

Sunday, Oct 5
3:00 PM
Petroff Residence



Composers Alliance of San Antonio

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presents

A Salon Concert

~ Program ~

<i>Title / Performer(s)</i>	<i>Composer</i>
<i>Collect No. 1 / 7 도 1 (against fascism)</i> Ara Koh, piano	Kevin Salfen
<i>Woodpecker Waltz (DOWO Tales, No. 2)</i> ~ <i>Variations on Woodpecker Waltz</i> Ardis Saunders, piano	Charles Goodhue
<i>Morning Song</i> ~ <i>Sentimental Waltz</i> Draven Soriano, piano	Dimitar Ninov
<i>Two Chromatic Preludes</i> William James Ross, piano	William James Ross
<i>Mystique</i> Pedro Salas, violin Thomas Mann, piano	Thomas Mann
<i>Based on a True Story</i> Clark Haygood, piano	Clark Haygood
<i>Ocean Cairn</i> Kade Stratton, cello SungEun Park, piano	Charles Goodhue

Planetary Odyssey, Part I

Juan Luis de Pablo Enríquez Rohen

I. *As I Build My Spacecraft*

Caroline Bickford, piano

II. *A Backyard Takeoff*

Max Lopez, piano

III. *A Dangle up in Space*

Aaryan More, piano

IV. *The Aurora at Sunrise from Space*

Liam Kaiser, piano

V. *Gravity Assist around a Planet*

Peter A Petroff, piano

Jimmy Cheung, piano

Improvisation in D Minor for Solo Cello

Bryce Thompson

Bryce Thompson, cello

Three Poems for Piano

Mark Gurrola

I. *A tube of non-being*

II. *...falling*

III. *“La tarde canta” by Federico Garcia Lorca*

Mark Gurrola, piano

Study No. 1 for Violin and Piano

Peter Petroff

Eric Siu, violin

SungEun Park, piano

Piano Music for Dr. Petroff

Ken Metz

SungEun Park, piano



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(continued on the next page)

~ *Program Notes* ~ (concert order)

Collect No. 1 / 기도 1 (*against fascism*) – (Kevin Salfen)

Collect No. 1 is a sequence of thoughts, a meditation on a particular problem of our time that echoes the previous century. These thoughts are not inspired by words, nor are they connected to spoken or written words. They are instead entirely musical and, to whatever extent they are referential, they refer to earlier pieces of music and particularly to other composers who lived in the iron grip of totalitarian regimes. In this way *Collect No. 1* is also an expression of solidarity and a musical way of drawing the oppressed closer to us through the act of listening, which can also be like prayer. It was premiered by Dr. Ara Koh at the 2025 Daejeon Contemporary Music Festival in South Korea.



Woodpecker Waltz (DOWO Tales No. 2) (Charles Goodhue) and **Variations on Woodpecker Waltz** (Ardis Saunders) – This theme comes from a series of four tales following our protagonist, the downy woodpecker, Dowo. With black and white spotted wings and a tuft of red feathers adorning his head, the woodpecker waltz is just the kind of classy song he would dance to. The variations are in twelve-bar segments with the first twelve introducing the theme of Dowo in light-hearted B-flat major. Following that is the theme in the right hand and harmonization in the bass, now in stormy g minor. Not to be outdone, the theme inverts to the bass and harmonization to the right hand. After that is a chaconne on the theme that leads into the finale featuring the entirety of Woodpecker Waltz. Will his dance end in jubilee or tragedy? You shall just have to wait and see.



Morning Song and **Sentimental Waltz** (Dimitar Ninov) – The piece *Morning Song* evokes the atmosphere of an unfolding sunny morning, which brings hope for a happy day. The means of jazz harmony gives nuance to the musical performance. The graceful *Sentimental Waltz* exudes nostalgia for a beautiful past and hope for a romantic future.



Two Chromatic Preludes (William James Ross) – My twelve abstract preludes were an experiment in the perception of form in music that has no tonal center. It is an outgrowth of compositions that require

the use of all twelve pitches of the chromatic spectrum that define the materials of western classical music that involve pitch. My preludes also challenge the perception of repetition as an element of satisfaction in listening. Having composed them seven years ago, I approach them as a listener as well as composer.



Mystique (Thomas Mann) – *Mystique* is part of a cartoonish series of fun violin and piano melodies I had written many years ago. This particular piece portrays the angst in a melancholy poem I composed when challenged to construct the prose using only a pile of magnetic words meant to be arranged on a refrigerator for fun at parties. The poem was oozing with overburdened adjectives, but the hypnotic melody and surprising harmonic changes followed as if it were birthed first.

Oh Bloody Mind,
Manipulate thy Sleeping God.
But I say to thee,
Time is not Forever.
So Voice on Dreamer,
and Want the Souls of Music.
Linger for,
but if only one taste,
yet escape no love.
Listen to and Adore the moment,
Because there lies
a Symphony of Bleeding Joy
Glazed In an Angels Drunken Song



Based on a True Story (Clark Haygood) - This piece is a story about being distracted from a simple task. The task, like the introductory ostinato associated with it, is important but repetitive, and (in the story) I want to do something entertaining at the same time (this is the melody over the ostinato). But over time I stop doing the important task; the melody has taken over now. When I realize what time it is, I get mad at myself; I try to do the task too fast, which only adds to the frustration. But later, I have a conversation about it with someone I trust, and we come up with strategies together so that it doesn't

happen again. *Based on a True Story* was submitted to the 2024–2025 PTA Reflections, which had the theme “Accepting Imperfection.”



Ocean Cairn (Charles Goodhue) – This piece is the cello version of an art song by Goodhue based on the poem by American poet Barbara Hunter (1943–2018). In her final years she often returned to a sandy beach preserve on the Maine coast where she found inspiration for her writing.

“Ocean Cairn”

With the sun she has spent this low tide morning sculpting piles of stones.

She is following the flow-line of the longest wave.

She sits now admiring the mottled, glistening surfaces wrought smoother and smoother by the
sea’s surging.

With the ebb and the ocean cairn at her feet she presses the beach with her stretching toes,
Ribboning a bit of green seaweed between them.

She slips into the future when each stone will become pebble,

Will become a tremble of sand

Ground fine and finer

With a flick of her foot she tosses the seaweed aside

Slides into her jeweled sandals

Lifts her silver skirt

And turns her back

On this universe of sand, sea, sky, and sun!



A Planetary Odyssey, Part I (Juan Luis de Pablo Enríquez Rohen) – These five short pieces for piano 4-hands that you are about to hear come from a collection of ten pieces specially composed for the Composers Alliance of San Antonio’s celebrated “Made in SA” programed concerts. These pieces, composed in the year 2020 tell a story according to the following titles: 1) As I Build my Spacecraft; 2) A Backyard Takeoff; 3) A Dangle up in Space; 4) the Aurora at Sunrise from Space; and 5) Gravity Assist Around a Planet. Next time, if we are able to program the second part of this suite, I will tell you the titles of the next five pieces so that we can enjoy the outcome of this colorful sci-fi story.



Improvisation in D Minor for Solo Cello (Bryce Thompson) – I created this piece in June 2024 as a contrast to my improvisations for electronic keyboard. This is my first work for solo cello.



Three Poems for Piano (Mark Gurrola)

A tune of non-being

Filling the void:

Spring sun

Snow whiteness

Bright clouds

Clear wind.

- Daido Ich'i. Translation by Yoel Hoffmann

Plum petals falling

I look up - the sky

a clear crisp moon.

- Baiko. Translation by Yoel Hoffmann

La tarde canta

una berceuse a las naranjas.

Mi hermanita canta:

La tierra es una naranja.

La luna llorando dice:

Yo quiero ser una naranja.

No puede ser, hija mía,

aunque te pongas rosada.

Ni siquiera limoncito.

¡Qué lástima!

- Federico García Lorca



Study No. 1 for Violin and Piano (Peter Petroff) – Study No. 1 is the first of four studies for the violin. They are sketches helping me to, I hope, write more challenging violin parts for other works. There are so many wonderful different challenges the violinist has to deal with. I think it is as wonderful an instrument as even the piano.



Piano Music for Dr. Petroff (Ken Metz) – This piece is dedicated to Dr. Peter Petroff. He has been an avid champion for piano and chamber music in San Antonio for many years. He is also a member of CASA (Composer's Alliance of San Antonio) where I first met him. Since he joined, he has most generously offered his home for CASA salon concerts every year. He is a great pianist, composer and gentleman who possesses a marvelous sense of humor. I don't know what type of doctor he was, but I'm sure he kept his patients in stitches regardless. I hope he enjoys the piece.

*~ **Biographies** ~* (alphabetical order)

Caroline Bickford is an 11-year-old student currently in her second year of piano lessons with Dr. Jimmy Cheung. She is an enthusiastic reader who enjoys a variety of creative activities, including sewing and writing. In addition to her hobbies, Caroline loves spending time with her family and friends.

Jimmy Cheung is a pianist with a versatile career as performer, educator, and collaborator. He is a laureate of numerous national and international competitions and has appeared on international stages such as Royal Albert Hall, Bridgewater Hall, and the Tobin Center. As a collaborative artist, he has performed with musicians from the Classical Music Institute, Fort Sam's Own, and Texas Lutheran University, and regularly performs piano duet with his wife Dr. Angela Lau as Duo Orchid. A dedicated pedagogue, Cheung has presented at major conferences, given masterclasses, served on competition juries, and received recognition such as the Dorothy Stolzenbach Payne Scholarship for teaching excellence. Cheung received doctoral degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, following previous studies at the Royal College of Music in London. He is currently

Assistant Professor at Texas Lutheran University School of Music and Piano Instructor at the Musical Arts Center of San Antonio.

Born in 1932 in Ames, Iowa, **Charles Goodhue** began piano studies at age five and enjoyed many fine teachers through graduate school and beyond. Since his teen age years, he has been composing music. He holds a PhD from UC-Berkeley in Biochemistry (1961), a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana (1954) and worked thirty years as a research scientist for Eastman Kodak Company. After retiring from Kodak, he worked for Genencor, a subsidiary of DuPont, and then decided to go part time to Eastman School of Music (1993-1994). He began studying composition with Samuel Adler and then continued privately. When Genencor moved to California, Dr. Goodhue moved to San Antonio to work as a Research Director for Lipatek. In 1998, he became a local piano teacher (which is something he never dreamed he might do) and later joined Composers Alliance of San Antonio (CASA) where he continues to compose more music.

Mark Gurrola is a composer, educator, and multi-instrumentalist originally from Lubbock, TX. He holds a bachelors in music composition from Texas Tech University, under the instruction of Dr. Mei-Fang Lin and Dr. Peter Fischer, and a masters in music composition from University of South Florida, under the instruction of Dr. Baljindr Sekhon and Mr. Paul Reller. Mark and his two cats now live in San Antonio, TX, where he teaches piano and roasts coffee.

Clark Haygood - Clark Haygood has loved music from a very young age. At one, he began learning the intricacies of music theory and piano; by two, he was composing his own music and decided that one day he would be a professional pianist and composer. At four, he started taking formal music lessons. At six, he challenged himself by taking the AP Music Theory exam and scoring a 5—the youngest person to do so. Now at thirteen, he is preparing to take the exam for the ARSM Diploma in Piano Performance. He is a very active musician who loves improvising, performing, teaching others everything he knows about music, and learning everything he can. Involved with CASA since 2021, Clark is also an eager member of the JTMC in San Antonio, where he loves making music with other young musicians.

Liam Kaiser is soon to be 11 years old, and currently, he's a student of Dr Jimmy Cheung. He started to play piano when he was 5 years old, but because of the pandemic, the school closed, so he started to play on the app Simply Piano. At 9 years old, he was hired to play in a jazz theater, Jazz on the Water, after the owner of the theater heard him play one day on some pianos that were displayed at Costco. He also enjoys cubing, coding, and, of course, playing video games.

Dr. Ara Koh is Assistant Professor of Practice in Piano at the University of the Incarnate Word, where she teaches piano lessons, class piano, Intro to Aural Skills, coordinates piano seminar, and accompanies the Cardinal Chorale. She received a doctoral degree in piano performance from Penn State University and a master's degree in piano performance from New England Conservatory of Music. She is an active performer, both as a soloist and collaborator, and has concertized throughout the United States, Europe, and Korea. She is an active member of the MTNA and serves as an adjudicator for numerous piano competitions including the Steinway Piano Gallery Concerto competition and the Ella Louise Burba Competition. Dr. Koh also serves as a staff accompanist at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church.

Max Lopez is 11 years old and has been playing the piano for over four years. He enjoys playing different types of music, with classical being his favorite. Max is a student of Dr. Jimmy Cheung for 2 years. As a young pianist, Max has achieved several awards, including division winner of the Dr. Peter Petroff competition in 2022, 2nd place in 2024, and 3rd place in 2025. He really enjoys his earth science, advanced math, and robotics classes. He also loves to play a variety of sports - soccer, football, golf, baseball, lacrosse, and currently on his school's cross country team.

Thomas Mann graduated with a BA in Music and a Master's in Composition from Texas State University and is currently Director of Orchestras and Classical Guitar Ensembles as well as the Fine Arts Department Chair at W. Charles Akins HS, in the Austin Independent School District, Texas. He plays Piano, Hammond Organ, and Guitar in several genres and with various artists around Texas. Mr. Mann plans to continue teaching and performing, while composing commercial, modern art music, and pedagogy for his orchestras. Thomas tries to keep his grasp beyond his reach and strives to be as well

rounded and disciplined in music as possible while striving for more knowledge and ability without sacrificing creativity in performance, composition and teaching practices.

Ken Metz is the Assistant Chair and a Professor of Music at the University of the Incarnate Word. He teaches music theory courses, coordinates the theory and keyboard skills area, and co-coordinates the composition area. His music has been performed around the world. The textbook, *Fundamentals for Aspiring Musicians*, published by Routledge, was co-authored by him and Dr. Robert Frank of SMU. Of the various activities undertaken, he is especially inspired by the project “Made in SA.” This project began as a concert for young pianists of music composed by members of CASA. From this beginning the expansion of this project has led to a piano book series, a documentary, and an annual concert (Made in SA X was held in January 2025). This model can be used by in other cities to promote interaction among composers, young musicians, and the instrumental music teachers in the community.

Dimitar Ninov is a Professor of Instruction in Music Theory at Texas State University, San Marcos. He is a published composer and theorist as well as an invited lecturer at international, national, and regional musical venues. He holds a doctoral degree in composition from the University of Texas at Austin, and master’s degrees in theory and composition from the National Academy of Music in Sofia, Bulgaria. Ninov was the 2009 Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Composers, United States. His music has been performed in many countries. Web: dimitarninov.com

Aaryan More is 10 years old. He has been playing the piano for over 6 years, and has been studying with Dr. Jimmy Cheung for 2 years. He loves science and conducting hands-on experiments. He likes to play board games, video games, play with Legos, and read all kinds of books. Aaryan also enjoys physical sports such as swimming and cricket.

Juan Luis de Pablo Enríquez Rohen (b. 1971) – He lives in Mexico, as an active teacher, speaker, guitarist and composer at Tec de Monterrey. His twenty years old 'JLPER theory' which connects music with archaeoastronomy has led him to decipher the Aztec Sun Stone, revealing all the cosmic elements of our Solar System and beyond; a huge discovery for an important multidisciplinary pre-Columbian

aesthetics. Having studied in liberal arts institutions, Juan has taught music at the University of Houston, UNAM, Universidad La Salle, and the Escuela Superior de Artes de Yucatán. His principal teachers have been: Timothy Kramer, Michael Horvit and Robert Nelson.

SungEun Park – Pianist SungEun Park serves as the Director of Piano Studies and Music Theory – Assistant Professor of Piano at Texas Lutheran University, and Program Director of the Texas State International Piano Festival. Dr. Park has won several competitions including the 5th TSIPF Concerto Competition, American Prize, Butler School of Music Concerto Competition, Texas State University Concerto Competition, and Seoul Asia International Music Competition. Her concerto appearances include performances with the Central Texas Philharmonic Orchestra, Balcones Community Orchestra, and Jeju Philharmonic Orchestra. Besides classical piano repertoire, she has frequently premiered new works by leading contemporary composers. She has been invited to perform as guest artist at several international and national conferences. Dr. Park was invited to be a jury member in Texas Young Artist Piano Competition, Rose Petroff Piano Competition, and TFMC All State Festival. With degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Texas at Austin (DMA) and Texas State University (MM), she is dedicated to both performing and nurturing the next generation of musicians.

Dr. Peter Petroff has composed music since he was a child. He retired from the practice of medicine more than a decade ago and has devoted himself to music. He and his wife began the Rose Petroff Foundation more than 25 years ago which provides scholarships to primary, secondary, and college level students. He estimates that they have given away more than \$80,000 to date. He joined CASA three years ago and strongly supports its goals of bringing the music of San Antonio composers, who now live all over the world, to the attention of the classical music world.

William James Ross is an American composer born in Dallas, Texas. He was educated at the Juilliard School of Music and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, from which he received the Master of Music Degree in Music Composition, studying with Ross Lee Finney and Leslie Bassett. Further graduate work at the University of Texas with Karl Korte and Joseph Schwantner. Mr. Ross's works have been published by several publishers, including International Publisher, C.F. Peters. He is a founding member and past president of CASA, which publishes many of his teaching pieces, including

several whimsical works for violin and piano. Mr. Ross has completed several commissioned works for the Olmos Ensemble and a brief but large work for the Youth Orchestra of San Antonio.

Pedro Salas is a Mexican American violinist based in Austin. Pedro has been studying violin for seven years where he began learning in middle school, being mostly self-taught before receiving private lessons. He is currently pursuing his Bachelor's of Music in violin performance as a sophomore in the University of Texas at Austin Butler School of Music, studying under Professor Brian Lewis. There he plays in the UT Symphony Orchestra and Butler Opera Center. His past teachers include Dr. Sean Riley which he studied with from 2022-2024. Pedro is a violinist who will take any opportunity to share his passion of violin. He has played in multiple solo performances with APMC under their education program from 2022-2024, and is recipient of the APMC Felicity Coltman Scholarship Award 2022.

Kevin Salfen – Kevin Salfen (Professor of Music, University of the Incarnate Word) is a composer, scholar, filmmaker, and producer. His music has been performed in Asia, Europe, and throughout the U.S. He is a member of international performing ensemble Theatre Nohgaku, and two of his projects with that ensemble have received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts. His music has been released on Centaur and Broadway Bird Records. He curates and writes for the blog *Sound Trove*.

Ardis Cawthon Saunders is a Texas born and raised musician based in San Antonio. After graduating with a B.A. in Classics from Trinity University in 2022 where they participated in the Trinity University Chamber Singers, they have been involved in the local music community. They began taking piano and composition lessons with Dr. Charles Goodhue in summer of 2022. In addition, Ardis sings in the choir at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, studies violin and clarinet with Felix Cruz at Music on Magnolia, and is a member of vocal group Cantus Solís. They are also an on-call host for KPAC 88.3FM, Texas Public Radio's classical music station. Ardis would like to thank Dr. Goodhue for his continued guidance and support.

Eric Siu is a violinist on the faculty at Texas Lutheran University and a member of the San Antonio Philharmonic. Originally from Hong Kong, he began studying violin at age six and went on to study at

Wells Cathedral School (UK), Mannes College of Music, and The Juilliard School. He earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Rice University, where he studied with Kathleen Winkler.

Draven Soriano is a junior at Pieper High School who has studied piano for eight years, the last six under Izzy Anderson Pistor. In 2025, he earned 3rd place in the 9th–10th grade division of the Rose Petroff Competition and was invited to perform at the Petroff Honors Recital. He was also selected as a Youth Ambassador for Musical Bridges Around the World. For several years, Draven has received Superior Plus ratings at the San Antonio Music Teachers Association Achievement Auditions and has been chosen to perform in the Honors Recitals. He recently began teaching piano as part of an apprenticeship with Ms. Anderson Pistor. Beyond music, Draven enjoys digital drawing, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, and hopes to pursue a career in a creative field.

Bryce Kenneth Steffen Thompson (age 12) is a composer and cellist whose musical journey began with a love of improvisation. He currently studies composition with Stephen Hughes and cello with Kenneth Freudigman, having previously studied cello with Cora Harnish. Bryce performs with the YOSA Repertory Strings Orchestra. Between the ages of 9 and 11, he recorded and released seven albums of original improvisations on SoundCloud. Together, his 73 tracks have been streamed more than 18,000 times worldwide. In addition to cello, Bryce is expanding into organ and electric guitar, and he continues to explore a wide variety of musical styles. Away from music, he enjoys reading, watching movies, and playing chess. He is also an avid explorer of Duolingo and, having reached the Diamond League, is determined to keep his streak going!

Kade Stratton, a junior at Pieper High School, is the principal cellist under the direction of Richard Helsley. He also serves as second chair in the YOSA Philharmonic under conductor Troy Peters and studies privately with Ken Freudigman. This past summer, Kade attended the Texas Cello School Fredericksburg Music Festival, working under the guidance of Richard Erin, Camden Shaw, Clive Greensmith, and Stuart Pincock. He has also participated in masterclasses with Sterling Elliott and the University of Texas at San Antonio faculty.