
**Family Weekend 19th Amendment & Voting Rights Celebration: All-Play
Amherst College Jazz Ensemble, Choral Society, and Symphony Orchestra**

Saturday, November 5, 2022 · Buckley Recital Hall · 8 PM

CELEBRATING VOTING RIGHTS

To celebrate the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in 1920, which gave American women the right to vote, the Amherst College Choral Society, Amherst College Symphony Orchestra, and Amherst College Jazz Ensemble join forces to perform works celebrating voting rights. *Soliloquy* by Erica Seguine for Jazz ensemble, and the oratorio *Say Your Name*, by Indian-American composer Reena Esmail with texts by Rebecca Gayle Howell were commissioned by the Amherst Music Department for this occasion and will be premiered this evening.

There will be brief intermissions between ensembles to reset the stage.

PROGRAM**JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

Contemplation (1967)

Soliloquy (2022)

Peace (1959)

Bruce Diehl, Director

McCoy Tyner (1938 -2020), arr. Bruce Diehl

Erica Seguine b. 1987

Horace Silver (1928-2014), arr. Dan Langa

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Montgomery Variations (1965)

Mark Lane Swanson, Director

Margaret Bonds

1913 – 1972

I. Decision: *Andante deciso*

II. Prayer Meeting: *Religioso*

III. March

IV. Benediction: *A volunté*

CHORAL SOCIETY

Say Your Name (2022)

Text by Rebecca Gayle Howell

Arianne Abela, Director

Reena Esmail

b. 1983

I. Imbroglia

II. Aria

III. Dialogues

Sherezade Panthaki, soprano soloist

Alice Rogers '23, student soloist

Please silence your mobile phone, pager, watch, or any other electronic noise-makers during the concert. Please refrain from using electronic devices with light-producing screens, as they are distracting to your fellow audience members. Cameras and recording devices are strictly prohibited.

BIOGRAPHIES

Erica Seguire is a composer, conductor, and co-leader of the 21 musician Erica Seguire | Shan Baker Orchestra. Erica's compositions have received many awards, including the 2013 BMI Foundation Charlie Parker Prize for Jazz Composition/2014 Manny Albam Commission, and her compositions and arrangements have been performed by numerous ensembles such as the Metropole Orchestra, the Symphonic Jazz Orchestra, and the Danish Radio Big Band, to name a few. She has also worked as a conductor with many ensembles in NYC, and is a core team member/event host with JazzComposersPresent.com

Reena Esmail works between the worlds of Indian and Western classical music, to bring communities together through the creation of equitable musical spaces. Esmail holds degrees from The Juilliard School and the Yale School of Music. A resident of Los Angeles, Esmail is the 20-23 Swan Family Artist in Residence with Los Angeles Master Chorale, and was the 20-21 Composer in Residence with Seattle Symphony. She currently serves as Co-Chair of the Board of New Music USA, and Co-Founder and Artistic Director of Shastra, a non-profit organization that promotes cross-cultural music connecting musical traditions of India and the West.

Rebecca Gayle Howell is an award-winning poet and translator, and the longtime poetry editor for *The Oxford American*. Her books include *American Purgatory; Render / An Apocalypse*; and *Hagar Before the Occupation / Hagar After the Occupation*, Howell's translation of Amal al-Jubouri's feminist verse memoir of the Iraq War. Among Howell's honors are the United States Artists Fellowship, Great Britain's Sexton Prize, the Pushcart Prize, the Carson McCullers Fellowship, and two winter fellowships from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown.

Sherezade Panthaki is Lecturer in Vocal Performance at Mt. Holyoke College. Internationally renowned for her expertise in the performance of Baroque music, she enjoys ongoing collaborations with many of the world's leading conductors including Nicholas McGegan, Masaaki Suzuki, Mark Morris, Nicholas Kraemer, Matthew Halls, Paul Agnew, and Lawrence Cummings. She is a founding member and Artistic Advisor of the newly-formed Kaleidoscope Vocal Ensemble, celebrating racial diversity and musical excellence in early/ new music.

Margaret Bonds was raised in Chicago. She earned her B.M. (1933) and M.M. (1934) at Northwestern University, and worked as a composer, performer and teacher. She had hoped to study with Nadia Boulanger, but Boulanger told her she had no need to study with anyone. A musical virtuoso, she won multiple awards for solo piano performances of the European classics, but also composed pop music and performed jazz. Spirituals informed her large-scale works for chorus, voice and orchestra which included cantatas, a Mass, and a Credo. One of the best-known Black musicians of her day, and primarily a vocal composer, she collaborated with stars like Leontyne Price and Langston Hughes, and founded The Margaret Bonds Chamber Music Society, which sought to establish a canon of art music by Black composers.

*All events are free and held in Buckley Recital Hall unless otherwise noted
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