, P-Money and longtime collaborator Yako 440. He is co-founder and Artistic Director of Playback NYC Theatre Company, who bring theater to hospitals, prisons and homeless shelters, as well as theaters and festivals. The company recently developed projects to support immigrant communities in Long Island in a series of performances and workshops funded by the Hagedorn Foundation. He is the Co-Artistic Director of the Performance Project based at the University Settlement and Curator of Performance for HI-ARTS. He holds a Master of Fine Arts in Interdisciplinary Arts from Goddard College in the United States.

ONNESH ROYCHOUDHURI | Interdisciplinary Guest Artist | 2000 YoungArts Winner in Writing | Onnesha Roychoudhuri is a writer, speaker and educator with over 15 years of experience working at the intersection of storytelling and social justice. She is the author of *The Marginalized Majority: Claiming Our Power in a Post-Truth America*, named one of the best books of 2018 by *Kirkus Reviews*. Roychoudhuri regularly leads writing and storytelling workshops for organizations across the country, including *The Moth* and the Reproductive Health Access Project as well as at universities such as San Francisco State University, Rutgers University, Hunter College, Pratt Institute and Western Connecticut State University, where she is an instructor in the graduate writing program. She is particularly focused on delivering targeted storytelling trainings to advocates working on the frontlines of the fight for social justice and equity. A 2013 fellow at the Center for Fiction, Roychoudhuri's writing has appeared in publications such as *Rolling Stone*, *Kenyon Review*, *n+1*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *The Boston Review*, *McSweeney's*, *The Rumpus*, *The Nation*, *The American Prospect*, *Salon* and *Mother Jones*. She is a 2011 and 2012 Pushcart Prize nominee, and has been awarded residencies at Hedgebrook and the Blue Mountain Center.

MILDRED RUIZ-SAPP | Interdisciplinary Guest Artist | Mildred Ruiz Sapp co-founded THE POINT Community Development Corporation (a non-profit dedicated to youth development and the cultural and economic revitalization in the South Bronx) in 1993 and Universes (poetic theatre ensemble, fusing poetry, theater, jazz, hip hop, politics, down home blues and Spanish boleros) in 1996, both with Steven Sapp. Ruiz-Sapp is a poet, playwright, actor and vocalist. Her projects include *AMERIVILLE* directed by Chay Yew; *The Denver Project* at the Curious Theater, Director Dee Covington; "One Shot in Lotus Position" (written for *The War Anthology*) at Curious Theater directed by Bonnie Metzger; *Blue Suite* directed by Chay Yew; *Rhythmicity* in collaboration with Steven Sapp, Reg.e.gaines, Rha Goddess, Reggie Cabico, Willie Perdomo and Gamal Chasten; co-writer and performer in Universes' *Slanguage* at New York Theatre Workshop; and *UNIVERSES' The Ride*. Off-Off-Broadway credits: *Soular Power'd*, vocal with Rokafella (P.S. 122, New Victory

Theater); *Arturella* by Arthur Aviles (Hostos Community College); Alfred Jarry's *Ubu enchaîné* (Arts Link International Exchange with Teatre Polski, Poland). Awards and affiliations include: 2002–2004 Theatre Communications Group National Theater Artist Residency Program; New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspect; Artistic Associate, New WORLD Theater; Visiting Artist, Actors Theater of Louisville; Artist in Residence, Dance Theater Workshop; co-founder of UniverseCity Theater (UCITY); 1999 OBIE Award Grant and Bessie Award-winning theater; 2008 Jazz at Lincoln Center Rhythm Road Tour; 2008 TCG Peter Zeisler Memorial Award; New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspect. She earned her bachelor's degree from Bard College.

STEVEN SAPP | Interdisciplinary Guest Artist | Steven Sapp, a UNIVERSES founding member, has worked on the collaborations *The Denver Project* (Curious Theater, Director Dee Covington) and “One Shot in Lotus Position” written for *The War Anthology* (Curious Theater, Director Bonnie Metzgar), *Blue Suite* (Director Chay Yew), *Rhythmicity* (2003 Humana Festival) and *Slanguage* (New York Theatre Workshop). His directing credits include *The Ride* (assistant), *The Architecture of Loss*, Will Powers' *The Seven* (University of Iowa) and Alfred Jarry's *Ubu Enchaîné* (with Teatre Polski, Poland). He toured with Jazz at Lincoln Center: The Rhythm Road and was the recipient of TCG's Peter Zeisler Memorial Award (2008), National Directors Award (2002) and their National Theater Artist Residency Program Award (2002 to 2004 and 1999 to 2001). He also received a Van Lier Fellowship with New Dramatists and is a New York Theatre Workshop Usual Suspect. Sapp is co-founder of The Point and holds a bachelor's from Bard College. Publications include: *UNIVERSES-The Big Bang* (TCG Books) and *Slanguage in The Fire This Time* (TCG Books).

MARIO ZAMBRANO | Interdisciplinary Guest Artist | 1994 YoungArts Winner in Dance & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts | A multidisciplinary artist, Mario Alberto Zambrano was a dancer for Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Nederlands Dans Theater, Batsheva Dance Company and Ballet Frankfurt. As choreographer, he premiered his first ballet, *Link*, with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago when he was only 19 years old, then continued to choreograph for companies and universities across the globe including Nederlands Dans Theater 2, Dominic Walsh Dance Theater, Joffrey Ballet School and Harvard Dance Project at Harvard University. Zambrano has also been a fiction editor and editor-in-chief for the award-winning literary journal published at the New School, *12th Street Journal*. After earning a Master of Fine Arts from the Iowa Writers' Workshop as an Iowa Arts Fellow, he published his debut novel *Lotería* with HarperCollins in 2013. It was chosen by the *Village Voice*, *Vogue*, *School Library Journal* and *Booklist* as a Best Book of 2013. *Lotería* is currently optioned for a television series by the Mark Gordon Production Company in Los Angeles. Most recently, Zambrano was awarded a literary fellowship from the National Endowment of the Arts and is currently teaching Gaga (Ohad Naharin's movement language) and interdisciplinary studies at Harvard University as a Lecturer in Theater, Dance & Media.

JACOMO BAIROS | Classical Music Guest Artist | 1994 YoungArts Winner in Classical Music | Portuguese-American conductor Jacomo Bairos continues to redefine what a conductor can be in the 21st century. He challenges the preconceptions of orchestral repertoire, blurs the lines of genres, and integrates the orchestra into the broader community in new, holistic and organic ways. Bairos is the 17th Music Director for the Amarillo Symphony, co-founder and Artistic Director for Miami's Nu Deco Ensemble and performs regularly as a guest conductor with some of the world's finest orchestras. In the 2019–2020 season, Bairos debuted with the Seattle Symphony, the Cincinnati Pops, and returned to the Symphonies of San Francisco, Houston, Atlanta and Sarasota Orchestra. Bairos was in residency at the Peabody Institute for performances, masterclasses and lectures in fall 2020, and made his operatic debut with Benjamin Britten's *Turn of the Screw* in collaboration with Illuminarts Miami. Along with composer Sam Hyken, Bairos is co-founder and Artistic Director for Nu Deco Ensemble which has exploded onto Miami's eclectic musical scene fusing innovative, genre-bending orchestral performances and collaborations with the highest levels of musical artistry. This year marks Bairos' seventh season as the Amarillo Symphony's 17th Music Director. His imaginative and inclusive tenure has fueled tremendous fiscal and artistic growth. Bairos has appeared in subscriptions with the Symphonies of Singapore, Atlanta, Grand Rapids, Fort Worth, Alabama, Charleston, Knoxville and Rhode Island Philharmonic. Bairos has also appeared with the Detroit and North Carolina Symphonies, the Louisiana Philharmonic and Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. Bairos has made numerous returns to the National, St. Louis, San Diego, Florida, Jacksonville, Charlotte and the Grand Rapids Symphonies. International engagements include Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, Leipzig and Oaxaca Symphony Orchestras, as well as Orquesta Sinfónica's do Porto Casa da Música (Portugal). Born in Lisbon, Portugal, Bairos is also a yoga teacher, practitioner of Vipassana meditation, and mentors underserved children throughout the South Florida and Panhandle-Texas region.

PAUL BISS | Classical Music Guest Artist | Violinist, violist and conductor Paul Biss has appeared in recital, with orchestra, and in chamber music performances throughout North America, Mexico, Europe, Israel and Korea. Biss has participated in numerous festivals as a violinist. He was a member of the Berkshire Quartet, and was a participant at the Marlboro Music Festival for six summers. He has also appeared at other festivals such as the Ravinia, La Jolla, Lockenhaus, Casals, Naantali and the Ysaye at Wigmore Hall. Prior to coming to NEC, Biss was a professor of violin for more than 25 years at Indiana University, teaching violin and chamber music, and conducting more than a 100 symphonic and operatic performances. His former students hold positions in major orchestras in the U.S. and Europe, and have won prizes in major international and national competitions including first prizes in the Sibelius, Leopold Mozart and Stulberg competitions. Recent concerts and teachings have taken Biss to Ireland, England, Brazil and Korea.

MIRIAM FRIED | Classical Music Guest Artist | Miriam Fried has been recognized for years as one of the world's preeminent violinists. A consummate musician — equally accomplished as recitalist, concerto soloist or chamber musician — she has been heralded for her “fiery intensity and emotional depth” (*Musical America*) as well as for her technical mastery. Fried has played with virtually every major orchestra in the United States and Europe and has been a frequent guest with the principal orchestras of Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Philadelphia and

Pittsburgh, as well as with the Israel Philharmonic, the London Symphony, the Royal Philharmonic and the Vienna Symphony. Recital tours have taken her to all of the major music centers in North America and to Brussels, London, Milan, Munich, Rome, Paris, Salzburg, Stockholm and Zurich.

SAM HYKEN | Classical Music Guest Artist | Sam Hyken has had a rich and diverse musical career, which has spanned the globe. Currently residing in Miami, he is in constant demand as a performer, producer and composer. Along with Jacomo Bairos, he is co-founder and Artistic Director of Nu Deco Ensemble, Miami's Genre-Bending Orchestra. He also serves as CEO of the organization. As a composer, Hyken's music has been commissioned by several symphony orchestras and organizations, such as the New World Symphony, the National Symphony Orchestra, Adrienne Arsht Center, Kansas City Symphony, the Louisiana Philharmonic, the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, the Asheville Symphony and the Miami Symphony Orchestra. Other ensembles that have performed his work include the Boston Pops, San Francisco Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Houston Symphony, Oregon Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Toronto Symphony, Jacksonville Symphony, Florida Orchestra, Charleston Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony, Amarillo Symphony, Phoenix Symphony and the Orquesta Sinfónica Simón Bolívar of Venezuela. From 2011–2015, Hyken was Composer-in-Residence with the Miami Symphony Orchestra. From 2006–2009, he was a member of the New World Symphony under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas. He held the position of associate principal trumpet of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra from 2004–2006. He was a member of the UBS Verbier Festival Orchestra and the UBS Verbier Chamber Orchestra for five years, touring and performing with such esteemed conductors as James Levine, Loren Maazel, Valerie Gergiev, Kurt Masur, Yuri Temirkanov, Christoph Donyani and Charles Dutoit. Sam holds a bachelor's degree from the Juilliard School in New York, a post-graduate diploma with distinction from the Royal Academy of Music in London, and a Master in Media Writing and Production from the University of Miami. In 2016, Sam was awarded the title of Honorary Associate of the Royal Academy of Music.

TANYA KALMANOVITCH | Classical Music National Selection Panel | Tanya Kalmanovitch is a musician, writer and ethnomusicologist based in New York City. Trained at the Juilliard School, her work as a violist bridges classical, jazz and experimental improvised music and has been profiled in *JazzTimes*, *DownBeat*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *The New York Times*. She performs and teaches regularly in North America and abroad and is a faculty member at the New England Conservatory in Boston and Mannes College The New School for Music in New York. Kalmanovitch's research in theoretical psychology and ethnomusicology has explored the history of science, postcolonial identities and musical globalization and has been published in *American Psychologist*, *World of Music* and *New Sound*.

PASCAL LE BOEUF | Classical Music National Selection Panel | 2004 YoungArts Winner in Classical Music and Jazz | Described as “sleek, new” and “hyper-fluent” by *The New York Times*, Pascal Le Boeuf is a Grammy-nominated composer, pianist and electronic artist whose works range from modern improvised music to cross-breeding classical with production based technology. He is widely recognized for his polyrhythmic approach to chamber music and hybridization of

disparate idioms. Recent projects include commercial recordings and videos with JACK Quartet, Nick Photinos (Eighth Blackbird), Barbora Kolářová, Jessica Meyer, Dave Eggar, Sarah Goldfeather, Robby Bowen, Hub New Music and the Shattered Glass String Orchestra. As a keyboardist, Le Boeuf has played as support for D'Angelo's *Black Messiah* tour and Clean Bandit's *Rather Be* tour with Australian pop artist Meg Mac. He actively tours with Le Boeuf Brothers, jazz vocalist Allan Harris, Friction Quartet, and his piano trio Pascal's Triangle featuring bassist Linda May Han Oh, and drummer Justin Brown. He is a Ph.D. candidate and Naumburg Doctoral Fellow in music composition at Princeton University.

MARINA LOMANOV | Classical Music National Selection Panel | Praised by critics as “a diva of the piano” (*The Salt Lake City Tribune*), “a mesmerizing risk-taker” (*The Plain Dealer*, Cleveland) and “simply spectacular” (*Chicago International Music Foundation*), Ukrainian-American pianist Marina Lomazov has established herself as one of the most passionate and charismatic performers on the concert scene today. Following wins in the Cleveland International Piano Competition, William Kapell International Piano Competition, Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition and Hilton Head International Piano Competition, she has given major debuts in New York at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in New York, Boston Symphony Hall, Dame Myra Hess Concert Series in Chicago, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, City Theater in Shanghai and the Kiev International Music Festival. She has performed as soloist with the Boston Pops, Rochester Philharmonic, Eastman Philharmonia, Chernigov Philharmonic (Ukraine), KUG Orchester Graz (Austria), Bollington Festival Orchestra (England), Piccolo Spoleto Festival Orchestra, Brevard Festival Orchestra and South Carolina Philharmonic, to name a few. *The New York Times* chief music critic Anthony Tommasini describes a recent New York performance as “dazzling” and *Talk Magazine* Shanghai describes her performances as “a dramatic blend of boldness and wit.” In recent seasons, Lomazov has performed extensively in China, South Africa, Italy, Spain and in the United States. She is a frequent guest at music festivals in the U.S. and abroad, including Hamamatsu, Chautauqua, Brevard, Miami, Perugia (Italy), Burgos (Spain), Sulzbach-Rosenberg (Germany) and Varna (Bulgaria), among others. She has recorded for the Albany, Centaur and Innova labels and *American Record Guide* praised her recent recording of piano works by Rodion Shchedrin for its “breathtaking virtuosity.” Before immigrating to the United States in 1990, Marina studied at the Kiev Conservatory where she became the youngest First Prize Winner at the all-Kiev Piano Competition. Lomazov holds degrees from the Juilliard School and the Eastman School of Music, the latter bestowing upon her the highly coveted Artist's Certificate — an honor the institution had not given a pianist for nearly two decades. Also active as a chamber musician, she has performed widely as a member of the Lomazov/Rackers Piano Duo. Praised for “demon precision and complete dedication” (Audio Society), the duo garnered significant attention as Second Prize winners at the sixth Ellis Competition for Duo-Pianists (2005), the only national duo piano competition in the United States at that time. Lomazov is a Professor of Piano at the Eastman School of Music. She has served as jury member for the Cleveland International Piano Competition, Hilton Head International Piano Competition, Eastman International Piano Competition, Minnesota International Piano e-Competition, National Federation Biennial Young Artist Auditions and is the chair of the National Panel for the National Foundation for Advancement of the Arts, the only organization in the United States that nominates U.S.

Presidential Scholars in the Arts. For 17 years, she served on the faculty of the University of South Carolina School of Music, where she held the chair of Ira McKissick Koger Professor of Fine Arts Music. Together with her husband and piano duo partner Joseph Rackers, she co-founded and serves as Co-Artistic Director of the Southeastern Piano Festival in Columbia, South Carolina, and they recently began serving as Co-Artistic Director of the Vivace Music Foundation. Lomazov is also a Steinway Artist.

ROBERT MCDONALD | Classical Music Guest Artist | Pianist Robert McDonald has toured extensively as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States, Europe, Asia and South America. He has performed with major orchestras in the U.S. and was a recital partner to violinist Isaac Stern for many years. He has participated in the Marlboro, Casals and Lucerne festivals, performed with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and for broadcasts over BBC Television. He has also appeared with the Takács, Vermeer, Juilliard, Brentano, Borromeo, American, Shanghai and St. Lawrence string quartets as well as with Musicians from Marlboro. McDonald's prizes include the gold medal at the Busoni International Piano Competition, the top prize at the William Kapell International Competition, and the Deutsche Schallplatten Critics Award. His teachers include Theodore Rehl, Seymour Lipkin, Rudolf Serkin, Mieczyslaw Horszowski, Beveridge Webster and Gary Graffman. He holds degrees from Lawrence University, the Curtis Institute of Music, The Juilliard School and the Manhattan School of Music. A member of the piano faculty at The Juilliard School since 1999, McDonald has taught at the Curtis Institute since 2007, where he holds the Penelope P. Watkins Chair in piano studies. During the summer, he is the artistic director of New Mexico's Taos School of Music and Chamber Music Festival.

ANTHONY MCGILL | Classical Music Guest Artist | Hailed by *The New York Times* for his "trademark brilliance, penetrating sound and rich character," clarinetist Anthony McGill enjoys a dynamic international solo and chamber music career and is principal clarinet of the New York Philharmonic — the first African-American principal player in the organization's history. He is the recipient of the 2020 Avery Fisher Prize, one of classical music's most significant awards. McGill appears as a soloist with top orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and Kansas City Symphony. He performed alongside Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma and Gabriela Montero at the inauguration of President Barack Obama, premiering a piece by John Williams. As a chamber musician, McGill is a favorite collaborator of the Brentano, Daedalus, Guarneri, JACK, Miró, Pacifica, Shanghai, Takács and Tokyo Quartets, as well as Emanuel Ax, Inon Barnatan, Gloria Chien, Yefim Bronfman, Gil Shaham, Midori, Mitsuko Uchida and Lang Lang. He serves on the faculty of The Juilliard School, Curtis Institute of Music and Bard College Conservatory of Music. He is the Artistic Director for the Music Advancement Program at The Juilliard School. In 2020, McGill's #TakeTwoKnees campaign protesting the death of George Floyd and historic racial injustice went viral.

JESSIE MONTGOMERY | Classical Music Guest Artist | Jessie Montgomery is an acclaimed composer, violinist and educator. The recipient of the Leonard Bernstein Award from the ASCAP Foundation, her works are performed frequently around the world. Her music interweaves classical music with elements of vernacular music, improvisation, language and social justice,

placing her squarely as one of the most relevant interpreters of 21st-century American sound and experience. Her profoundly felt works have been described as “turbulent, wildly colorful and exploding with life” (*The Washington Post*). Since 1999, Montgomery has been affiliated with The Sphinx Organization, which supports young Black and Latinx string players. She currently serves as composer-in-residence for the Sphinx Virtuosi, the Organization’s professional touring ensemble. A graduate of The Juilliard School and New York University, Montgomery is currently a Graduate Fellow in Music Composition at Princeton University.

ELIZABETH NONEMAKER | Classical Music Discipline Coordinator | 2008 YoungArts Winner in Classical Music | Elizabeth Nonemaker is a Baltimore based writer, arts journalist and composer. As the freelance classical music critic for the *Baltimore Sun* and managing editor for the online music magazine 21CM.org, she is always on the lookout for stories about how musicians are working to reinvent their artform. Previously, Nonemaker worked for the arts and entertainment show *The Frame* on Southern California Public Radio and for Children’s Radio Foundation in Cape Town, South Africa. As an Annenberg Fellow at the University of Southern California, she co-founded the arts publication *Ampersand* LA. Her musical compositions have won multiple prizes, been performed around the country and earned her residencies at the MacDowell Colony and Helene Wurlitzer Foundation. However, in recent years, she has decided to focus her creative energies on writing and is currently pursuing her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at the University of Maryland, College Park. She’ll have her fiction debut in *Moon City Review* in 2020.

NIKKI ROLLASON | Classical Music Guest Artist | Nikki Rollason was bamboozled into the Feldenkrais Method when she sought out a solution for her chronic dance injuries. At 18 years old, she was going to Dale Russell, a movement teacher who was sneaking in short Feldenkrais explorations into his classes. Over time the Feldenkrais lessons monopolized class time and he had hooked a whole group. After graduating with her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from New World School of the Arts in 1997, she entered the Feldenkrais Institute’s Manhattan professional training program, completing in 2002. The program transformed her dancing and her life with her chronic pain diminishing in the process. She began working with Feldenkrais Assistant Trainer, Bonnie Kissam in 2016 co-teaching Touch to Inform seminars, introducing massage therapists and other healthcare and movement practitioners to the power of gentle touch as communication to the nervous system. Her work as a rehabilitative movement coach is informed by both her Feldenkrais and dance backgrounds.

NORA KROLL ROSENBAUM | Classical Music and Film Guest Artist | 1997 YoungArts Winner in Classical Music | Juilliard-trained Grammy Award-winning composer Nora Kroll-Rosenbaum (born New York) collaborates with adventurous musicians and radical filmmakers on scores that include Catherine Hardwicke’s *Don’t Look Deeper* (Quibi), *Bird Karma* (Dreamworks Animation), *Champaign ILL* (Sony), *Grand-Daddy Day Care* (Universal), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Universal), *Delicious Little Devil* (Universal), *Dangerous Curves* (*The New York Times*), *Stockholm Pennsylvania* (Sundance), *Lenny* (HBO), *Powerless* (Cannes), *After Fire* (DocNYC), *Remember Me*, *Joburg* (Telluride), Nancy Kates’ *Regarding Susan Sontag* (HBO), *The Cinema Travelers* (Cannes), *Every Act of Life* (Tribeca), *Code*, *Netizens* (Tribeca) and *Half The Picture* (Sundance). She has

received concert commissions from the London Symphony Chorus, San Francisco Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Young People's Chorus of New York City, Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music and fellowships from the Sundance Composers Feature and Documentary Labs, where she also serves as an advisor.

GERARD SCHWARZ | Classical Music Guest Artist | Internationally recognized for his moving performances, innovative programming and extensive catalogue of recordings, American conductor Gerard Schwarz serves as Music Director of the All-Star Orchestra, Eastern Music Festival, Palm Beach Symphony and Mozart Orchestra of New York, and is Conductor Laureate of the Seattle Symphony and Conductor Emeritus of the Mostly Mozart Festival. He is a Distinguished Professor of Music; Conducting and Orchestral Studies of the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami. His considerable discography of over 350 albums showcases his collaborations with some of the world's greatest orchestras including The Philadelphia Orchestra, London Symphony, Berlin Radio Symphony, Orchestre National de France, Tokyo Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, New York Chamber Symphony and Seattle Symphony among others.

DEMONDRAE THURMAN | Classical Music National Selection Panel | Known worldwide for his signature sound and overt musicality, Demondrae Thurman has brought his remarkable skills to light as a soloist, educator, chamber musician and conductor. As a frequently invited guest at many of the world's most noted festivals and conferences for low brass, his voice-like timbre reaches everyone in his audience. In addition to performing with many of the finest orchestras in the United States, Chamber Music is an integral component of his career. Has performed on euphonium and/or trombone with the Brass Band of Battle Creek, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Youngblood Brass Band, but his most celebrated collaboration to date is as first euphonium with the Sotto Voce Quartet. Currently, Thurman is Professor of Music at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. The position was created for him to utilize his specific skills and expertise in euphonium and brass chamber music. He is also serving on the faculty of Samford University. Thurman is a Miraphone Performing Artist and plays exclusively the Miraphone 5050 Ambassador Edition euphonium, which was designed specifically for him. He also plays the custom "Demondrae" model mouthpiece manufactured by Warburton Music Products and is a Shires Trombone Performing Artist.

CHIP ABBOTT | Dance Coach | Chip Abbott is a New York based choreographer, director and dancer whose performance career spans the worlds of concert dance, commercial dance and Broadway. Abbott served as assistant choreographer, dance captain, and swing to Emmy Award Winner Joshua Bergasse on the Broadway revival of *On The Town* (Tony nominee for best choreography) and he was also seen on Broadway in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. His choreography was most recently seen at ACT of Connecticut in their world premiere of a newly adapted version of *Working*, under the artistic advisement of Stephen Schwartz. As a director, Abbott created two IAAPA Brass Ring Award-winning shows *Dance, Dance, Dance, Heartbeat* (Best Theatrical Production Worldwide) and *The Enchanted Journey* (Most Creative Christmas Show), both produced by RWS Entertainment Group at HersheyPark. He has directed numerous shows for HersheyPark and Azamara Club Cruises in addition to choreographing for Step One Dance Company on Holland America Line and *The Little Mermaid* at Red Mountain Theatre Company.

MAYA KULKARNI CHADDA | Dance Guest Artist | A dancer, choreographer, and dance teacher and commentator, Maya Kulkarni Chadda is a highly respected and well-known figure in the Indian dance world. As a performer, she won widespread praise for her flawless technique and story-telling abilities. Anna Kisselgoff of *The New York Times* hailed her as the “Dancer’s Dancer.” Kulkarni Chadda has performed extensively in the United States, Europe and India and composed many of her own dance pieces. More recently, she choreographed *The Allegory of the Cave* by Plato, *The Four Horseman of the Apocalypse*, *Medea’s Muse* that stretches the boundaries of the classical forms to non-traditional themes and demonstrates the versatility and richness of the Indian dance forms. In addition, she has composed within traditional forms as well. Such dances include the *Ardhanarimateswara*, *Sayankale* and *Yakshini*. The first two of these were composed for dancer Mesma Belsare, and received a glowing response in 2019 at the Drive East festival in New York City. *The Allegory of the Cave* was presented at the Erasing Border festival, also in New York City. *Yakshini* is scheduled to premiere in spring 2021 and will be danced by classical dancer Bharathi Panneswaran.

YAN CHEN | Dance National Selection Panel | Yan Chen was trained at Shanghai Dance School, China and San Francisco Ballet School. In 1987, she was awarded the Paris Foundation of Dance Award at the Prix de Lausanne in Switzerland. She then joined The Washington Ballet under the artistic director Mary Day. In the fall of 1993, Chen joined the American Ballet Theater and, six months later, she was promoted to soloist. As one of American Ballet Theater’s most lyrical and versatile dancers, she has performed many leading roles including Juliet in *Romeo & Juliet*, title role in *Cinderella*, Princess Aurora in *The Sleeping Beauty*, the Sylphide in *La Sylphide*, Swanilda in *Coppelia*, Gulnar in *Le Corsaire*, Desdemona in *Othello*, Giselle in *Giselle*, as well as works by Twyla Tharp, Jiri Kylian, Paul Taylor, Lar Lubovitch, George Balanchine, John Cranko, John Neumeier and James Kudelka. She also appeared in the PBS *Great Performances* program for television and video/DVD: “American Ballet Theater Now.” Since 1994, she has served as the guest teacher with the Orlando Ballet School and the company (then the Southern Ballet Theater). In 2009 she became the Ballet Master with Orlando Ballet. She is currently the faculty member and adjudicator for the American Ballet Theater’s Summer Intensive program and Guest Ballet Master for the American Ballet Theater studio company.

NORA CHIPAUMIRE | Dance Guest Artist | Nora Chipaumire was born in 1965 in what was then known as Umtali, Rhodesia (now Mutare, Zimbabwe). She is a product of colonial education for Black native Africans — known as group B schooling — and has pursued other studies at the University of Zimbabwe (law) and at Mills College in Oakland, CA (dance).

KENNY EASTER | Dance Coach | Born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Kenny Easter received his professional training in San Francisco and at the Boston Ballet. He has had a diverse ballet career, having danced for Boston Ballet and the American Ballet Theatre. Easter credits much of his success to his two most important teachers, Joan Miller and Kee Whan Han. He enjoys working with young dancers and seeks out opportunities to teach and choreograph, nurturing this new talent. Easter has performed with the San Francisco Ballet, Boston Ballet, Miami City Ballet and Ballet Arizona. In 2003 he joined the American Ballet Theatre, and his repertory with the company includes the Young Soldier in *The Green Table*, and leading roles in *Drink to Me Only Thine Eyes*, *Sechs Tänze*, *Sinfonietta* and *Within You Without You: A Tribute to George Harrison*.

GINO GRENEK | Dance Coach | Gino Grenek is originally from Rochester, New York. He is a graduate of both Dartmouth College (Engineering Sciences and Studio Art, 1994) and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts (Master of Fine Arts in Dance, 1996). As a member of the original Broadway cast, Grenek performed in Matthew Bourne's award winning reinterpretation of *Swan Lake* (1998-1999). For eight years, he toured with the Stephen Petronio Company across five continents (1999-2007). He has assisted Petronio with the creation of new works for Norrdans (Sweden, 2004), Washington Ballet (United States, 2007), Ballet de Lorraine (France, 2009), and National Dance Company Wales (United Kingdom, 2010 and 2013). In 2007, Grenek was honored with a New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award for his body of work with Stephen Petronio. He returned to the company from 2009 through 2016 and also served as the Assistant to the Artistic Director during this period. In addition to teaching Petronio technique and restaging Petronio repertory around the world, he also performed in Punchdrunk's off-Broadway production *Sleep No More at the McKittrick Hotel* (2015-2018).

D. SABELA GRIMES | Dance Coach | d. Sabela grimes, 2017 County of Los Angeles Performing Arts Fellow and 2014 United States Artists Rockefeller Fellow, is a trans-media storyteller, sonic ARKivist, movement composer cultivating a devoted interest in Afrobiquitous life practices. grimes has conceived, written, scored, choreographed and produced several dance theater works including *BulletProof Deli*, plus *Philly XP*, *World War WhatEver*, and *40 Acres & A Microchip: Salvation or Servitude* from his EXPERIMENT EARTH sound-movement triptych. Recent creative projects include, *ELECTROGYNOUS* (2017) and *Dark Matter Messages* (2018). *ELECTROGYNOUS* is a dance theater experience which articulates that Black gender qualities are infinite, multidimensional and distinct manifestations of wombniversal consciousness. Moved by how Octavia E. Butler invents interrelated notions of humanness+otherness in her *Parable* series, *Dark Matter Messages* dreams Butler's unfinished manuscript, *Parable of the Trickster*, into an experience that realizes quantum Blackness as a means to play within the nowness of imminent futures. On faculty at USC's Gloria Kaufman School of Dance, he continues to cultivate, Funkamental MediKinetics, a movement system he created that focuses on the methodical dance

training and community building elements evident in hip-hop, Black vernacular and Street dance forms. He received a Bachelor of Arts in English and Master of Fine Arts in Choreography from the University of California, Los Angeles. grimes loves pancakes, speculative fiction and his kinfolk.

ROSIE HERRERA | Dance National Selection Panel | Rosie Herrera is a Cuban-American dancer, choreographer and artistic director of Rosie Herrera Dance Theatre in Miami. She is a graduate of New World School of the Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance Performance. She has been commissioned by The Miami Light Project, The Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, Ballet Hispánico, Jose Limon Dance Company, Moving Ground Dance Theater, Houston Met Dance, New World Symphony and the American Dance Festival (ADF) in 2010, 2011, 2013, 2016 and 2018. Her company, Rosie Herrera Dance Theatre, has been presented by the Northrop Dance Series, New World Symphony, Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, Miami Light Project, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Texas A&M University, Duncan Theater, The Annenburg Center, Maui Arts and Cultural Center, Dance Place, Contemporary Arts Center New Orleans, The Yard at Martha's Vineyard, Alys Stephens Center, Wilson Center at Cape Fear University, The Rialto Center, Gotham Dance at Skirball and Focus Dance at The Joyce as well as by The American Dance Festival at the Joyce NYC in 2016 and 2018. Herrera is also a classically trained lyric coloratura soprano and performs with the Performers Music Institute Opera Ensemble. She also works as an independent director and creative consultant throughout Miami. With over a decade of experience in both dance and cabaret, she has collaborated on productions with Walter Mercado, Pig Iron Theater, The South Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center, New World School of the Arts, The University of Central Florida, Six Floor Ensemble, Zoetic Stage and the New World Symphony and with the interdisciplinary performance ensemble/avant-garde cabaret Circ X. She has also collaborated with filmmakers Adam Reign, Lucas Leyva, Jonathon David Kane, George Echevarria and Clyde Scott to create original short films and music videos. Herrera is a 2016 United States Artist Sarah Arison Choreographic Fellow, a 2010 and 2018 MANCC choreographic fellow, a 2014 Bates Dance Festival Artist in residence, a 2016 Bessie Schoenberg Fellow and a 2011 and 2016 Miami Dance Fellow. She was awarded a Princess Grace Choreographic Fellowship for her work with Ballet Hispánico in 2013.

LARRY KEIGWIN | Dance Guest Artist | Larry Keigwin is a native New Yorker, choreographer and curator who has danced his way from the Metropolitan Opera to downtown clubs to Broadway and back. As a choreographer, Keigwin is celebrated for his electrifying and refreshing vision of dance that embodies a theatrical sensibility of wit, style and heart. He founded KEIGWIN + COMPANY in 2003 and as Artistic Director, Keigwin has led the company as it performed at theaters and dance festivals throughout New York and around the world. For over 15 years, KEIGWIN + COMPANY has presented Keigwin's distinct brand of contemporary dance on a myriad of premier stages including, The Kennedy Center, The Joyce Theater, Works & Process at the Guggenheim, New York City Center, among others. Keigwin has created 23 works for KEIGWIN + COMPANY, in addition to the acclaimed large-scale community project, *Bolero*, which has been commissioned in 15 communities across the country and is now being developed as a dance film, *Bolero Seniors*, directed by Andy Kokoszka.

SHILPA KRISHNAN | Dance Coach | Since the tender age of four, Shilpa Krishnan has lived, breathed, and dreamed dance. Growing up in a family that fostered and encouraged her talent, coupled with an eager and creative mind, her dance career blossomed. Her devotion and passion for dance, and her desire to ensure her daughters follow the family legacy of dance, led her to establish Nrityalaya's American branch in Florida. Her dance lineage is filled with some of the greats — Swarnasaraswathi and Rajarajeshwari Kalamandir in Mumbai, and Shri Rajarathnam, a disciple and daughter of Natya Ratna Smt. Gita Umesh, Vazhuvoor Ramiah Pillai and nattuvangam training under Guru Smt. Rajee Narayanan. She has co-produced *A Woman Speaks* and *Darkness to Light, Layakari, Saints Legends & Heroines, Kuravanji and Ashtanayika – Women in Love*. Based in Davie, Florida, Shilpa is a YoungArts Guest Artist and teaches BharataNatyam at the Shiva Vishnu Temple of South Florida.

DESMOND RICHARDSON | Dance Guest Artist | 1986 YoungArts Winner in Dance & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts and YoungArts Board Trustee | Desmond Richardson has been hailed by *The New York Times* as among the great dancers of his time. He has been a principal dancer with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre and Ballet Frankfurt under the direction of William Forsythe. Throughout his career, Richardson has danced on the most important stages throughout the world. He has appeared on Broadway as an original cast member in *Fosse*, as Tony in Twyla Tharp's *Movin' Out* and in the Burt Bacharach/Hal David production *The Look Of Love*. Richardson has worked as a guest performer and choreographer in film and television, appearing in the Oscar-winning *Chicago*, *Across the Universe* and on the American and international editions of *So You Think You Can Dance*. He has also worked as a featured dancer for artists including Michael Jackson, Prince, Madonna and Aretha Franklin. Richardson continually works to foster the next generation of artists with his internationally acclaimed dance company, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, where he serves as co-founder and co-artistic director with choreographer Dwight Rhoden. He has received a Tony Award nomination, the Dance Magazine Award, the Capezio Award, the LA Ovation award, a New York Performance Award (Bessie), the National YoungArts Foundation Alumni Artist Award and is a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts.

VERNON SCOTT | Dance National Selection Panel | Vernon Scott first studied dance at NYU Tisch School of the Arts and received his Bachelor of Fine Arts from The Juilliard School. He immediately bounced into the professional world at Rush Dance under Patrice Regnier, les Noce with The Feld Ballet, and the leading role of The Eagle in Robert Wilson's *the CIVIL wars*, choreography by Ulysses Dove. He then found his first "dance home" in the Elisa Monte Dance Company. After EMDC there were periods of commercial work as a dancer and choreographer in music videos for Jose Luis Rodriguez, Eye and I and Natalie Merchant, as well as guest artist appearances with Kraig Patterson's Bopi's Black Sheep, Iren Hultman Dance, and Richard Move's *Martha At Mother*. He is grateful for the experiences dancing with Steven Petronio Dance Company, Ohad Naharin Dance Company, Pilobolus Dance Theater, Lar Lubovitch Dance Company and the Mark Morris Dance Group. He found his second dance home with Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project where he was also Rehearsal Coordinator, and had the unbelievable opportunity to set his own work *Layers* on the company. While there he had the

great fortune to work with many choreographers such as Neil Greenberg, Meg Stuart, Mark Morris, Paul Taylor and Merce Cunningham. Post full-time dance career, he worked with Valerie Moran, President of Grange Furniture, and then as National Public Relations Manager for Aga Ranges, Northland and Marvel Refrigeration. Following the corporate career, Scott began to feel the need to give back to the dance community and committed to serving on the boards of Full Circle Productions, which produced 360 Degrees Dance Company and The Martha Hill Dance Fund, where he has been president since 2010. He found his third home, at the Baryshnikov Arts Center where he started as Senior House Manager and rose to Special Events Manager and Executive Assistant to Artistic Director Mikhail Baryshnikov. After seven wonderful years at BAC, he most recently became Assistant Director of Special Events at The Joyce Theater. Scott thanks all his mentors who have provided guidance for him along the way — and those that are still doing so today.

RISA STEINBERG | Dance Coach | Risa Steinberg has been active in the dance community for more than 35 years as a performer, teacher, reconstructor of José Limón's work and mentor to young and emerging choreographers. She has travelled the world performing and teaching extensively. A former principal dancer with the José Limón Dance Company, Bill Cratty Dance Theater, Annabel Gamson, Anna Sokolow's Player's Project, Colin Connor and American Repertory Dance Company of Los Angeles, Steinberg has also been a guest artist with choreographers including Wally Cardona, Sean Curran and Danza Hoy of Caracas, Venezuela. Her acclaimed solo concert, *A Celebration of Dance*, featured a diverse repertoire which included work by Isadora Duncan and contemporary choreographers. As a reconstructor of Limón's work, Steinberg has worked with companies and dancers including Nureyev and Friends, Frank Augustyn and Karen Kain. She has been on the faculty at The Juilliard School since 2001 and held the position of associate director of Juilliard Dance from 2009–2016. She was a dance panelist for the New York State Council on the Arts, is on the Artists Advisory board for the José Limón Dance Foundation and serves on the selection committee for the Bessie Awards. She is also a cast member of *Sleep No More*.

BRITNEY TOKUMOTO | Dance Discipline Coordinator | Britney Tokumoto is from Honolulu and began her dance training at Mid-Pacific School of the Arts on Oahu. Tokumoto received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from Marymount Manhattan College in 2012. She currently resides in Delray Beach, Florida and is a performer with Adele Myers and Dancers and Rosie Herrera Dance Theatre. She also creates her own work and is in the process of creating with Loren Davidson for *Here and Now 2020* at Miami Light Project. She is so excited and honored to be joining the YoungArts community!

JONATHAN CEDAR | Design Arts Guest Artist | Jonathan Cedar is CEO and co-founder of BioLite, a social enterprise that develops and manufactures clean, affordable energy systems for off-grid communities around the world. The company's first products are wood-burning stoves which reduce toxic smoke emissions by 90% while generating electricity to charge cell phones and LED lights. BioLite follows a model of "parallel innovation" in which it funds the one-time market establishment costs for its emerging markets by reinvesting revenue from product sales in U.S. and European recreation markets. In 2011, *Business Week* named Cedar one of America's Top Social Entrepreneurs, and together with BioLite has won the 2012 Tech Awards, 2014 and 2012 *Fast Company* Innovation By Design Awards, and 2011 St. Andrews Prize for the Environment. Before starting BioLite, Cedar was a Senior Design Engineer at Smart Design, a New York-based product development consultancy, where he led teams that created consumer durable products ranging from housewares to biomedical devices. Cedar holds a Bachelor of Arts in Engineering and Environmental Science from Dartmouth College.

KAPONO CHUNG & NADIA LUNG | Design Arts Guest Artists | Combo is a strategy, branding and design office built on the practice of collaboration. They don't see creativity as a solitary act. Instead, they specialize in working with ambitious founders, directors and CMOs to develop original and iconic identities together as a team.

LUCIA CUBA | Design Arts National Selection Panel | Lucia Cuba is a Peruvian designer and scholar. Her work approaches textiles, fashion design, and the exploration of wearable forms at the intersection of social justice and art. Cuba's works and projects address issues related to gender, biopolitics, health and the study of non-western fashion systems. Cuba's work has been exhibited at international museums, including the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen (Rotterdam), the Museum of Arts and Design (New York), Museo Amparo (Puebla), Albuquerque Museum (NM), OCT Art & Design Gallery (Shenzhen), BRIC Arts Media (New York), Fashion Space Gallery (London), Sur Gallery (Toronto), ARTLIMA (Lima), among other international cultural venues. She has been recognized with a United States Artists Fellowship (2019), the Han Nefkens Award in Fashion (2014), and a Fulbright Scholarship Award (2010). She works as Assistant Professor of Fashion Design at Parsons, The New School University (New York), and as an independent designer.

DREAM THE COMBINE | Design Arts Guest Artists | Dream the Combine is the creative practice of artists and architects Jennifer Newsom and Tom Carruthers, based in Minneapolis. Partners in work and life, Dream the Combine creates site-specific installations exploring metaphor, imaginary environments and perceptual uncertainties that cast doubt on our known understanding of the world. Their work is deeply collaborative and their studio name speaks to this process. Working with engineer Clayton Binkley and a trusted group of fabricators, they investigate the conceptual overlaps in art, architecture and cultural theory through structures that disrupt assumed dichotomies and manipulate the boundary between real and illusory space. Dream the Combine is intrigued by forgotten places, sites of transportation, and unpredictable audiences. They consistently seek out spaces on the margins in their work. Dream the Combine has been published widely, including features in *Metropolis* magazine, *Architectural Record*, *The New York Times*, *Dezeen*, *The Architects Newspaper*, *Architect Magazine*, *Architect* and *Log*.

They are winners of the 2018 MoMA PSI Young Architects Program for their installation *Hide & Seek*. Recent work includes *Lure* at MadArt Studio, Seattle.

LUCY JONES | Design Arts Guest Artist | Lucy Jones is the founder and CEO of FFORA, a fashion lifestyle brand that primarily caters to disabled people. She believes in a world made accessible to all. Previously she worked at Eileen Fisher as a “Social Innovator” sponsored by the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA). Welsh native Jones studied fashion design at Parsons School of Fashion in New York. As a student, Jones received several accolades including the prestigious Royal Society of the Arts prize for Design Innovation. Upon graduation in 2015, Jones was awarded Parsons Womenswear Designer of the Year, Kering “Empowering Imagination” Award, and shortly after named on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list in the Arts & Style category. In 2016, Jones was invited to the White House to attend a Design for All conference. In addition, she has been recognized by the CFDA, winning the inaugural grand prize of the Elaine Gold Launch Pad in 2018, and also exhibited work in the Museum of Arts and Design (MAD), Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and currently has work on display at the *Design for Different Futures* two-year exhibition. Jones’ work has been featured in numerous publications such as *The New York Times*, *Vogue*, *Business of Fashion*, BBC, CFDA, NPR, *Forbes*, *Fast Company*, *Seventeen* magazine, *WWD*, *i-D-VICE*, Independence Care Systems, AOL online, ITV Wales, *The Impression*, *Plan de Ville*, *Fashionista* among others. Most recently Jones starred in a global Microsoft campaign, highlighting the work and community of FFORA.

YVONNE LIN | Design Arts National Selection Panel | Yvonne Lin is a designer and an expert at considering gender in developing compelling and functional solutions to complex design problems. She is a founder of 4B Collective, Wondernik and the Femme Den. Lin has designed numerous award-winning and best-selling products, messages, and services for clients such as Nike, Under Armour, Lego, Hasbro, Proctor & Gamble, Pepsi, Nissan and American Express. She is the inventor on more than 20 patents. She was named a Master of Design by *Fast Company*. Her work has been featured in numerous publications including *The New York Times*, *i-D Magazine* and *GOOD*. In addition, she shares her knowledge by writing for *Fast Company* and teaching at Parsons School of Design. Previously, she was an Associate Director at Smart Design. She also spends a lot of time skiing, rock climbing and dressing up her small kids in a variety of unwieldy and fuzzy outfits.

PAULA SCHER | Design Arts Guest Artist | Paula Scher is one of the most influential graphic designers in the world. Described as the “master conjurer of the instantly familiar,” Scher straddles the line between pop culture and fine art in her work. Iconic, smart and accessible, her images have entered into the American vernacular. Scher has been a partner in the New York office of Pentagram since 1991. She began her career as an art director in the 1970s and early 80s, when her eclectic approach to typography became highly influential. In the mid-1990s her landmark identity for The Public Theater fused high and low into a wholly new symbology for cultural institutions and her recent architectural collaborations have reimaged the urban landscape as a dynamic environment of dimensional graphic design. Her graphic identities for Citibank and Tiffany & Co. have become case studies for the contemporary regeneration of American brands.

PATTY SUAU | Design Arts Discipline Coordinator | 2003 Winner in Visual Arts | Patty Suau's work has been commissioned throughout South Florida and showcased at Miami's Pulse Art Fair, Aqua Art Fair and has been featured in *Dade* magazine and *Artspace* and a variety of podcasts. Her work is currently on view at the Bay Parc Apartments in Miami with a fully interactive solo exhibition co-presented by National YoungArts Foundation. As a sassy and spunky Cuban-American who grew up in Miami, drawing became her medium for communicating across different cultures. Suau's curiosity to pursue a creative life led her to New World School of the Arts, YoungArts and to Maryland Institute College of Art. A formative moment in her evolution as an artist came in 2013 when she debuted *TinyFcknPix*, a series of miniature erotic drawings framed in large formats. The series was born from the desire to heal the pain of breaking up with an ex-fiancé and figuring out self-confidence. Originally, she gravitated toward miniature drawings because her own desires were secrets, they were intimate, and she had to inspect them closely to understand them. The space she needed to learn, heal, rest and feel free, manifested itself in the wide expansiveness of the mats and frames. Today the works continue to evolve, varying in size but always addressing self-love, connection, intimacy and emotional intelligence.

CHAT TRAVIESO | Design Arts National Selection Panel | 2003 YoungArts Winner in Visual Arts and U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts | Chat Travieso is an independent artist, designer, and educator, as well as co-founder of Yeju & Chat with Yeju Choi. He is a 2003 YoungArts Winner in Visual Arts and a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts. Travieso creates participatory, architectural and research-based projects that reinforce social bonds in our public spaces and interrogate the history and policies that have shaped our built environment. His past work has been commissioned by or organized in collaboration with Design Trust for Public Space, the Architectural League of New York, Hester Street, New York City Department of Transportation, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and WHEDco. His research has been supported by grants from the Graham Foundation and the New York State Council on the Arts. His recent honors include a 2019 NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship in Architecture/Environmental Structures/Design as part of Yeju & Chat, a 2019 YoungArts Jorge M. Pérez Award, and a 2015 United States Artist Fellowship in Architecture & Design. Travieso holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art and a Master of Architecture from the Yale School of Architecture. He is currently on faculty at CUNY Queens College and Parsons School of Design.

REID SCHLEGEL | Design Arts Guest Artist | Based in New York, Reid Schlegel is an industrial designer with a solid history working in the design consulting and education space. He is currently Senior Industrial Designer at Aruliden and previously worked at frog and SMART Design. As a design educator, Schlegel teaches at the Parsons School of Design and visits universities and companies globally to guest lecture and teach his design process methodologies and design skills. Additionally, Schlegel runs an Instagram account with 135K+ followers showcasing his work and other design-related content. He graduated from Virginia Tech's industrial design program and was the 2012 IDSA student merit award winner.

CHAUNTÉ VAUGHN | Design Arts Guest Artist | Raised in the heart of Las Vegas in a family of artists, Chaunté Vaughn now resides in Brooklyn. She can often be found dancing and/or scouring vintage stores for jumpsuits and pretty oddities to add to her collections. In 2019, she photographed a book called *Paris By Design* published by Abrams. Her clients include Ann Taylor Loft, Chase Bank, *Darling Magazine*, American Express, *Artforum*, Buffy Bedding, Supergoop, L'Oreal, Pantene, Backdrop Paint, DAP, Demylee New York, Bluma Project, Canary Inc., Secret Behavior and NeueHouse.

JASMINE WAHI | Exhibition Curator and Guest Artist | Jasmine Wahí is a curator, activist, TEDx Speaker, and Founder and Co-Director of Project for Empty Space. Her practice predominantly focuses on issues of femme empowerment, complicating binary structures within social discourses, and exploring multipositional cultural identities through the lens of intersectional feminism. In 2010, Wahí co-founded Project For Empty Space, a not-for-profit organization that creates multidisciplinary art exhibitions and programming that encourage social dialogue, education and systemic change through the support of both artists and communities. In 2015, Wahí joined Rebecca Jampol to open a brick and mortar gallery for PES Newark, New Jersey. Though she does not consider herself to be an artist, Wahí has organized numerous interventions and happenings as part of her social activist work. In 2018, she served as Co-Chair of Rape, Radicality, and Representation for the College Art Association's Day of Panels with The Feminist Art Project (TFAP), organizing a day of intersectional feminist-based performances, films and conversations. In 2019, she spoke at TEDxNJIT on the idea of resilience. In 2020, she curated the two-part exhibition *Abortion Is Normal*, which received wide critical acclaim, and will be touring cross country as part of a campaign to get out the vote. In addition to her other work, Wahí is a faculty member at the School of Visual Arts: Master of Fine Arts department. She is a former board member of the South Asian Women's Creative Collective (SAWCC), and a volunteer instructor for the Girls Educational Mentoring Services (GEMS) group. Wahí's curatorial work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *ARTNews*, *Artforum*, *Hyperallergic*, *Bloomberg*, *VICE*, and *NowThis*, to name a few.

MARY LOU BELLI | Film Guest Artist | Two-time Emmy award-winning Mary Lou Belli has been directing television for over 20 years including *NCIS New Orleans*, *Station 19*, *Pitch*, *Monk*, *Famous In Love*, *Devious Maids*, *The Quad*, *American Woman* and *Hart of Dixie* as well as *Wizards of Waverley Place*, *Sister, Sister*, *Girlfriends* and *The Game*. Her short film, *Straight Eye for the Gay Guy* won “Best Mini-short” at the California Independent Film Fest where she also premiered *I Heard Something*, a thriller that went on to play festivals internationally. She has done ground-breaking, award-winning work on web series. Her most recent *The Drink Lonely Wives Book Club* is currently on the festival circuit as well as her provocative short, *America*, about racial profiling. She has served as judge and/or guest speaker for the CSU Media Arts Fest, Women in Film chapters in New Orleans and Atlanta, as well as the Cascadia International Women’s Film Fest. Belli was a judge for the Miss America Outstanding Teen Pageant, a jury member at the Sapporo Short Festival, Newport Beach Film Fest, and The Voice awards, a lecturer at the Chautauqua Institute, and a panelist for Women In Film, the Directors Guild of America, SAG and AFTRA and the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books. Through her teaching, she supports many of the vibrant diversity programs including ABC/Disney, Sony, AFI’s Directing Workshop for Women, HBO Access, and Warner Bros. Directing Workshop mentoring the next generation of directors. She is the co-author of three books: *The NEW Sitcom Career Book*, *Acting for Young Actors* and *Directors Tell the Story* which she co-wrote with fellow DGA member Bethany Rooney. She is currently at work on her fourth book, *PERFORM: Acting for the Screen* for Focal Press. Belli teaches directing part time at USC’s School of Cinematic Arts. She just earned a CINDY award for *Making LA Happen*, a TV program about the outstanding women in leadership in Los Angeles.

KIMBERLY BROWNING | Film National Selection Panel | Kimberley Browning is a filmmaker and film festival professional based in Los Angeles. Originally from Washington D.C., she studied music and film at University of Southern California and began her production career at Disney’s Touchstone Television. Her directing and producing credits include docuseries for A&E Networks, as well as drama, comedy and lifestyle programming for broadcast and digital platforms including Rollingstone.com, CBS, Warner Brothers, Comedy Central and My Damn Channel. Browning is the founder and festival director of Hollywood Shorts Film Festival, launched in 1998. She serves as Associate Short Film Programmer at Tribeca Film Festival and the Senior Programmer at Catalyst Content Festival. Browning is the Executive Producer of HBO Access, a directing and writing fellowship program for emerging talent from diverse backgrounds in episodic television.

SHARI LYNETTE CARPENTER | Film National Selection Panel | Award-winning writer/director Shari Lynette Carpenter is on the 2021 directing staff of an OWN episodic series. Other recent projects of Carpenter’s include the #WhyWeCount Census 2020 Campaign and her film, *Three’s Complicated*, a romantic comedy that she both wrote and directed starring Shanola Hampton (*Shameless*) that premiered on TV One. Carpenter wrote and directed the award-winning short film *Since Lisa* (winner at the Black Filmmaker Hall of Fame and Black American Cinema Society Festivals, among others), which screened at more than two dozen film festivals. Her feature directorial debut, *Kali’s Vibe*, a national and international festival favorite, garnered Jury, Audience and Vision awards. Carpenter’s PSA for Proctor and Gamble’s My Black is Beautiful campaign was

specially created to air during BET'S Black Girls Rock and to inspire and empower adolescent Black girls. Carpenter was a script consultant on the second season of *We Are New York*, an Emmy Award-winning web series created by Literacy Partners, a nonprofit organization that informs and encourages immigrant parents to create better futures for their families through literacy education. An NYU graduate, Carpenter is a Rockefeller grant nominee, a Gordon Parks Award nominee, a Sundance Writer's Lab finalist, a Stowe Story Lab alumna and Stowe Rep at Tribeca Institute Film Festival, an ABC Writer Development Fellow, an ABC Daytime Directing Apprentice and an IFP Project Involve: NY Fellow. She is a member of Film Fatales, a women filmmaker's advocacy, resource and networking organization focused on gender parity in the film industry. She has served as jurist and reader for Stowe Story Labs and Sidewalk Screenplay Competition.

HANS CHARLES | Film Guest Artist | Hans Charles is a cinematographer and filmmaker, who has worked in the film business for the last ten years. He has shot for a range of directors including Spike Lee, Ava DuVernay, Nefertiti Nguvu, Salim Akil, Gloria LeMort and countless others. His films have won a BAFTA (British Academy Award) and have been nominated for an Academy Award and Independent Spirit Award. His projects have screened at festivals all over the world including, The New York Film Festival, The Urban World Film Festival, the New York City Latino Film Festival, OutFest, the Los Angeles Film Festival, the Zanzibar Film Festival and the BlackStar film festival, and have been featured on HBO, ESPN, Netflix and Hulu. He created and hosts a weekly film podcast with his creative partner and Menelek Lumumba called the Back of the Theater. Charles resides on the East Coast.

RICK DELGADO | Film National Selection Panel | 1992 YoungArts Winner in Film | Rick Delgado is a director, cinematographer and producer operating Nufrontier Pictures and Section 16 Films. Through Section 16 Films, he produces his narrative and documentary work, while Nufrontier focuses on commercial work with clients such as Discovery Channel, Hasbro, Karisma Hotels, Lilly Pulitzer, NASA, Nickelodeon, Resorts World and Victoria's Secret to name a few. Delgado prefers Red Cinema Cameras with all his productions, pioneering the acquisition of video and stills simultaneously. Of Cuban and French descent, he fuels his companies not only with the passion of leaving specs behind for future generations, but also with cafecitos and Perugina chocolate.

DAVID EISENBERG | Film Guest Artist | An editor in film and television, David Eisenberg's credits include *Lonely Boy*, *Watchmen*, *Westworld*, *The Leftovers*, *Bates Motel* and *Lost*.

DAVID GORDON GREEN | Film Guest Artist | Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, and raised in Texas, David Gordon Green attended The North Carolina School of the Arts where he studied film. He wrote and directed his first feature film, *George Washington*, which won the New York Film Critics' Circle award for best first feature before going on to win festival awards internationally. Additional films include *All The Real Girls*, *Pineapple Express*, *Joe*, *Stronger*, and the reboot of the *Halloween* franchise. Green was a producer and director of the HBO series *Eastbound & Down*, creator of the MTV animated series *Good Vibes*, Director of the Amazon series *Red Oaks*, the HBO series *Vice Principals*, the Apple series *Dickinson*, "Mythic Quest: Raven's Banquet" and the HBO series *The Righteous Gemstones*.

JAY HOLBEN | Film Guest Artist | Jay Holben is an independent producer and director in Los Angeles, California. His most recent work is the feature romantic drama *Before the Dawn*. A former cinematographer, he is an author of two commercially-published books on cinematography, a contributing editor for *American Cinematographer* magazine, faculty instructor for Global Cinematography Institute and an international lecturer, Associate member of the American Society of Cinematographers (ASC) and the co-chair of the ASC Motion Imaging Technology Council Lens Committee. Prior to his work as a cinematographer, he worked as a gaffer on many popular music videos for Korn, Brandy, Shaquille O'Neal and Ice Cube in addition to feature films such as *Free Enterprise*. As a director, his short film, *Paranoid*, which was adapted from the poem by Stephen King, garnered overwhelming praise for its stylistic excellence as well as high praise and support from Mr. King. An even shorter effort, an amazingly terse 50 second horror project, *Hunger* was spotlighted as one of Director John Carpenter's favorites for a Halloween special he hosted on American Movie Classics and hailed by the *New York Post* critic Linda Stasi as her favorite of the show. As a producer, Holben has helmed independent feature films, a television series, documentaries, short films and commercials. Additionally, he is a former technical editor and frequent contributing writer for *American Cinematographer* magazine, a former technical editor and columnist for *Digital Video* magazine and lighting columnist for *TV Technology* magazine in addition to contributing for several years to the prominent trade newspaper *The Hollywood Reporter*.

JEANCARLO RAMIREZ | Film Discipline Coordinator | 2012 YoungArts Winner in Film | JeanCarlo Ramirez is a Colombian-born South Florida-based filmmaker and photographer who has directed, produced and shot a wide range of projects from music videos and short films to documentaries and corporate projects. In 2012, Ramirez became a YoungArts Winner in Cinematic Arts and, in 2014, he started his production company IndieHouse Films. Ramirez has had the chance to work with artists and clients such as *National Geographic*, Hilton Hotels, The Related Companies, *Vogue*, BEBE, Vera Wang and worked with Academy Award winners Doug Blush and Kirk Simon, Grammy-nominated composer Pascal Le Boeuf, popular recording artist MAX, Pitbull and Johan Vera. Ramirez's work has been featured at the Norton Museum of Art as well as galleries and film festivals all over the world.

NORA KROLL ROSENBAUM | Classical Music and Film Guest Artist | 1997 YoungArts Winner in Classical Music | Juilliard-trained Grammy Award-winning composer Nora Kroll-Rosenbaum (born New York) collaborates with adventurous musicians and radical filmmakers on scores that include Catherine Hardwicke's *Don't Look Deeper* (Quibi), *Bird Karma* (Dreamworks Animation), *Champaign ILL* (Sony), *Grand-Daddy Day Care* (Universal), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Universal), *Delicious Little Devil* (Universal), *Dangerous Curves* (*The New York Times*), *Stockholm Pennsylvania* (Sundance), *Lenny* (HBO), *Powerless* (Cannes), *After Fire* (DocNYC), *Remember Me*, *Joburg* (Telluride), Nancy Kates' *Regarding Susan Sontag* (HBO), *The Cinema Travelers* (Cannes), *Every Act of Life* (Tribeca), *Code*, *Netizens* (Tribeca) and *Half The Picture* (Sundance). She has received concert commissions from the London Symphony Chorus, San Francisco Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Young People's Chorus of New York City, Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music and fellowships from the Sundance Composers Feature and Documentary Labs, where she also serves as an advisor.

JOHN SIMMONS | Film Guest Artist | John Simmons studied fine art at Fisk University and Cinematography at the University of California, USC. He has been a member of the American Society of Cinematographers (ASC) since 2004. He presently serves as one of the ASC vice presidents. Simmons has been behind the camera since the early seventies. He started in documentaries working with film director Carlton Moss who became his mentor in college. Later, his career led him to shooting and directing commercials and music videos with a spectrum of artists: Stevie Wonder, Britney Spears, Snoop Dogg and so many others. Simmons has been on the faculty at UCLA teaching cinematography and influencing and guiding the careers of students for more than twenty years. His introduction to television began with movies of the week. He has shot a number of documentaries for PBS, Showtime and HBO. His first multi-camera prime time show was *The Hughleys*. This began a prominent career in multi-camera sitcoms including *The Tracy Morgan Show*, *All of Us*, *The Jonas Brothers*, *Men at Work*, *A Dog With a Blog*, as well as many pilots. Simmons has received three Primetime Emmy nominations, twice for the Disney series *Pair of Kings* — the first for a children’s show in the cinematography category (2011 and 2012). In 2016, he won a Primetime Emmy for Outstanding Cinematography for the show *Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn*.

TED TY | Film Guest Artist | Ted Ty has over 27 years of experience at the feature animation level. He has animated on 20 feature films, and is presently the Global Head of Character Animation, Feature Animation at DNEG. His CG credits include *How to Train your Dragon 2*, *Rise of the Guardians*, *Kung Fu Panda* and *Puss n Boots* among others. Before arriving at DreamWorks, he spent over 10 years at Walt Disney Feature Animation Florida as a lead animator crafting traditional animation and worked on films such as *Mulan*, *The Lion King*, *John Henry* and *Lilo and Stitch*. He recently spent six years as Head of Animation for L’Atelier Animation in Montreal where they just finished the feature *Fireheart*. He is a graduate of the CalArts character animation program, where he was also the senior animation instructor for five consecutive years. He has taught masterclasses at CalArts, CTNX Expo, DreamWorks Animation, SCAD, Pixel Quebec, NAD Center, University of Granada, RIOT Games, Effects Mtl and iAnimate.net.

IGNACIO BERROA | Jazz Guest Artist | Ignacio Berroa has been recognized as one of the greatest drummers of our times. He was honored by inclusion in the 2011 MP3 compilation entitled “Jazz Drumming Legends,” which features some of the most renowned drummers in jazz history. Berroa moved to New York and joined Dizzy Gillespie’s quartet in 1981, becoming the drummer of all the important bands Gillespie formed. As an author and a renowned educator, Berroa made his mark with the instructional video: *Mastering the Art of Afro–Cuban Drumming* as well as the books: *Groovin’ in Clave* and *A New Way of Groovin’*. He is very active in the educational world, conducting master classes and lectures, presenting his video/teaching presentation: *Afro-Cuban, Jazz & Beyond*, an overview of the development of Afro-Cuban Music, its influence on jazz and vice versa. He has recorded and played with musicians including: McCoy Tyner, Chick Corea, Wynton Marsalis, Freddie Hubbard, Clark Terry, Jackie McLean, Jimmy Heath, James Moody, Jon Faddis, Slide Hampton, Michael Brecker, Milt Jackson, Jaco Pastorius, Ron Carter, Charlie Haden, Tito Puente, Mario Bauzá, Lalo Schifrin, Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Chico Bouarque, Ivan Lins, Joao Bosco, Lenny Andrade, Lincoln Center Orchestra, WDR Big Band and BBC Big Band.

RON CARTER | Jazz Guest Artist | Ron Carter is among the most original, prolific and influential bassists in jazz history, with more than 2,200 albums to his credit, an accomplishment honored in the 2015 *Guinness Book of World Records*. He has recorded with greats including: Tommy Flanagan, Gil Evans, Lena Horne, Bill Evans, B.B. King, the Kronos Quartet, Dexter Gordon, Wes Montgomery, and Bobby Timmons, Jaki Byard, Eric Dolphy and Cannonball Adderley. From 1963 to 1968, Carter was a member of the classic and acclaimed Miles Davis Quintet. He was named Outstanding Bassist of the Decade by the *Detroit News*, Jazz Bassist of the Year by *Downbeat* magazine, and MVP by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. He earned two Grammy Awards, one in 1993 for Best Jazz Instrumental Group, and another in 1998 for “Call Sheet Blues” from the film *Round Midnight*. Ron has composed music for the classic films *A Gathering of Old Men*, *The Passion of Beatrice* and *Blind Faith*. In 2014, Ron received the medallion and title of Commander of the Order of Arts and Letters, France’s premier cultural award, by the French Minister of Culture. A bestselling author, Carter’s books include *Building Jazz Bass Lines* and his autobiography *Finding the Right Notes*, soon to be an audiobook. In 2016, he published *Ron Carter’s Comprehensive Bass Method*, an advanced level book pioneering the use of QR codes to demonstrate technique in printed books. Additionally, he authored *The Ron Carter Songbook*, a collection of 119 original compositions. In 2017, Ron expanded his reach to his considerable worldwide following on Facebook, where he regularly posts helpful information and backstories for bass players and fans alike. His Facebook Live events are enjoyed around the world and he frequently teaches master classes. He has also received five honorary doctorates, most recently from The Juilliard School. Carter continues to tour worldwide, playing to sold-out crowds across Europe, Asia and South America.

EMMET COHEN | Jazz Guest Artist | 2009 YoungArts Winner in Jazz | Multifaceted American jazz pianist and composer Emmet Cohen is one of his generation’s pivotal artistic figures. *Downbeat* praised the “nimble touch, measured stride and warm harmonic vocabulary” he employs to communicate with other musicians and audiences with “the deepest level of humanity and individuality.” Cohen plays with the command and passion of an artist fully devoted to his

medium. He has appeared in the Monterey, Newport, North Sea, Bern and Edinburgh jazz festivals, and the Kennedy Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Birdland, Blue Note, Cotton Club (Japan), and Ronnie Scott's (London) among others. A Suzuki piano student at age three, Cohen holds jazz piano degrees from the Manhattan School of Music and the University of Miami. He was finalist in both the American Pianists Association's Cole Porter Fellowship (2015, 2011) and the Thelonious Monk International Piano Competition (2011) and has performed, recorded, or collaborated with Christian McBride, Herlin Riley, Jimmy Cobb, Brian Lynch, Kurt Elling, Jimmy Heath, Bill T. Jones, Lea DeLaria and Debbie Allen. In 2019, he was awarded The American Pianists Association's Cole Porter Fellowship.

JON FADDIS | Jazz Guest Artist | Jon Faddis is a Grammy Award–nominated jazz trumpet player, conductor, composer and educator. Born in Oakland, California in 1953, he began playing trumpet at age eight, inspired by an appearance of Louis Armstrong on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. Three years later, his trumpet teacher Bill Catalano, an alumnus of the Stan Kenton band, turned the jazz-struck youngster on to Dizzy Gillespie. By his mid-teens, he had not only met Dizzy, but he had even sat in with his hero's combo at the famed Jazz Workshop in San Francisco. After playing with Charles Mingus in his early 20s, Faddis became a noted studio musician in New York, recording with numerous jazz luminaries, including Dizzy Gillespie, George Benson, Anthony Braxton, Kenny Burrell, Gil Evans, Les McCann, Brother Jack McDuff, Charles Mingus, Oscar Peterson and Lalo Schiffrin, among others. In the mid-1980s, he focused on his solo recording career. His distinctive trumpet appears on hundreds of records and numerous soundtracks for film and television. His original compositions include the jazz opera *Lulu Noire* (1997), named a Top 10 pick by *USA Today*; other Faddis compositions may be heard on his Grammy-nominated *Remembrances* (Chesky 1998), *Hornucopia* (Epic 1991), *Into the Faddisphere* (Epic 1989), and *Teranga* (Koch 2006). In addition to forming his own quartet, Faddis has directed several orchestras, including the Grammy-winning United Nation Orchestra, the Dizzy Gillespie 70th Birthday Big Band, the Dizzy Gillespie Alumni All-Stars, the Chicago Jazz Ensemble (2004–2010), the Carnegie Hall Centennial Big Band, the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band (1992–2002) and the Jon Faddis Jazz Orchestra of New York (2003–present). Faddis has also served as guest conductor and featured guest with the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra.

JAVON JACKSON | Jazz National Selection Panelist | 1983 YoungArts Winner in Jazz | Javon Jackson is Professor of Jazz, Director of the Jackie McLean Jazz Studies Division in The Hartt School at the University of Hartford. As a leader or co-leader, Jackson has participated in 20 recording projects that have included such renowned artists as Dianne Reeves, Cassandra Wilson, Ron Carter, Kenny Garrett, Christian McBride and Les McCann. His newest recording, released in August 2020, is entitled *Déjà Vu* on the Solid Jackson recording label. During his career as musician, Jackson has toured and recorded with artists including Art Blakey, Elvin Jones, Charlie Haden, Freddie Hubbard, Cedar Walton, Curtis Fuller, Dr. Lonnie Smith and Joanne Brackeen.

JEREMY MANASIA | Jazz National Selection Panel | Pianist Jeremy Manasia has been a fixture on the New York jazz scene for over 20 years, as an in-demand sideman, bandleader, composer, recording artist and educator. His six records as a leader spotlight more than 40 compositions, and his bebop rooted, soulful, impressionistic sound on the piano. In addition to his six releases as a

leader, he has appeared on more than 20 records as a sideman, most recently *For You* by Javon Jackson and *The Real Blue* by Pureum Jin. He was a finalist in the Thelonious Monk Competition, the Great American Jazz Piano Competition and the APA Jazz Piano Competition. As an educator, Manasia has mentored several generations of jazz pianists, coupling a harmonic approach derived from Barry Harris, his studies abroad, and a philosophy inspired by a more than 15-year practice of Zen Buddhism, to help bring out a student's uniquely individual voice.

CHRISTIAN REÁTEGUI | Jazz Discipline Coordinator | Christian Reátegui is a musician, composer, songwriter, and educator living in Miami. Born in Lima, Peru and raised in the city of Callao until the age of seven, he was surrounded by music from a very young age. Influenced by the Afro-Peruvian music of his native land, salsa music that was heavily enjoyed by his family members, and his father's appreciation of classic rock as well as rhythm and blues, he has a well-rounded vocabulary of musical genres and a unique versatility to adapt within them. After graduating from Miami Beach Senior High School, he attended Florida International University on a full scholarship from the FIU School of Music and majored in Music Business. As a trombonist, he is well versed in the genres of jazz, Latin, kompa, reggae, pop and R&B. From the age of 18, he has been a part of the Miami music scene and has worked with artists such as Tony Succar, Nestor Torres, Chino y Nacho, Locos Por Juana, Mystikal, Giovanni Hidalgo, Jon Faddis, Paquito D'Rivera, Sal Cuevas, Chino Nuñez and Oscar D'Leon. As a member, arranger, and choreographer with the Miami Heat Street Band for seven years, he has performed at the French Basketball League All-Star game, the Nike World Basketball Festival, the 2010 Pro Bowl and Super Bowl XLIV. In the summer of 2014, he was chosen to be a band member, background actor and soundtrack musician in the made for TV movie *Drumline: A New Beat* that aired on VH1. He is currently a freelance performer in the South Florida area.

PATRICK SMITH | Jazz Guest Artist | Saxophonist and composer Patrick Smith was born and raised in Ottawa, Ontario. Relocating to Toronto in 2013, he has worked in many musical styles from traditional swing, to open form improvisation, original modern jazz, funk, pop, and rock. An active bandleader, Patrick currently leads three of his own groups, which have headlined at many Toronto music venues such as The Rex, The Tranzac, the Emmet Ray and Placebo Space. The Smith Brothers Octet is a modern jazz octet that plays original music and creative arrangements of other artists' music; The Patrick Smith Standards Trio is a trio that interprets the classic repertoire of the jazz canon as well as original music; and SHDW CLN is a duo that experiments with open-concept improvisation. Smith also co-leads the improvisational trio Saorsa, which toured Ontario and Quebec in December 2016 and is currently preparing to record their first album. Using his wide skill set, he has also led performances at the Montreal International Jazz Festival, the Ottawa International Jazz Festival and the Toronto Jazz Festival.

WALTER SMITH, III | Jazz Guest Artist | 1998 YoungArts Winner in Jazz | From a young age, Walter Smith began taking music very seriously. "My first gig was playing at a McDonald's in Houston with another saxophone player. I took a solo on 'Blue Bossa.' It was terrible. People clapped, and I figured if I could get away with that and get applause, how could I fail?" Although it may appear Smith is a new voice on the scene, he is widely recognized as an adept performer, accomplished

composer and inspired educator. Smith released his fifth album as a leader, *Twio* in February of 2018 with his longtime trio of Harish Raghavan and Eric Harland including guest appearances by Christian McBride and Joshua Redman. In the Jazz tradition, Smith has developed under the wings of many of the music's greats. He has been and continues to be a member of several legendary groups (recording and/or touring), including the Roy Haynes Fountain of Youth Band, Terence Blanchard Quintet, Eric Harland's *Voyager*, Jason Moran's *In My Mind: Monk at Town Hall*, Ambrose Akinmusire Quintet, *A Christian McBride Situation*, Christian Scott group and the Sean Jones Quintet to name a few. Smith has performed all over the world participating in virtually every international festival as well as famed venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Village Vanguard and the Kennedy Center. In addition, he has shared the stage and/or appeared on recordings with many jazz notables including Mulgrew Miller, Eric Reed, Billy Childs, Joe Lovano, Herbie Hancock, Dee Dee

Bridgewater, Terri Lynne Carrington, Bill Stewart, Ralph Peterson and a host of others. To date, Walter has appeared on over 100 recordings that are released worldwide. Originally from Houston, Smith now resides in Boston and is Chair of Woodwinds at Berklee College of Music helping to prepare the next generation of jazz students.

KENNY WASHINGTON | Jazz Guest Artist | Kenny Washington thrills audiences across the globe with his soulful interpretations, seemingly limitless range, and rapid-fire scatting. The New Orleans native, now based in the San Francisco Bay Area, appeared in 2013 at Jazz At Lincoln Center with Wynton Marsalis and The Jazz At Lincoln Center Orchestra to perform Marsalis' Pulitzer Prize-winning oratorio "Blood On The Fields," alongside vocalists Gregory Porter and Paula West. In 2014, Washington returned to Jazz at Lincoln Center to perform "Basie & The Blues" with pianist Eric Reed and again in 2016, as the featured vocalist in JALC's tribute to Frank Sinatra, in celebration of Sinatra's 100th birthday. In 2017, Washington performed with Wynton Marsalis and The Jazz At Lincoln Center Orchestra and vocalist Roberta Gambarini to celebrate Ella Fitzgerald's 100th birthday.

TOM WILLIAMS | Jazz National Selection Panel | 1980 YoungArts Winner in Jazz | Tom Williams is a trumpeter, drummer, composer and bandleader. Master saxophonist-composer Jimmy Heath said, "I think Tom Williams is one of the strongest young trumpeters out here, who deserves wider recognition. He's not only strong melodically and harmonically, he is also strong rhythmically because he's a drummer as well as a trumpet player." A native of Baltimore, Williams has led a sparkling and varied career since he began studying trumpet and drums as a child. His talent was recognized at an early age by many, and he began working steadily on both trumpet and drums while still a high school student. After matriculating at Towson State University, he joined the renowned Duke Ellington Orchestra and played the national tour of the Broadway smash *Sophisticated Ladies*, also touring in Japan with the road company. In 1987, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served eight years as a featured soloist with the Jazz Ambassadors and Army Blues jazz ensembles. In 1991, Williams was a finalist and second place winner in the first Louis Armstrong International Jazz Trumpet Competition sponsored by the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz. A versatile performer, he has played in the show bands of Pattie Labelle, Liberace, Anita Baker, Sid Caesar, Joe Williams, Stevie Wonder and Rosemary Clooney, to name a few. He has

appeared at numerous jazz festivals and venues with artists such as Donald Brown, Hank Jones, Philly Joe Jones, Gary Bartz, The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, The Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, Michel Legrand, Ben Riley, Steve Wilson, The Woody Herman Orchestra, Frank Foster, Antonio Hart, Slide Hampton and Steve Turre. He has recorded with Rob Bargad, Gary Bartz, Donald Brown, Antonio Hart, Jimmy Heath, The Heath Brothers, Larry Willis and Steve Wilson. Williams can also be heard on the theme music for the PBS television shows *Washington Week* and *Motorweek*. He is mentioned in the book *The Trumpet Kings* by Scott Yanow which chronicles the history of jazz trumpet players. As a leader on trumpet, he has recorded two CDs, *Introducing Tom Williams*, and *Straight Street*, on the Criss Cross Jazz™ label. As a drummer, he has performed with Curtis Fuller, Larry Willis, Javon Jackson, Kenny Drew Jr., Gloria Lynn and Geoff Keezer. He is also leader of *InterPlay*, which has recorded *First Time* and *Pick Up the Pieces* on the JazzScapes™ label. Williams served as the Jazz Drum Set Instructor on the Jazz Faculty at Howard Community College from 2009–2011. He is currently the Jazz Trumpet Instructor at the University of Maryland Baltimore County and has served as a Jazz adjudicator for the National YoungArts Foundation since 2017. Williams received the Benny Golson Jazz Master Award in 2014.

ENDIA BEAL | Photography National Selection Panel | Endia Beal is a North Carolina based artist, educator and activist, who is internationally known for her photographic narratives and video testimonies that examine the personal, yet contemporary stories of women of color working within the corporate space. She lectures about these experiences, which also addresses bias in corporate hiring practices. Beal is featured in several online editorials including *The New York Times*, *NBC*, *BET*, Huffington Post, and National Geographic; she also appeared in *TIME Magazine*, *VICE Magazine*, *Essence*, *Marie Claire* and *Newsweek*. Her work has been exhibited in several institutions including the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina; The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, Michigan, and Aperture Foundation in New York, New York. Beal's photographs are in private and public collections, such as The Studio Museum in Harlem in New York, New York, Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago in Chicago, Illinois, and Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. She is a fellow of the Center for Curatorial Leadership and completed residencies at Harvard Art Museums, the Center for Photography at Woodstock and McColl Center for Art + Innovation. Beal received grants from the Magnum Foundation and the Open Society Foundation, among others. Beal holds a dual Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art History and Studio Art from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Master of Fine Arts from Yale University.

CORRINE MAY BOTZ | Photography National Selection Panel | 1995 YoungArts Winner in Photography & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts | Corinne May Botz is a Brooklyn-based photographic artist, filmmaker and educator who earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Maryland Institute, College of Art and her Master of Fine Arts from Milton Avery School of the Arts, Bard College. Her practice engages with issues surrounding narrative, space, gender and the body. Her published books combining photography and writing include *The Nutshell Studies of Unexplained Death* (Monacelli Press, 2004) and *Haunted Houses* (Monacelli Press, 2010). Botz's photographs have been internationally exhibited at such institutions as The Brooklyn Museum; Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, Illinois; Wuerttembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart, Germany; De Appel, Amsterdam; Turner Contemporary, Margate, UK; and Benrubi Gallery, New York. Her work has been reviewed in numerous publications including *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Art Papers*, *Foam Magazine*, *Hyperallergic*, *Bookforum*, *Modern Painters* and *Time: Lightbox*. She has held residencies at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture; Atlantic Center for the Arts; Akademie Schloss Solitude; Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and Mana Contemporary. Botz is the recipient of both the New York Foundation for the Arts and the Jerome Foundation grants. She is on the faculty of International Center of Photography and John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY). Botz is represented by Benrubi Gallery in New York.

JAMIE DIAMOND | Photography Guest Artist | Jamie Diamond is a photo-based artist living and working in Brooklyn, New York. Diamond is a recipient of the Artist in Residence program at Mass Moca and Skidmore College (2016), the NYFA Fellowship Award in Photography (2014), Artist in Residence at The Bronx Museum (2014), Artist in Residence at the Mana Residencies program at Mana Contemporary (2014), LMCC Swing Space residency (2013), LMCC Work Space residency (2008-2009) and the Toby Devan Lewis Fellowship Award (2008). Diamond's work has

been featured in publications such as *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Artnet*, *AnOther Magazine*, *Whitewall*, *Muse Magazine*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Aperture*, *Hyperallergic*, *The Huffington Post*, *Vanity Fair*, *Vogue*, *Artsy* and *Phaidon*, among others. Her work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions nationally and internationally, including Osservatorio, Fondazione Prada (Italy), Prada Mode (Hong Kong), Galerie Frank Pages (Geneva), AJL Art (Berlin), Mass MoCA (North Adams), The Bronx Museum (New York) and Catherine Edelman (Chicago). Diamond received her Master of Fine Arts from the University of Pennsylvania in 2008 and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wisconsin in 2005. Since 2009, Diamond has been lecturing in photography at the University of Pennsylvania and is currently the Undergraduate Photography Coordinator and Senior Lecturer.

ERIC GOTTESMAN | Photography National Selection Panel | Eric Gottesman is an artist and teacher. He makes photographs, videos, writing, installations and social interventions; he has never made an artwork alone. Through the medium of collaboration, his work questions accepted notions of authorship and power, engages communities in critical creative expression, and proposes models for repairing structural violence and for promoting community as a form of care. Gottesman's projects have been shown at health conferences, in government buildings, on indigenous reserves, inside post-war rubble and in museums like MoMA/PS1, the Johannesburg Art Gallery, MFA Boston, Houston Center of Photography, MoCA Cleveland, and the Addison Gallery of American Art. Gottesman is a Creative Capital Artist, a Fulbright Fellow, an Artadia awardee, an Aaron Siskind Foundation Artist and a co-founder of For Freedoms, an initiative for art and civic engagement that won the 2017 ICP-Infinity Award and was named the "largest creative collaboration in United States history" by *TIME Magazine*. He is an Assistant Professor of Art at SUNY-Purchase College and a Mentor in the Arab Documentary Photography Program in Beirut, Lebanon.

PAUL MOAKLEY | Photography Guest Artist | Editor at Large for Special Projects at *TIME*, Paul Moakley, also served as Deputy Director of Photography and Visual Enterprise of *TIME* from 2010 to 2018. Moakley produces special projects such as the recent "Opioid Diaries" and *TIME*'s Person of the Year. He was part of the Emmy award winning team for *TIME*'s interactive documentary *Beyond 9/11: Portraits of Resilience*. Previously, he was senior photo editor at *Newsweek* and photo editor of *Photo District News*.

AÏDA MULNEH | Photography Guest Artist | Born in Ethiopia in 1974, Aida Mulneh left the country at a young age and spent an itinerant childhood between Yemen and England. After several years in a boarding school in Cyprus, she finally settled in Canada in 1985. In 2000, she graduated with a degree from the Communication Department, with a major in Film from Howard University in Washington D.C. After graduation she worked as a photojournalist at the *Washington Post*, however her work can be found in several international publications. Also as an exhibiting artist, Mulneh's work has been shown in South Africa, Mali, Senegal, Egypt, Canada, United States, France, Germany, England and China, to name a few countries. Her work is in the permanent collection at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art, Hood Museum and the Museum of Biblical Art in the United States. She is the 2007 recipient of the European

Union Prize in the Rencontres Africaines de la Photographie, in Bamako, Mali; the 2010 winner of the CRAF International Award of Photography in Spilimbergo, Italy; and a 2018 CatchLight Fellow in San Francisco, United States. As one of the leading experts on photography from Africa, she has been a jury member on several photography competitions most notably the Sony World Photography Awards 2017 and the World Press Photo Contest 2017. She has also been on various panel discussions on photography in events such as African Union cultural summit, Art Basel and Tedx/Johannesburg. Moreover, she currently serves as a Canon Ambassador. Muluneh is the founder and director of the Addis Foto Fest (AFF), the first international photography festival in East Africa hosted since 2010 in the city of Addis Ababa. She continues to educate, curate and develop cultural projects with local and international institutions through her company DESTA (Developing and Educating Society Through Art) For Africa Creative Consulting PLC (DFA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

BROOKE SHADEN | Photography Guest Artist | Brooke Shaden explores the darkness and light in people, and her work looks at that juxtaposition. As a self-portrait artist, she photographs herself and becomes the characters of dreams inspired by a childhood of intense imagination and fear. Being the creator and the actor, Shaden controls her darkness and confronts those fears. After studying films for years in college, she realized her love of storytelling was universal. She started photography in 2008, excited to create in solitude and take on character roles herself. Shaden works from a place of theme, often gravitating toward death and rebirth or beauty and decay. Ultimately, her process is more discovery than creation. She follows her curiosity into the unknown to see whom her characters might become. Shaden believes the greatest gift an artist has is the ability to channel fears, hopes and experience into a representation of one's potential. While her images come from a personal place of exploration, the goal in creating is not only to satisfy herself; her greatest wish is to show others a part of themselves. Art is a mirror for the creator and the observer. Shaden's passion is storytelling, and her life is engulfed in it. From creating self-portraits and writing to international adventures and motivational speeches, she wants to live a thousand lives in one. She keeps her curiosity burning to live a truly interesting story.

JORDAN TIBERIO | Photography Discipline Coordinator | 2011 YoungArts Winner in Photography Jordan Tiberio is a photographic artist based in New York. She has coined her quirky-quizzical work as "The Odd in the Ordinary"— where mundane, everyday objects come to life in beautiful displays of light and color. Her approach to photography never ceases to go beyond the initial exposure, as she often captures her images a second time, whether through reflection, freezing, or purposeful destruction of prints. In the end the medium is the message, posing the question of why and what we choose to photograph and share. Outside of her personal work, she has shot for clients such as Steve Madden, Urban Outfitters, Vox, Everlane, Nanette Lepore, *Teen Vogue*, *Refinery29*, Samsung Mobile USA and *Bloomberg Businessweek*. Her work has been recognized by publications such as *Vogue*, *The Huffington Post*, *Dazed* and *i-D Magazine* to name a few. Her work has been exhibited in Europe and North America. When she is not photographing, she is teaching photography to high school students at her alma mater, The Fashion Institute of Technology, or growing her wild antique collection.

ANITA DASHIELL-SPARKS | Theater Guest Artist | Anita Dashiell-Sparks is an associate professor of theatre practice at the USC School of Dramatic Arts. She is a graduate of the prestigious New York University, Tisch School of the Arts' graduate acting program. She is a Maryland distinguished scholar who pursued undergraduate work at the University of Maryland at College Park, earning a degree in theatre. As an actor based in New York and Los Angeles, she has graced the stage on Broadway in *Night Must Fall*, starring Matthew Broderick, and *The Sunshine Boys*, starring Tony Randall and Jack Klugman. She has also appeared in numerous off-Broadway and regional theater productions, including *House of Bernada Alba* with Chita Rivera at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, as well as directed *Letters From Zora* at The Pasadena Playhouse. Her recent television appearances include *Huff*, *Friends*, *The West Wing*, *The Division* and the Hallmark film *McBride: The Doctor Is Out*. In support of her community service as a performing artist, she was awarded a 1998-1999 Fox Foundation Grant to mount a tour of her solo performance piece entitled *Resurrection* for youth and community organizations in New York City. Dashiell-Sparks is the founder and director of Building Bridges: Communication, Expression, Empowerment Theatre Arts Program, which teaches self-presentation and self-expression to at-risk youth. Her program is supported by a University Neighborhood Outreach Grant at USC. As an arts educator of theatre and dance, Dashiell-Sparks has taught and developed arts and arts therapy curriculum for the Dream Yard Drama Projects in New York and Los Angeles, The Public Theater/ New York Shakespeare Festival, Vineyard Theatre, TADA! Theatre and Dance and for the National Foundation for the Emotionally Handicapped/Penny Lane in Los Angeles. In academia, Dashiell-Sparks has taught at Barnard College in New York, guest lectured in undergraduate drama at New York University, and performed and presented at conferences at St. Mary College of the Woods and DePauw University.

PETER JAY FERNANDEZ | Theater National Selection Panel | Peter Jay Fernandez has enjoyed a long career as an actor on Broadway (*All the Way* starring Bryan Cranston, *Julius Caesar*, starring Denzel Washington, *Cyrano De Bergerac*, starring Kevin Kline, *Jelly's Last Jam*, starring Brian Stokes Mitchell and Phylicia Rashad and more) and Off Broadway (most recently, *Socrates*, *Othello*, *Father Comes Home from the Wars* at the Public Theater, *Seven Spots on the Sun* at Rattlestick, *Red Speedo* at New York Theatre Workshop and more). Film and television work include the current season of Marvel's *Luke Cage*, *Shades of Blue*, *Blacklist: The Redemption*, *Royal Pains*, *Gotham*, *Elementary*, *The Goodwife*, *Blue Bloods*, *House of Cards*, *Deception*, *Law and Order(s)* and much more. He currently serves as Assistant Professor of Acting in Columbia University's Graduate School of the Arts. He is a former Co-Head of the Acting at The New School, College of Performing Arts, MFA Program, in New York City.

MARY ANN HU | Theater National Selection Panel | MaryAnn Hu most recently played Queen Iduna in Disney's *Frozen*. Other Broadway includes: *My Fair Lady* (Queen of Transylvania), *Sunday In The Park With George*, Lincoln Center's *The King and I* (Lady Thiang u/s), *South Pacific* (Bloody Mary u/s) and *Miss Saigon*. Off-Broadway, she has appeared in *The Audience* (Transport Group), *Falsettoland* (NAATCO), at the Signature and the Vineyard. Regional credits include *Allegiance* (The Old Globe), La Jolla Playhouse's comedy *Tiger Style!* (also O'Neill Theater Conference) and numerous shows at East West Players. Film: Elanore in the indie film *Wilde Wedding*, DeLoba,

Falling for Grace. TV credits: *Elementary*, *Madam Secretary*, *Nurse Jackie*, *Law & Order* and recurred on the NBC sitcom *WHOOPI* as SooLin. Ms. Hu studied under Wynn Handman and is a graduate of the Upright Citizens Brigade for Improv Comedy and Sketch Writing. She performs on the indie-improv scene with *Baby Grand: The Improvised Musical* and *The Picklebacks*. She is an adjunct professor and serves as faculty advisor to the All Asian Arts Alliance at NYU. She was most recently coach/mentor for the 2018 and 2019 Jimmy Awards.

JOAN LADER | Theater and Voice Guest Artist | Joan Lader's more than thirty years of providing vocal training and rehabilitation for professional voice users was commemorated in June 2016 when she was awarded American theater's highest honor, a Tony Award for "Excellence in the Theater." Trained as a Master's level speech pathologist, she specializes in working with singers and actors, and in collaboration with New York's top otolaryngologists, rehabilitation of injured voices. Her extensive practice includes leading actors and singers from Broadway, film, opera, R&B, rap, rock and pop. Lader is a certified Master Teacher of the Estill Voice Training System, and has extensive training in the Alexander Technique, as well as Fitzmaurice Voice Work and the work of Arthur Lessac. She has given master classes at universities and summer programs throughout the country, is a consultant at NYU's The New Studio and is on the advisory board of the Voice Foundation and the Manhattan School of Music. Last month, Lader gave the keynote address at the Northwest Voice Conference on the Art and Science of the Performing Voice. She has contributed numerous articles in many educational and professional books on various aspects of vocal production and care of the professional voice, as well as exercises for voice therapy.

MICHAEL MCELROY | Theater Guest Artist and YoungArts Board Trustee| 1985 YoungArts Winner In Theater | Michael McElroy is the Founder/Musical Director and Arranger for Broadway Inspirational Voices (BIV) a multi-racial gospel choir comprised of Broadway performers. As an arranger, in 2005 McElroy was nominated for a Grammy for his work on the Broadway Inspirational Voices holiday album *Great Joy! A Gospel Christmas*. His arrangements have been performed at Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, Constitution Hall in Washington D.C., The Crystal Cathedral in Anaheim, California, as well as the Macy's 4th of July Fireworks show in 2005, 2006 and 2010. Credits as a performer include: Broadway: *RENT*, *The Wild Party*, *Big River* (Tony nomination 2004, Drama Desk nomination), *The Who's Tommy*, *Miss Saigon*, *Patti LuPone* on Broadway, *High Roller Social Pleasure Club*, *HAIR* (Encores). New York Philharmonic: *Candide*. National Tours: *Rent*, *Big River* (LA Ovation nomination), *SARAFINA*. Off-Broadway: *Some Men* (Second Stage Theater), *BLUE* (Roundabout), *Violet* (Playwrights Horizons, Drama Desk Nomination), *Thunder Knocking on the Door* (Minetta Lane), *Richard III* (NYSF) Film: *Rent Live on Broadway*, *Romance and Cigarettes*, *Stonewall*. Television: *Canterbury Law*, *Love Monkey*, *All My Children*, *Spin City*, *Michael Jackson Concert*, 2002 Grammys.

KENNETH NOEL MITCHELL | Theater National Selection Panel | Kenneth Noel Mitchell is a professor of theatre practice in musical theatre, head of musical theatre and the co-head of undergraduate acting at the University of Southern California School of Dramatic Arts. Prior to that, he was the founding head of acting for the New Studio on Broadway and the associate chair for the Department of Drama at New York University. He served as the coordinator of acting at

the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater Bachelor of Fine Arts Professional Theatre Training Program. An artist with disabilities, Mitchell is passionate about creating inclusive, accessible and equitable opportunities for all students and underrepresented identities in the arts. As a director, his work in New York has been at the Home for the Contemporary Theater and Art, the Joseph Papp Public Theatre, Soho Rep, The American Globe Theatre, Musical Theatre Works and The Sanford Meisner Theatre. Regionally, he has directed productions for The American Stage, Stage Works, Bristol Valley Theatre, White River Junction Theatre Festival, The Asolo Conservatory Theatre, The Eckerd Theatre Company, The Fredonia Opera House, the Guthrie Experience and the Provincetown Theater. As an actor, he has appeared at The New York Shakespeare Festival, The Atlantic Theatre, The Performing Garage, The American Globe Theatre, The Dramatist Guild, Bristol Valley Theatre, American Stage, the Greenbrier Valley Theater and Stageworks. Mitchell has served as the artistic director for American Stage and Theater Outrageous, and he has been affiliated with the New Shakespeare Festival, Circle Rep and the Manhattan Theatre Club. He is a member of Actors Equity and the Actor Center, on the board of the National Alliance of Acting Teachers, and is chair of the Theater national panel at National YoungArts Foundation.

NIKKI MUJICA | Theater Discipline Coordinator | Nicole Mujica graduated from the University of Florida with degrees in English, Theatre and Education. She currently teaches English and Theater at The Cushman School in Miami. She is the proud sponsor of Thespian Troupe 8892.

MARCUS QUINIONES | Theater Guest Artist | The Hawaii-based theater artist and educator has created, taught and performed in venues including The Guthrie Theater, Bishop Museum, Honolulu Theater For Youth, Samadhi Hawaii Aerial, Theater MU, Ragamala Music and Dance Theater, The Children's Theater Company of Minneapolis, Theater Amoeba and the Universities of Minnesota and Hawaii. His play *Circle Around The Island* was seen at the Guthrie Theater Lab in 2007. Quiniones was the Assistant Director of Tony Kushner's award-winning Guthrie production of *Caroline, Or Change* and performed in the cirque inspired *Ulalena* at the Maui Myth and Magic Theater. He is a graduate of the London International School of Performing Arts (LISPA) in actor-created, physical theater under Thomas Prattki, and studies traditional hula with Kumu Māpuana de Silva in Hālau Mōhala 'Ilima on O'ahu.

ROSEMARY QUINN | Theater Coach | Rosemary Quinn is the Associate Arts Professor at NYU Tisch. Quinn has lived in New York City for more than 20 years, working as an actress, director, teacher, arts administrator, and producer. She originated roles in numerous experimental theatre productions, working with Mabou Mines, the Talking Band, the Other Theater and Roy Hart Theatre. She frequently collaborated with director Joseph Chaikin and has performed in a number of Jean-Claude van Itallie's plays including *Sunset Freeway*, which was written for her. Quinn has studied the voice work of the Roy Hart Theatre since 1983 and teaches and directs at its center in the south of France in summers. She has guest taught at Hampshire, Naropa, Princeton and Williams Colleges, and is the director of the Tisch High School Summer Acting Program in Paris, France.

LETICIA BAJUYO | Visual Arts National Selection Panel | Leticia R. Bajuyo is an interdisciplinary artist, object maker and sculptor who lives, works and teaches in South Texas where she is an Associate Professor of Sculpture at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi. Bajuyo received a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Notre Dame. Bajuyo's sculptures and installations have been exhibited nationally and internationally, including museum acquisitions of *Amplitude*, suspended in the three-story atrium of the South Bend Museum of Art, Indiana, and *Shipshape*, at the From Waste to Art Museum in Baku, Azerbaijan. Recent solo exhibitions include the Beeville Art Museum in Beeville, Texas; Hall Art Gallery at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi; and Rudolph Blume Fine Art / ArtScan Gallery in Houston, Texas. In addition to exhibitions of her individual artwork, Bajuyo is an active member of and exhibits with Land Report Collective, a team who creates and exhibits artworks together as they deal with landscape as a foundational reference point; Project Vortex, an international not-for-profit collective of artists, designers and architects actively focusing on the global problem of plastic pollution; and ENID, a collective of female sculptors who gather and exhibit in respect of Louisville native and recognized sculptor Enid Yandell (1869-1934).

ZOË BUCKMAN | Visual Arts Guest Artist | Zoë Buckman was born in 1985 in Hackney, East London. She studied at The International Center of Photography (GS '09) and was awarded an Art Matters Grant in 2017. She has shown in solo exhibitions at Gavlak Gallery, Los Angeles; Papillion Art, Los Angeles; Project for Empty Space, Newark; Garis & Hahn Gallery, Los Angeles; and Milk Gallery, New York. Group exhibitions include Camden Arts Centre, London; The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; The Children's Museum of the Arts, New York; Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York; The Tarble Arts Center, Illinois; Goodman Gallery, South Africa; Jack Shainman Gallery, New York; Unit London; NYU Florence, Grunwald Gallery of Art Gallery, Indiana University; The Democratic National Convention, Philadelphia; The National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Atlanta; and The National Museum of African-American History & Culture, Washington, D.C.; The Visual Arts Center of New Jersey; The Centre Regional D'Art Contemporain, Sète, France; and Smack Mellon, New York. Public art installations include For Freedoms *50 State Initiative*, *Inaction is Apathy* billboard at 21c Museum Hotel Bentonville, Arkansas and *Champ* at The Standard, Downtown LA with Art Production Fund. Buckman currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

DEVIN CASERTA | Visual Arts Discipline Coordinator| 2006 Winner in Visual Arts | Caserta is a visual artist that specializes in charcoal and soft pastel drawings. Born and raised in Miami, Caserta earned his Master of Fine Arts in Drawing/Studio Art from The University of Miami in 2015 and his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Drawing from New World School of the Arts College/University of Florida. Since then, he has continued his artistic career and has exhibited his art at the Lowe Art Museum, Florida International University Special Collections, Art Miami, MIA Art Fair, The Bird Road Art District, The Wynwood Art District and The Fort Lauderdale Art District. Caserta currently works and teaches art at local South Florida Universities.

ROBERT CHAMBERS | Visual Arts National Selection Panel | Robert Chambers has work in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York; the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri; Pérez Art Museum Miami, Florida; Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, Florida; Museum of Science and Industry, Tampa, Florida; Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts; The Lowe Art Museum, Coral Gables, Florida; MOSI, The Museum of Science & Industry, Tampa, Florida; and Sugabus at The Laumier Sculpture Park, St. Louis, Missouri. Recent public art commissions include *Light Field*, an interactive 100' light wall and *Orbital 1 & 2*; and 10- and 12-ton marble CNC sculptures at the South Miami-Dade Art Center. Exhibitions include The American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, New York; MoMA PS1, New York, New York; Sculpture Center, New York, New York; Fabric Workshop Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Projektraum M54, Basel, Switzerland; The Kunst Raum Riehen Museum, Basel, Switzerland; Casa Tua e Casa Mia: The American Academy, Rome, Italy; Fabric Workshop and Museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Acadia Summer Arts Program, Mt. Desert Island, Maine and for 2018, the Artists in Residence in the Everglades. Chambers earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Miami and a Master of Arts from New York University. He is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at Florida International University, Miami. Awards include Art Works grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, NEA 2018, the Nancy Graves Award, the Louis Comfort Tiffany Award, South Florida Cultural Consortium Visual and Media Fellowship and the USA Nimoy Fellowship.

LONI JOHNSON | Visual Arts National Selection Panel | Loni Johnson is a visual artist, educator, mother and an activist who understands that as artists, there is a cyclical obligation to give back and nurture communities with her creative gift and it must be utilized to better our world. The Miami native graduated from the New World School of the Arts in 1998. She continued her Visual Arts studies at SUNY Purchase College in New York where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2003. Her artistic journey came full circle when Johnson became an adjunct professor in the Visual Arts Department at New World School of the Arts, where she was on faculty from 2006 to 2012. In 2012, she became the Prevention Coordinator of The A-List Company, a youth arts peer education program funded through Florida's Department of Children and Families. Johnson has been with National YoungArts Foundation as a National Selection Panelist, Visual Arts Discipline Coordinator and Chair of the Visual Arts discipline since 2010. As an artist, Johnson's exhibitions include *Slavery to Self-Determination* in honor of Black History Month at the University of Miami. She has shown work during Miami Art Week in 2011 at Art Africa, in 2013 and 2014 at Prizm Art Fair, in 2015 at Yeelen Gallery, in 2016 with MUCE Collective and in 2017 at NADA Art Fair in collaboration with BasFisher Invitational. In 2012 she was one of the featured artists at the 5th Annual Spoken Soul Festival that was in honor of National SWAN Day to support women in the Arts. She currently serves on the Creative Team of the Spoken Soul Festival. She also continues to work with dancer/choreographer Hattie Mae Williams collectively as The OMM SISTAS, focusing on performance and site-specific installation. Previous pieces include SNATCHED! And Offerings. As an educator, Johnson was a part of the creative team for Youth Artist Leadership Summer (YALS) Program this past summer. Created by Tarell Alvin-McCraney, the program empowers young women of color who have a passion for the arts. She continues to work with youth to

inspire and empower them to bring change in their communities through creative expression. She also works as a teaching artist with the S.O.U.L Sister Leadership Collective providing mentorship and guidance to young femmes and TGNC youth of color through the use of the arts. In 2017, Johnson became a part of the Education Department at the Pérez Art Museum Miami as a Teaching Artist and Lead Coordinator of The Art Detectives Program, an arts education program built within a framework of social justice. In 2019, Johnson was a recipient of The Knight Arts Champion award.

TITUS KAPHAR | Visual Arts Guest Artist | Titus Kaphar is an artist who cuts, bends, sculpts and mixes the work of Classic and Renaissance painters, creating formal games and new tales between fiction and quotation. He is the recipient of the distinguished Jacob Lawrence Fellowship, a 2015 Creative Capital Grant, and the 2016 Robert Rauschenberg Artist as Activist Grant. His work is included in the collections of The Studio Museum in Harlem, The Seattle Art Museum, The Brooklyn Museum, and The Museum of Modern Art, among others. In 2014, *TIME Magazine* commissioned Kaphar to create a work of art in response to protests in Ferguson, Missouri. Kaphar's work has been reviewed in *The New Yorker*, *The Huffington Post*, *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and *Forbes*. Kaphar received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from San Jose State University and a Master of Fine Arts from the Yale School of Art. Kaphar lives and works in New Haven with his wife Julianne and their sons.

YASHUA KLOS | Visual Arts National Selection Panel | Yashua Klos is a visual artist who employs a unique process of paper construction and woodblock printing to engage ideas about Blackness and maleness from his cultural perspective as a native Chicagoan. Klos' works have been shown in museums and galleries across the United States and internationally, including the Studio Museum of Harlem; the Weatherspoon Museum; Greensboro, North Carolina; and What If The World in Johannesburg, South Africa. His works have been reviewed in *The New York Times*, and he has been awarded residencies at Skowhegan, The Vermont Studio Center and Bemis. He is the recipient of a 2014 Joan Mitchell Fellowship and a 2015 NYFA grant. Klos is represented by Tilton Gallery in New York and Galerie Anne De Villepoix in Paris.

T. ELLIOTT MANSÁ | Visual Arts Guest Artist | T. Elliott Mansa (b. 1977) lives and works in Miami, Florida. Mansa received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Florida (2000) and a Master of Fine Arts from CUNY Hunter College (2018). Mansa has developed an assemblage practice that incorporates materials from roadside memorials, applying ritual practices from West African, Caribbean and Southern religious and vernacular sculptural traditions. He is interested in questioning the efficacy of political art making and looks to apotropaic art making practices. With intentional conceit, he creates a ritual practice to honor, memorialize, protect and defend Black Lives, from state and extrajudicial violence. Recent exhibition venues include LnS Gallery and David Castillo Gallery in Miami, Florida; Rush Gallery in Brooklyn, New York; and Galerie Myrtis in Baltimore, Maryland. Mansa received the 2019 Creator Award from Oolite Arts and is a current resident at Oolite Arts.

CHIRE REGAN | Visual Arts Guest Artist | Chire Regan's "VantaBlack", was born in Saint Louis and lived there until her family relocated to Miami in the late 1980s. Crime was out of control in Saint Louis and Miami was viewed as a refuge of sorts by her mother. Her passion for art began soon after. After graduating from Florida A&M University, Regan began to focus primarily on drawing from life and portraiture. As societal issues began to weigh heavily on her conscience, a message took shape behind the imagery. The emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement pushed her art in the direction of social awareness and change. In late February of 2016, a number of young people became victims of an ongoing epidemic of gun violence in Miami-Dade County. Driven by emotion and the need to bring awareness to this epidemic, she began a series of memorial portraits of victims of violence in Miami-Dade County and beyond. This series, which Regan categorizes as Social Commentary Art, began with five portraits and now includes over 100 portraits of victims, and their stories. The goals of this Memorial Portrait Project include addressing the effects of gun violence in the community, raising awareness and sparking a constructive dialogue about how to act to combat this epidemic. The second series entitled *The Invisible Black Woman* began as a way to give a voice back to Black women who are often overlooked and rendered invisible. The inclusion of portraits from each series is representative of the continual versus permanent silencing of women of color.

JEAN SHIN | Visual Arts Guest Artist and YoungArts Board Trustee | 1990 YoungArts Winner in Visual Arts & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts | Jean Shin is recognized for her monumental installations that transform everyday objects into elegant expressions of identity and community engagement. She has had numerous solo exhibitions at prestigious institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Asian Art Museum, San Francisco. Her work has been featured in more than 150 exhibitions at major cultural institutions such as the New Museum, The Brooklyn Museum, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Asia Society, Barnes Foundation, and Museum of Art and Design. As an accomplished artist practicing in the public realm, Shin has received commissions for large-scale, permanent installations from major public federal and city agencies. She recently completed a landmark commission for the MTA's Second Ave Subway at the 63rd Street station in Manhattan. Shin has received a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, Asian Cultural Council Fellowship, NYFA Fellowships, among others. She has been featured in *Art in America*, *Sculpture Magazine* and *The New York Times*. With over 20 years teaching experience, she is a tenured Adjunct Professor of Fine Art at Pratt Institute and a recipient of Pratt's 2017 Alumni Achievement Award. She is the Board President of the Joan Mitchell Foundation and serves on the board of National YoungArts Foundation. Shin lives and works in Brooklyn and upstate NY.

JASMINE WAHI | Exhibition Curator and Guest Artist | Jasmine Wahli is a curator, activist, TEDx Speaker, and Founder and Co-Director of Project for Empty Space. Her practice predominantly focuses on issues of femme empowerment, complicating binary structures within social discourses, and exploring multipositional cultural identities through the lens of intersectional feminism. In 2010, Wahli co-founded Project For Empty Space, a not-for-profit organization

that creates multidisciplinary art exhibitions and programming that encourage social dialogue, education and systemic change through the support of both artists and communities. In 2015, Wahi joined Rebecca Jampol to open a brick and mortar gallery for PES Newark, New Jersey. Though she does not consider herself to be an artist, Wahi has organized numerous interventions and happenings as part of her social activist work. In 2018, she served as Co-Chair of Rape, Radicality, and Representation for the College Art Association's Day of Panels with The Feminist Art Project (TFAP), organizing a day of intersectional feminist-based performances, films and conversations. In 2019, she spoke at TEDxNJIT on the idea of resilience. In 2020, she curated the two-part exhibition *Abortion Is Normal*, which received wide critical acclaim, and will be touring cross country as part of a campaign to get out the vote. In addition to her other work, Wahi is a faculty member at the School of Visual Arts: Master of Fine Arts department. She is a former board member of the South Asian Women's Creative Collective (SAWCC), and a volunteer instructor for the Girls Educational Mentoring Services (GEMS) group. Wahi's curatorial work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *ARTNews*, *Artforum*, *Hyperallergic*, *Bloomberg*, *VICE*, and *NowThis*, to name a few.

HANK WILLIS THOMAS | Visual Arts Guest Artist | Hank Willis Thomas is a conceptual artist working primarily with themes related to perspective, identity, commodity, media and popular culture. His work has been exhibited throughout the United States and abroad including the International Center of Photography, New York; Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Spain; Musée du quai Branly, Paris; Hong Kong Arts Centre, Hong Kong; and the Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Netherlands. Solo exhibitions of his work have been featured at Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon; Crystal Bridges Museum of Art, Bentonville, Arkansas; SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, Georgia; California African American Museum, Los Angeles, California; Philadelphia Photo Arts Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, Ohio; The Art Museum at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky; The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, Connecticut; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York; Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, Maryland; Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri, and the African American Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, among others. Thomas' work is included in numerous public collections including the Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York; The Brooklyn Museum, New York, New York; High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia, and the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Thomas holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from New York University, New York, New York (1998) and a Master of Arts and Master of Fine Arts from the California College of the Arts, San Francisco, California (2004). He received honorary doctorates from the Maryland Institute of Art, Baltimore, Maryland and the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts, Portland, Maine in 2017.

ALEXIS AIMÉ | Voice Discipline Coordinator | 2010 YoungArts Winner in Voice | Soprano and South Carolinian Alexis Aimé is based in Southern Florida where she performs and works with many classical music and arts-based companies. She completed her Master of Music degree at University of Maryland Opera Studio, and received her bachelor's degree in vocal performance at Oberlin Conservatory. She has performed classic roles in numerous venues including several recitals at Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall and was invited to perform at Tedx Nashville in a presentation on music business. She also participated in Jay Jackson's immersive dance and art project *[In]Visibility* as part of a residency with YoungArts where she sang and composed portions of the music for the project. She currently serves as Director of Artistic Planning & Operations for Seraphic Fire.

JASON FERRANTE | Voice National Selection Panel | Tenor Jason Ferrante's opera and concert career includes performances at New York City Opera, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Teatro Pavarotti in Modena, Opera Philadelphia, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Wexford Festival, Wolf Trap Opera, Tanglewood, Aspen, Interlochen and opera companies around the world. He is on the guest voice faculty for the Young Artists Programs at Wolf Trap Opera, Minnesota Opera, Nashville Opera, Michigan Opera Theater and has also served on faculty for the programs at Arizona Opera, Florida Grand Opera and Virginia Opera. He is on the voice faculty of the UBC Summer Voice Workshop in Vancouver, BC. His students sing in opera houses around the world and have been winners in competitions such as the Met National Council Auditions, George London Awards, and the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World. He has been a panelist on the Metropolitan Opera Quiz and written articles for the Juilliard Journal. The Baltimore native holds the BM and MM from The Juilliard School, where he was a student of the legendary vocal pedagogue Beverley Peck Johnson.

LISA FISCHER | Voice Guest Artist | After four decades of featured background singing with icons like Luther Vandross, The Rolling Stones, Chaka Khan, Tina Turner and Nine Inch Nails, Fischer set out to take center stage with her own humble, heartfelt song. The 2013 Best Documentary Oscar-winning film *Twenty Feet from Stardom* altered the course of Fischer's musical journey, telling her story, with clips of her legendary duets with Sting or with Mick Jagger on *Gimme Shelter*. It left audiences eager to see and hear more, so Fischer took the chance to set out on her own reinventing classic songs with her co-conspirators JC Maillard and Grand Baton. Their organic fusion of Caribbean psychedelic soul and jazzy progressive rock ignited Fischer's flexibility and freedom of expression, awakening her lifelong desire to make music that heals but still rocks the house. While her range is legendary, her greatest gift is the ability to connect, to reach the hearts of her listeners. Raised in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn, Fischer emerged from New York's fervent studio scene in the early 1980s, sang for two decades with legendary vocalist Luther Vandross, and released *So Intense*, earning her first Best R&B Performance Grammy with *How Can I Ease The Pain*. She joined the Rolling Stones for their 1989 *Steel Wheels* tour, and continued to grace their stage for the next 26 years. Fischer's passion for constant growth and experimentation with different styles invited recent collaborations with jazz pianist Taylor Eigsti, Sting, Bruce Springsteen, Michael McDonald, Eric Krasno, Talib Kweli, Billy Childs and YoYo Ma, the BBC

Proms/Jules Buckley and the Metropole Orkest, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, Anna Deavere Smith's *Notes from the Field* for HBO, and especially her full evening program *The Classic Lisa Fischer* with Grand Baton and Seattle Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony and the National Philharmonic. With spiritual truth telling as her compass and loving kindness as her guide, Fischer continues her creative journey, destination unknown.

SARA GAZAREK | Voice Guest Artist | Bursting onto the scene with a major recording contract right out of college, Sara Gazarek found herself thrust into the spotlight at 20 years old. Everything in her career seemed to be moving in the right direction until it was not — the dissolution of a marriage, the separation of a longtime musical partnership, and a family member's almost near death led to a breaking point. In recovery, friend and mentor Kurt Elling inspired Gazarek to search deeper in her art resulting in a masterpiece that has taken three years to complete. *Thirsty Ghost* was released via the Orchard in August 2019 and received two Grammy nominations in 2020. Gazarek is currently on faculty at the University of Southern California, leading the award-winning vocal jazz ensemble there and teaching privately. Hailed by the *Los Angeles Times* as “the next important jazz singer,” she continues to seamlessly combine singer-songwriter intimacy with the improvisational elements of jazz, all with a renewed sound and spirit.

LATANYA HALL | Voice National Selection Panel | La Tanya Hall's versatility in a variety of musical genres has allowed her to travel the world and work with some of the world's most celebrated artists, including Steely Dan, Diana Ross, Bobby McFerrin, Quincy Jones, Rob Thomas, Michael Feinstein, Patti Labelle, Harry Belafonte, Steve Tyrell and Aretha Franklin. She has also appeared as a solo artist in her own right with the American Composers Orchestra, The Denver Symphony and the St. Louis Symphony, and at jazz clubs around the world. Hall is also an active educator, teaching clinics in Basel, Switzerland for the Stimmen Festival, as well as teaching master classes on vocal performance and the Great American Songbook for various institutions in the United States. She created the first vocal jazz degree program at Oberlin Conservatory five years ago and continues to teach there as an associate professor of jazz voice. In addition, she was an adjunct professor at The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music in Manhattan for 12 years. Hall is an accomplished actress, having lent her skills to numerous voice-over projects, Broadway shows, movie and television appearances. TV shows include *Blue Bloods* (Sabine Winston), *Law & Order*, *100 Centre Street*, *The Sopranos* and *Now and Again*. Broadway and theater appearances include *Cotton Club Parade* with jazz master Wynton Marsalis; the role of Deena in *Dreamgirls*; *Promises, Promises* for City Center Encore Series; and Sally in *A Christmas Carol* at Madison Square Garden. Her new record, *Say Yes* (Blue Canoe Records), debuted in November 2020 and is garnering rave reviews, including being named one of the top ten vocal albums for 2019.

CHUCK HUDSON | Voice Guest Artist | Chuck Hudson has directed opera productions at major companies including Cape Town, Cincinnati, Florida Grand, Minnesota, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Austin Lyric, Hawaii, Seattle and Wolf Trap. He has directed award-winning theatre productions in New York and regionally including his own Immediate Theatre in Seattle. Hudson's work was mentioned in the January 2011 edition of *American Theatre Magazine* and the October

2018 edition of *Classical Singer Magazine*. He was a co-creator of Seattle Opera's Young Artist Program, creating specialized classes on acting and movement skills for singers that he has presented for more than 20 years at training programs in the United States, Europe and Australia, including San Francisco Opera's Merola and Adler Fellows programs, The Melba Opera Trust and Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in Australia, and The Dame Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation in New Zealand among many others. Hudson's specialty in movement comes from a background in gymnastics as well as being one of three Americans to have received a diploma from the Marcel Marceau International School of Mimedrama in Paris. He is the only American to be appointed to teach at Marceau's School, and he performed with Marceau on his 1991 European Tour and in Klaus Kinski's film *Paganini*.

JOAN LADER | Theater and Voice Guest Artist | Joan Lader's more than thirty years of providing vocal training and rehabilitation for professional voice users was commemorated in June 2016 when she was awarded the American theater's highest honor, a Tony Award for "Excellence in the Theater." Trained as a Master's level speech pathologist, she specializes in working with singers and actors, and in collaboration with New York's top otolaryngologists, rehabilitation of injured voices. Her extensive practice includes leading actors and singers from Broadway, film, opera, R&B, rap, rock and pop. Lader is a certified Master Teacher of the Estill Voice Training System, and has extensive training in the Alexander Technique, as well as Fitzmaurice Voice Work and the work of Arthur Lessac. She has given master classes at universities and summer programs throughout the country, is a consultant at NYU's The New Studio and is on the advisory board of the Voice Foundation and the Manhattan School of Music. Last month Lader gave the keynote address at the Northwest Voice Conference on the Art and Science of the Performing Voice. She has contributed numerous articles in many educational and professional books on various aspects of vocal production and care of the professional voice, as well as exercises for voice therapy.

RAUL MIDÓN | Voice Guest Artist | Heralded as a "one-man band who turns a guitar into an orchestra and his voice into a chorus," (*The New York Times*) Raul Midón has collaborated with such heroes as Herbie Hancock, Stevie Wonder, Jason Mraz, Queen Latifah and Snoop Dogg. Blind since birth, Midón produced-engineered his 2017 album *Bad Ass and Blind* using special computer software for the blind. The album, which confronts the challenges of his blindness with verve and grace, received a 2018 Grammy nomination in the category Best Jazz Vocal Album. Midón's 2018 follow up release *If You Really Want*, featuring the Metropole Orkest under the direction of Vince Mendoza, was nominated for a 2019 Grammy Award in this same category. His latest record *The Mirror*, was released in March 2020 and features entrancing solo spoken-word pieces, collaborations with Joe Locke and Gerald Clayton, and more.

JEREMY REGER | Voice Coach | Jeremy Reger came to the voice department after holding the position of director of keyboard studies and collaborative arts at Christopher Newport University in Virginia. The international performer and educator says although the natural beauty of the region was a big draw, in the end it was the passion of the students and faculty at the College of Music that led him here. Teaching and mentorship are Reger's true passions and he's worked with some of the top vocal performers and coaches in the country, including at the Minnesota Opera,

Indiana Opera Theater, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Ann Arbor Opera. In summer 2014 he was a coach and performer at the Opera Studio de Recife in Brazil. Reger has also been on the faculty of Music Academy of the West, and worked for Virginia Opera. A strong supporter of local arts organizations, he has also played with the Virginia Symphony, the Williamsburg Symphonia and the Cantabile Singers Art Song Project. Reger holds degrees from Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and the University of Michigan.

NIKKI ROLLASON | Voice Guest Artist | Nikki Rollason was bamboozled into the Feldenkrais Method when she sought out a solution for her chronic dance injuries. At 18, she was going to Dale Russell, a movement teacher who was sneaking in short Feldenkrais explorations into his classes. Over time, the Feldenkrais lessons monopolized class time and he had hooked a whole group. After graduating with her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance from New World School of the Arts in 1997, she entered the Feldenkrais Institute's Manhattan professional training program, completing in 2002. The program transformed her dancing and her life, her chronic pain diminishing in the process. She began working with Feldenkrais Assistant Trainer, Bonnie Kissam in 2016 co-teaching *Touch to Inform* seminars, introducing massage therapists and other healthcare and movement practitioners to the power of gentle touch as communication to the nervous system. Her work as a rehabilitative movement coach is informed by both her Feldenkrais and dance backgrounds.

CHRIS SAMPSON | Voice National Selection Panel | Chris Sampson has enjoyed a diverse career in music as an educator, songwriter, performer, producer, arts administrator and author. In 2009, Sampson founded the Popular Music program at the USC Thornton School of Music, which is considered to be the first of its kind at a major university. As an associate professor of songwriting, Sampson's students have penned #1 hit songs, won Grammy Awards, won national songwriting competitions, signed major recording and publishing contracts, toured nationally and internationally, and have placed numerous songs in television and film. He serves as the songwriting instructor for The GRAMMY Foundation education programs. Sampson regularly gives masterclasses and clinics on songwriting and careers in music around the world, including the Royal Northern College of Music (Manchester, UK), Interlochen Arts Academy, Colorado University Denver, and the Make Music Miami Festival, to name a few. He is the author of numerous articles on songwriting and songwriting pedagogy as well as the author of *Careers Through Music: Building Employable Skills in Your Music Class* published by Alfred Publishing in partnership with The GRAMMY Museum. He has interviewed over 400 music professionals including some of the most iconic names in the industry such as Irving Azoff, John Mayer, Smokey Robinson, Sir Elton John, Sting, Chaka Khan, Linda Perry, Graham Nash, Jody Gerson and Dan Wilson. Sampson is the producer and host of *Joy Sounds: Music You Need to Know*, a weekly podcast that showcases talented emerging and breaking artists. Sampson is the recipient of the 2017 USC Provost's Mentoring Award and the 2019 Ramo Faculty Award at USC Thornton. As an administrator, Sampson has served as Vice Dean for the Division of Contemporary Music at USC Thornton and Vice President of Academic Affairs at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music among numerous other appointments. Sampson is a Lifetime Voting Member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame, member of BMI, and serves on the Advisory Board for the Orange County High School for the Arts.

MARLON SAUNDERS | Voice Guest Artist | Marlon Saunders is an American singer, songwriter and record producer. Saunders has two solo recordings on his independent label, Black Honey Records: the improvisational *A Groove So Deep: The Live Sessions* and 2003's *Enter My Mind*. Marlon was co-founder of The Jazzhole, a New York-based band, widely regarded as one of the key members of the acid-jazz movement. Saunders also co-founded the Afrocentric soul-jazz vocal ensemble Sepia, known throughout the world for their soul-stirring lyrics and beautiful harmonies. Saunders toured as Choir Director with Stevie Wonder on *The Songs In the Key of Life* Tour. He has toured with Bobby McFerrin as a member of his vocal group, Voicestra. As a session and touring singer, he has worked with a variety of artists such as Michael Jackson, Lauryn Hill, Billy Joel, Sting, Darius Ruckert, Donald Brown, Joe Henderson, Ron Carter, Shawn, Nine Inch Nails, Jane Siberry, Shania Twain, Vanessa Williams, Julee Cruise, Sting, Martha Wash, Freddie Jackson, Jeffrey Osbourne, Tramaine Hawkins, Peabo Bryson, Dance Theatre of Harlem and Ronald K. Brown. Saunders has contributed to the video game scene as well, particularly games made by Sega. He appears as the Calypso Singer in the popular Disney film *Enchanted*, receiving best-song nominations at the Golden Globe and Critics' Choice Awards.

ISAIAH SHARKEY | Voice Guest Artist | Grammy Award-winning guitar virtuoso & vocalist Isaiah Sharkey fuses together his background in rock, gospel, jazz, R&B, blues and funk to create an original sound with an unmistakable dose of soul. Coming from a musical household in Cabrini Green, Chicago, ISharkey started learning music under the close introduction of his father, Michael Sharkey. After releasing the album *Skyliner* at the age of 14 with his father and brothers, he began his recording career and served as a sideman for gospel artists such as Smokie Norful, Donald Lawrence and Vanessa Bell Armstrong, as well as lead guitarist with Ronald Isley. In 2009, Sharkey started working with D'Angelo on his third album, *Black Messiah*, which won the 2015 Grammy Award for Best R&B Album. He has since recorded and toured with John Mayer, Patti LaBelle, Common, Anderson .Paak, Paul Simon, Robert Glasper, Chaka Khan, Corrine Bailey Rae, and many others. His debut album *Love.Live.Life* (2017) earned him iHeart Radio's Artist of the Month Award for his single *It's a Shame* featuring DJ Jazzy Jeff. Sharkey released his latest album, *Love is the Key (The Cancerian Theme)*, in June 2019.

RUSSELL THOMAS | Voice Guest Artist | With a "heroically shining tone of exceptional clarity and precision" (*Opera Magazine*) and "gorgeously burnished power" (*The New York Times*), American tenor Russell Thomas uses his signature elegance and intensity to create vivid character portrayals on the world's most important stages. The 2019/20 season featured Thomas's much-anticipated role debuts in a trio of important Verdi roles. He opened the season with his first Don Alvaro in a new Frank Castorf production of *La forza del destino* at Deutsche Oper Berlin, and subsequently made his role and house debuts as Raames in Houston Grand Opera's new Phelim McDermott production of *Aida*. Amid returns to Canadian Opera Company as Radames and Washington National Opera as the title character in Verdi's iconic *Otello*, he also joins Gianandrea Noseda at the Vienna Konzerthaus for Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*. Thomas closed his season with a role debut as the title character in *Ernani* at San Francisco Opera. Thomas is an alumnus of the young artist programs at the Metropolitan Opera, Seattle Opera, Florida Grand Opera,

and Opera Theatre of St. Louis, and has received prizes from the George London Foundation for Singers, Liederkrantz Foundation, Licia Albanese Puccini Foundation and Richard Tucker Music Foundation. In 2010, he swept the Grand Prize, Audience Prize and Tenor Prize of the Francisco Viñas Competition in Barcelona, Spain.

LEMON ANDERSEN | Writing Guest Artist | Lemon Andersen is a Tony Award-winning playwright, poet, spoken word artist, youth empowerment activist, brand creative and television writer. He has written for Spike Lee's *She's Gotta Have it* for Netflix, and his play *ToasT* debuted in April 2015 and was commissioned by the Public Theater in New York and the Sundance Institute. Andersen's performances and writing have been hosted in venues ranging from Theatre On The Square (San Francisco, California), Gammage Performing Arts Center (Tempe, Arizona), Spoleto Festival (Charleston, South Carolina), Arts & Ideas Festival (New Haven, Connecticut), the Chicago Theatre (Chicago, Illinois) and the Kodak Theatre (Los Angeles, California). *County Of Kings*, Andersen's coming-of-age autobiographical memoir produced by Spike Lee at the Public Theater, was met with critical acclaim by *The New York Times* and was awarded Grand Prize at the New York Book Festival. His appearance on *Def Poetry Jam*, produced by Russell Simmons on Broadway, ran for six seasons on HBO and earned Andersen a Tony Award. His book of poems, *Straightrazor*, was excerpted by actor and activist Hill Harper for his bestselling book *Letters to an Incarcerated Brother*. A native New Yorker, Andersen proudly represents Brooklyn.

MEGAN BAXTER | Writing Discipline Coordinator | 2004 YoungArts Winner in Writing | 2004 Presidential Scholar in the Arts | Megan Baxter's first book *The Coolest Monsters, A Collection of Essays* was published in 2018 by Texas Review Press. Her memoir *Farm Girl* is forthcoming from Green Writers Press and her debut novel is being shopped to agents and publishers. Megan has won numerous national awards including a Pushcart Prize. Her work has been listed in The Best American Essays of 2019. Recent publications included pieces in The Threepenny Review, Hotel Amerika, The Florida Review, and Creative Nonfiction Magazine. She is a nonfiction reader for The Maine Review. Megan holds an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from Vermont College of the Fine Arts and a BFA in Poetry from Goddard College. In 2004, when she graduated from Interlochen Arts Academy as a Creative Writing Major, Megan was honored as a Presidential Scholar in the Arts and was awarded two Scholastic Portfolio Awards, one in poetry and the other in creative nonfiction. She is currently conducting research for an environmentally themed novel as well as writing personal essays and poems.

CHRISTOPHER CASTELLANI | Writing National Selection Panel | 1992 YoungArts Winner in Writing | Christopher Castellani's fourth novel, *Leading Men*, for which he received a Guggenheim Fellowship, was published by Viking in February 2019 and went on to be featured in *People*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Interview*, *Publishers Weekly* and *The New York Times*, where it was named an Editors' Choice. Castellani is also the author of the novels *All This Talk of Love* (2013), *The Saint of Lost Things* (2005) and *A Kiss from Maddalena* (2003), which won the 2004 Massachusetts Book Award. His collection of essays on point of view in fiction, *The Art of Perspective*, was published by Graywolf in 2016. He is currently on the faculty of the Master of Fine Arts Program for Writers at Warren Wilson and the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. He lives in Boston, where he is artistic director of GrubStreet.

VICTORIA COLLADO | Writing Guest Artist | Victoria Collado is a Cuban-American, Miami-born and raised director currently living and working in New York. She has an interest in merging the movement world with naturalist plays in order to create exciting theatrical experiences. She recently directed the immersive theatre piece, *AMPARO*, written by Vanessa Garcia in partnership with Havana Club by Bacardi. Collado has directed for Repertorio Español, MCC Youth Company, Sheen Center, IATI Theatre, Juggerknot Theatre Co., Microteatro Miami, Columbia University, and others. Her production *El Burlador de Sevilla* received various nominations from the ACE awards, and won for Outstanding Ensemble. She was a Van Lier Directing Fellow with Repertorio Español, part of the Directing Corps in the Williamstown Theatre Festival, and a recipient of the SDCF Observership. Collado was the assistant director to Tony Taccone in John Leguizamo's *Latin History For Morons* on Broadway. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Florida International University. She is a fellow of the WP Theater's 2018-2020 Lab. Collado is an Associate Member of SDC.

NICOLE COOLEY | Writing National Selection Panel | 1984 YoungArts Winner in Writing & U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts | Nicole Cooley grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her most recent books are two poetry collections, *Girl after Girl after Girl* (Louisiana State University Press, 2017) and *Of Marriage* (Alice James Books, 2018). She has published four other collections of poems, *Breach*, *Milk Dress*, *The Afflicted Girls* and *Resurrection*, as well as a novel, *Judy Garland*, *Ginger Love*, a chapbook, *Frozen Charlottes*, *A Sequence*, and a collaborative artists' book (with book artist Maureen Cummins), *Salem Lessons*. She has also published a collaborative chapbook with her father, Peter Cooley, *Vanishing Point* (2018). Her awards include The Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets, a Discovery/The Nation Award, an NEA, a Creative Artists fellowship from The American Antiquarian Society, and the Emily Dickinson Award from the Poetry Society of America. Her scholarly work includes serving as co-editor "Mother" issue of the journal *Women's Studies Quarterly*, as well as publishing essays in *At Length*, *Pilot Light: A Journal of 21st Century Poetics*, *American Poet*, *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, *The American Poetry Review*, *Pedagogy: Critical Approaches to Teaching Literature, Language, Composition and Culture* as well as in the edited collections *Devouring Institutions: The Life Work of Kathy Acker* and *We Who Love to Be Astonished: Innovative Women Writers and Performance Artists*. Her non-fiction essays have recently appeared in *Entropy*, *The Paris Review*, *The Southern Review*, *The Rumpus*, *The Feminist Wire* and *The Atlantic*. She is currently completing a non-fiction book project, *My Dollhouse, Myself: Miniature Histories*. She has taught at Bucknell University and the Stonecoast Low-Residency Master of Fine Arts program, as well in Merida, Mexico with US Poets in Mexico and at the Chautauqua Institution. Currently, she is the director of the Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing and Literary Translation at Queens College-City University of New York where she is a professor of English.

EDWIDGE DANTICAT | Writing Guest Artist | Edwidge Danticat is the author of several books, including *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, *Krik? Krak!*, *The Farming of Bones* and *Everything Inside*. She is the editor of *The Butterfly's Way: Voices from the Haitian Diaspora in the United States* and *Haiti Noir* and *Haiti Noir 2*. She has written seven books for young adults and children, *Anacaona*, *Behind the Mountains*, *Eight Days*, *The Last Mapou*, *Mama's Nightingale*, *My Mommy Medicine*, and *Untwine*, as well as a travel narrative, *After the Dance, A Walk Through Carnival in Jacmel*. Her memoir, *Brother, I'm Dying*, was a National Book Award finalist in 2007 and a National Book Critics Circle Award winner for autobiography. Danticat is a 2009 MacArthur Fellow and winner of the 2018 Neustadt Prize for Literature. She is a two-time winner of The Story Prize, a 2020 United States Artist fellow, and winner of the 2020 Vilcek Prize for Literature.

FINAL DRAFT | Writing Guest Artists | Final Draft is a screenwriting software for writing and formatting screenplays.

VANESSA GARCIA | Writing National Selection Panel | Vanessa Garcia is a multidisciplinary artist working as a novelist, playwright and journalist. Her debut novel, *White Light*, was published in 2015, to critical acclaim. Named one of the Best Books of 2015 by *NPR*, *Al Dia*, *Flavorwire*, and numerous other publications and institutions, it also won an International Latino Book Award. Her plays have been produced in Edinburgh, Miami, Los Angeles, New York and other cities around the world. These include the immersive hit, *Amparo* ("Miami's Hottest Ticket," according to *People en Español*); *The Cuban Spring* (a full-length Carbonell Award nominee for Best New Play, 2015), *The Crocodile's Bite* (a short included in numerous anthologies such as *Smith & Kraus' Best Ten Minute Plays of 2016*; the *City Theatre Anthology 2015*; and the *Writer's Digest Annual Award Anthology, 2015*), and *Freek!*, a short play for young adults (anthologized in *The Applause Acting Series' 5 Minute Plays For Teens*). As a journalist, feature writer and essayist, her pieces have appeared in *the Los Angeles Times*, *The Miami Herald*, *The Guardian*, *the Washington Post*, *Narrative.ly* and *American Theatre Magazine*, among numerous other publications. She is also a *Huffington Post* blogger. She holds a doctorate from the University of California Irvine in English (with a focus in Creative Nonfiction), an Master of Fine Arts from the University of Miami (in Fiction), and a Bachelor of Arts from Barnard College, Columbia University (English and Art History).

DR. JOAN MORGAN | Writing Guest Artist | Dr. Joan Morgan is a Grammy-nominated and award-winning cultural critic, feminist author, songwriter and a pioneering hip-hop journalist. Morgan coined the term "hip-hop feminism" in 1999, when she published the groundbreaking book, *When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost: A Hip-Hop Feminist Breaks it Down*, which is taught at universities globally. Regarded internationally as an expert on the topics of hip-hop, race and gender, Morgan has made numerous television and radio appearances. She has been a Visiting Scholar at The New School, Vanderbilt and Duke and Stanford University and is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor in the School of Cultural Analysis at New York University. Her most recent book is *She Begat This: 20 Years of the Miseducation of Lauryn Hill*. Jamaican-born and South Bronx bred, Morgan is a proud New Yorker.

KRISTEN SIMMONS | Writing Guest Artist | Kristen Simmons is the critically-acclaimed author of the Article 5 series, *The Glass Arrow*, *Metaltown*, *Pacifica*, *The Deceivers*, and co-author of *Set Fire to the Gods*. She has worked with survivors of abuse and trauma as a mental health therapist, taught Jazzercise in five states, and is forever in search of the next best cupcake. Currently she lives in Cincinnati, Ohio with her husband, son, and a pack of semi-wild dogs.

GRACE TALUSAN | Writing National Selection Panel | Grace Talusan's first book, *The Body Papers*, is a *New York Times* Editors' Choice selection, a winner in nonfiction for the Massachusetts Book Awards, and winner of the Restless Books Prize for New Immigrant Writing. She was born in the Philippines and raised in New England. She graduated from Tufts University and the Master of Fine Arts Program in Writing at UC Irvine. She is the recipient of a U.S. Fulbright Fellowship to the Philippines and an Artist Fellowship Award from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. She taught writing for many years at Tufts University and GrubStreet. Currently, Talusan is the Fannie Hurst Writer-in-Residence at Brandeis University. Her short story, *The Book of Life and Death*, was chosen for the 2020 Boston Book Festival's One City One Story program and was translated into several languages, including Tagalog.