

**PRESENT**  
MUSIC

# THE BLUE HOUR

---

**APRIL 11 | 2024**  
**Milwaukee Art Museum**

**UPAF**  
UNITED PERFORMING ARTS FUND



# PRESENT MUSIC

PRESENTS

## THE BLUE HOUR

APRIL 11, 2024 | 7:30 PM CT

MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM | PRESENT MUSIC DIGITAL STAGE  
MILWAUKEE, WI

---

### *The Blue Hour (2017)*

Poetry from *On Earth* by Carolyn Forché, composed by:

Rachel Grimes, Sarah Kirkland Snider, Angélica Negrón, Shara Nova, and Caroline Shaw

**Prologue** - Shara Nova

**Opening** - Rachel Grimes

**A black map** - Angélica Negrón

**A memory** - Rachel Grimes

**A syllable** - Caroline Shaw

**Angelica-Balefire** - Sarah Kirkland Snider

**Canticle** - Angélica Negrón

**Dark** - Angélica Negrón

**Early summer's green plums** - Sarah Kirkland Snider

**Even if by forgetting** - Caroline Shaw

**Firmament** - Caroline Shaw

**1st Refrain** - Caroline Shaw

**Ghost swift** - Shara Nova

**He told her how** - Sarah Kirkland Snider

**Her hair** - Angélica Negrón

**I am alone** - Sarah Kirkland Snider

**In the toy store** - Rachel Grimes

**It appears to be an elegy** - Shara Nova

**J'ai rêvé** - Caroline Shaw

**Keeping a record**

**Library lilac** - Shara Nova

**My dear** - Sarah Kirkland Snider

**Nevertheless** - Shara Nova

**Oil soap** - Rachel Grimes

**Older than clocks** - Caroline Shaw

**Poppy seed** - Rachel Grimes

**2nd Refrain** - Caroline Shaw

**She heard no one's footsteps** -  
Sarah Kirkland Snider

**Tendril** - Rachel Grimes

**The ganglia** - Caroline Shaw

**The hole** - Angélica Negrón

**The name** - Rachel Grimes

**The silence** - Angélica Negrón

**Twirling** - Caroline Shaw

**Vesture, vigil** - Caroline Shaw

**We are paper** - Shara Nova

**Yet the women** - Sarah Kirkland Snider

**You are the ghost** - Shara Nova

**Zero** - Rachel Grimes

**3rd Refrain** - Caroline Shaw

# SPONSORS

**The United Performing Arts Fund** is the Presenting Sponsor of **THE BLUE HOUR**. Guest artist Shara Nova's performance is underwritten by **Lois A. Smith**. Guest conductor Deanna Tham's appearance is underwritten by **Randall Lindert**.

Present Music is a proud United Performing Arts Fund Member and appreciates the generous support received annually thanks to your UPAF donation.

Present Music's 2023-2024 season is also made possible by **National Endowment for the Arts (NEA); Wisconsin Arts Board** with funds from the State of WI & **NEA; Milwaukee Arts Board; Milwaukee County Cultural, Artistic and Musical Programming Advisory Council (CAMPAC)**, with sponsorship from **UWM Peck School of the Arts, Guardian Fine Art Services, and Saint John's on The Lake**.

Present Music is grateful for additional major funding from the **Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Bader Philanthropies, Anonymous Foundation, Richard & Ethel Herzfeld Foundation, Laskin Family Foundation; Two Sisters Fund, Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Heil Family Foundation, Pieper Electric, Amphion Foundation, Maihaugen Foundation; Woman's Club of Wisconsin, and GE Healthcare Foundation**. Student tickets have been generously donated by **Tim & Sue Frautschi**.

Thank you to all our generous donors.

In addition to Present Music's ongoing partnership with the **Milwaukee Art Museum**, Present Music welcomes **Woodland Pattern Book Center** and **Woman's Club of Wisconsin** as cultural partners of this concert.

# PRESENT MUSIC

**David Bloom and Eric Segnitz**

*Co-Artistic Directors*

## GUEST ARTISTS

**Shara Nova**

*Mezzo-Soprano*

**Deanna Tham**

*Conductor*

## MUSICIANS

**Jeanyi Kim-Mandl**

*Violin*

**Elliot Lee**

*Violin*

**Adrien Zitoun**

*Cello*

**Alex Ayers**

*Violin*

**Allie Switala**

*Violin*

**Lynn Kabat**

*Cello*

**Ji-Yeon Lee**

*Violin*

**Jerry Loughney**

*Violin*

**Nash Tomey**

*Bass*

**Lijia Phang**

*Violin*

**Georgi Dimitrov**

*Viola*

**Teddy Gabrielidies**

*Bass*

**Eric Segnitz**

*Violin*

**Samantha Rodriguez**

*Viola*

**Mitchell Graham**

*Sound Engineer*

**Paul Hauer**

*Violin*

**Alejandro Duque**

*Viola*

**Marty Butorac**

*Sound Engineer*

## STAFF

**Marta Troicki**

*Managing Director*

**Vania Jurkiewicz**

*Operations Manager*

**Daniel Petry**

*Development Manager*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jessica Franken**

*President*

**Louise Hermsen**

*Governance*

**Tim Frautschi**

*Special Director*

**Carole Nicksin**

*Vice-President*

**Martin Butorac**

**William Helmers**

**Fran Richman**

*Secretary*

**Heidi Dondlinger**

**Kai Simone**

**Brian Wilson**

*Treasurer*

**Christine Dunbeck**

**Reed Groethe**

**Lois Smith**

*Special Director*

**Donna Woodall**

*Special Director*

## SPECIAL THANKS

Milwaukee  
Art Museum

Martin Butorac

Heidi Fendos

Jason Gierl

Chris Ross Gould

Alex Moreno

Kyle Norris

David Vartanian

Barbara Schneider

Kantara Souffrant

Tanner/Monagle

# PROGRAM NOTES

One way that humans strive to control uncontrollable realities such as death is by imposing arbitrary rules and structures on the chaotic and inevitable. Another is by participating in the difficult but necessary act of being active members of a community or communities. *The Blue Hour*, in its conception, its process, and its content, lives and breathes these paradoxes. The work is an ambitious collaboration between five composers (Rachel Grimes, Sarah Kirkland Snider, Angélica Negrón, Shara Nova, and Caroline Shaw).

The work uses as its text Carolyn Forché's poem, "On Earth," which catalogs the scattered thoughts, visions, and imagery of a life passing ever closer to death, organized through the objective but arbitrary tool of alphabetization. This explicitly rationalized poetic form simultaneously evokes cold modernism and its ancient predecessors in biblical and gnostic abecedaries. The music that sets the poem draws similarly from an eclectic set of influences, at times setting the text quite literally (as with explicit references to Bach and settings that evoke plainchant and Renaissance polyphony), and at times using extended string techniques to create kaleidoscopic sound-paintings of Forché's moments of fantastical, jarring imagery.

The work also gleams with power ballads – unapologetic lyricism and no-nonsense songwriting that is often associated with contemporary non-classical genres but which here contributes to the intimacy and universality of the subject matter. The various movements, each entirely written by one of the composers, access the personal vernaculars and interests of each composer as they pass through the ordered but nonlinear narrative of Forché's poem, contributing to the scope and scale of the work and its underlying subjects.

# PROGRAM NOTES

When the five composers sat down for a meeting in the summer of 2016 about the possibility of bringing this song cycle to life, the group discussed in depth what justification there was for attempting a collaboration on such a scale for such a deeply personal work. As collaborators shared their own takes on the meaningful urgency of the project, the following statement took hold as a sort of “mission statement:”

In a time when we are seeing masses of people dehumanized – by war, displacement, poverty – we are looking here at a single life, the beautiful detail of one human existence. There is something precious in that; that through our sense of empathy with this one individual, we are given a lens through which to see our own world with greater clarity.

*– Program note by Alex Fortes*

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS



# SHARANOVA

**Shara Nova** Has released five albums under the moniker My Brightest Diamond and has composed works for yMusic, Brookly Rider, Brooklyn Youth Chorus, Roomful of Teeth, as well as the North Carolina, Indianapolis and Cincinnati symphonies, the American Composers Orchestra, the BBC Concert Orchestra, the BAM Next Wave Festival, and The Crossing. In the Fall of 2023, My Brightest Diamond toured with the band Wilco.

A number of contemporary classical composers, including Nico Muhly, Bryce Dessner, Steve Mackey and David Lang have created works specifically for her voice. She has collaborated with The Decemberists, The Blind Boys of Alabama, David Byrne, Laurie Anderson, Sufjan Stevens and many others.

# DEANNATHAM

Conductor **Deanna Tham** is known for her captivating spirit both on and off the podium. She is currently the Associate Conductor of the Oregon Symphony. Tham is passionate about cross-genre collaborations, and is a staunch advocate of music education, from school engagement and youth orchestra performing opportunities to lifelong learning. Tham is also an avid rock climber.





## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### **CAROLINESHAW**

Caroline Shaw is the recipient of the 2013 Pulitzer Prize in Music, several Grammy awards, and an honorary doctorate from Yale. She has worked with a wide range of artists, from Kanye West and Rene Fleming to Yo Yo Ma. Her work as a composer, violinist and singer with the ensemble Roomful of Teeth has made her one of the most sought-after musicians of our day.

### **RACHELGRIMES**

**Rachel Grimes** is a pianist, composer and founding member of the ground-breaking indie-rock chamber ensemble Rachels, with whom she has released six albums. She has toured widely both with her band and as a solo pianist, and performed at some of the world's most diverse music festivals.

### **ANGÉLICANEGRÓN**

**Angélica Negrón** is a Puerto-Rican born composer recognized for composing music for accordions, robotic instruments, toys, and electronics for chamber ensembles, orchestras, choirs and films. She is currently a teaching artist for the New York Philharmonic's Very Young Composers program and an artist in residence at National Sawdust.

### **SARAHKIRKLANDSNIDER**

**Sarah Kirkland Snider** writes music of direct expression and vivid narrative, and has been commissioned by leading orchestras and chamber ensembles. Her 2010 breakthrough work "Penelope" was hailed as a powerful "indie post-classical chamber pop drama"

### **CAROLYNFORCHÉ**

Noted poet, author, translator and teacher **Carolyn Forché** is perhaps best known for coining the term "poetry of witness", or politically-engaged poetry. She has won many of the major literary prizes, and her 2003 collection "Blue Hour" received wide acclaim, especially the tour-de-force epic poem upon which the musical work is based, "On Earth". She is currently a professor at Georgetown University, where she directs the Lanna Center for Poetics and Social Practice.



# PRESENT MUSIC

## Make a New Music Project Possible!

### Your contribution can fully or partially fund:

- Commissioning a new musical work for Present Music (\$15,000-\$40,000)
- Sponsorship or Co-Sponsorship of a Present Music performance (\$5,000-\$40,000)
- Underwriting a guest artist to perform with Present Music (\$2,500 - \$5,000)

### Present Music recording projects needing your support:

Present Music is in the later stages of finishing the recording of *26 Little Deaths*, by Carla Kihlstedt. Funds are still needed for finishing the mixing of the CD, promoting it to a major recording label, and marketing.

Two works by Raven Chacon have been recorded this past fall – *Voiceless Mass & Owl Song*. A third work will be recorded in the spring of 2024 and then the recording needs mixing and mastering before it finds a label.

*Gifts at any level up to \$25,000 per recording would be greatly appreciated.  
Your support fuels our vision and makes a meaningful impact!*

Thank you to our generous donors and ticket buyers! Present Music appreciates all levels of donations, especially ongoing gifts critical to our campaigns. If you are interested and able to, please also consider supporting Present Music's special projects.

To learn more about our special projects  
and funding opportunities please contact:

**Daniel Petry, Present Music Development Manager**  
414.581.4972 / [dpetry@presentmusic.org](mailto:dpetry@presentmusic.org)

Present Music has made a significant contribution to contemporary classical music, having commissioned and premiered over 80 significant new works in over 40 years. Composers who have worked in residence or have been commissioned by Present Music include Pulitzer Prize-winning composers John Adams, Henry Brant, Raven Chacon, David Lang, Caroline Shaw, and Du Yun along with such luminaries as Elena Kats-Chernin, Annie Gosfield, Kamran Ince, Jerome Kitzke, Ingram Marshall, Missy Mazzoli, Bright Sheng, Roberto Sierra, and Michael Torke.





**UPCOMING**CONCERT

**PRESENT** MUSIC

# HONEST MUSIC

**MAY 9, 2024 • 8PM**  
**Milwaukee Art Museum**

Presenting Sponsors Tim & Sue Frautschi

Violist / conductor/ new music curator extraordinaire **Nadia Sirota** brings a program of her favorite composers to Milwaukee, including Nico Muhly, Steve Reich, Gabriella Smith, Marcos Balter and Andrew Norman.

---

MORE INFO AT **PRESENTMUSIC.ORG**

# PRESENT MUSIC DONORS

**Thank you to the many donors to Present Music that have made Gifts to Present Music's Annual Fund. We want to thank those major donors that have directed their funding for special projects such as Commission, Recording, Underwriting of Guest Artists, Education/ Outreach, and to UPAF.**

**This list includes donations to Present Music from January 1, 2023 through April 1, 2024**

*For more information on directing your gift to Present Music, contact Daniel Petry at 414.581.4972 or [dpetry@presentmusic.org](mailto:dpetry@presentmusic.org)*

## **VISIONARIES \$50,000 - \$200,000**

Bader Philanthropies — *Presenting Sponsor of the City without Jews / partial sponsor of Creation Project*

Cecile Cheng — *Commissions & Underwriter of Student Tickets*

Jan Serr & John Shannon/Guardian Fine Art Services — *Commission of Paul Wiancko and Presenting Sponsor of CELLO CELLO Concert*

United Performing Arts Fund — *General Operating, Creation Project, Healing Harmonies Project*

## **CREATORS \$20,000-\$49,999**

Anonymous Foundation

Richard & Ethel Herzfeld Foundation - *In memory of Cecile Cheng*

Tim & Sue Frautschi — *Concert sponsor May 9, 2024, major support of UPAF, underwriter of student tickets*

Laskin Family Foundation — *Commission Aviya Kopelman and underwriter of guest performances of Donna Woodall & Yaniv Dinur*

Michael Schmale & David Bloom — *26 Little Deaths Commission Fund and Recording Fund*

Two Sisters Fund — *Commission 'Staircase Variations' by Brian Packham*

## **NAVIGATORS \$5,000-19,999**

Aaron Copland Fund for Music

Anonymous - *26 Little Deaths recording fund*

CAMPAC - *Milwaukee County Cultural Artistic Musical Programming Advisory Council*

Reed & Nancy Groethe — *Annual Fund Support & major support of UPAF*

Heil Family Foundation - *26 Little Deaths and Raven Chacon recording funds*

Louise Hermsen - *Annual Fund matching gifts and major support of UPAF*

Angela & George Jacobi — *Guest Artist underwriting*

Ronald E. Jacquart & Gary Van Wert —

*26 Little Deaths commission fund and Annual Fund Matching Gift*

Nancy Leff and KC Lerner - *Co-Concert Sponsor in Spring 2022*

Randall Lindert — *Guest Artist underwriting*

Milwaukee Opera Theatre - *Underwrite Gabriel Kahane*

National Endowment for the Arts

Richard & Suzanne Pieper Family Foundation - *26 Little Deaths recording fund*

Pieper Power - *26 Little Deaths recording fund*

Christine Rundblad - *Commission*

Jack Simpson

Lois Smith - *Guest artist underwriting & major support of UPAF*

## **INNOVATORS \$2,500-4,999**

Amphion Foundation

Heidi & Brian Dondlinger — *Annual Fund matching gift & support of UPAF*

Jessica Franken & David Korr — *Annual Fund matching gift & support of UPAF*

*William & Marguerite Helmers — Annual Fund matching gift*

Maihaugen Foundation — *Creation Project*

Fran & Steve Richman — *Annual Fund Support & Major Support of UPAF*

Paula & Vance Strother — *Annual Fund matching gift*

Wisconsin Arts Board — *with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts & State of Wisconsin*

Woman's Club of Wisconsin — *Creation Project*

## **RHAPSODISTS \$1,000-2,499**

Michael & Joanne Barndt

Donald & Donna Baumgartner - *In memory of Cecile Cheng*

Barbara & William Boles

Martin & Kathleen Butorac

Sarah DeLeon & David Wank — *In honor of Barbara Wank*

Sandra Walther Duffy

Sheila J. Feay-Shaw — *Chacon commission and recording project*

Jessica Franken & David Korr

GE Foundation

Lindsay Lochman

Dr. Tyler Steward

Meg Strobel & Andrew Megow — *directed gift from UPAF*

Herb Zien & Elizabeth Levins - *26 Little Deaths recording fund*

## **EXPLORERS \$500-999**

Robert Balderson

Michael & Susie Bauer

Jeff & Linda Binder

Deborah & Jeffrey Chapman - *In honor of Jan Serr*

# PRESENT MUSIC DONORS

Jim & Valerie Heintz  
Steve Culver & Sally Heuer  
Susan Kraeblen & James Green  
Diane Kromm  
Mary Ann & Charles LaBahn  
Elliot & Eva Lipchik  
Stephen Lukowicz  
Jonathan and Donna Moberg  
Carole Nicksin – *Annual Fund matching gift*  
Jeff Norman & Rose Hilbert  
Brian & Maura Packham  
Christine Radiske & Herb Quigley –  
*In memory of Cecile Cheng*  
Kyra Sealy & Mark E. Miller  
Scott & Peggy Stalheim  
Christopher Stawski / Dr. Sushi  
Mark VanHecke  
Karl & Hannah Wallick  
Brian Wilson

## RESONATORS \$250-499

William Barnewitz  
Hannah Bonikowske & Nicki Roman  
Mathew Brophy  
Cate Deicher & Clark Kaufman  
Roberta & David Drews  
Charles M Engberg  
Eleanor Harris & George Owen  
Dolores Holman  
Russell & Mary Klisch/Lakefront Brewery  
Paul Kosidowski & Kathleen Donius  
Ken Krei  
Paul Kosidowski & Kathleen Donius  
Steve and Rusti Moffic –  
*In honor of Daniel Petry*  
Kathleen Muldowney & Jeff Kalenak  
Daniel Ellicson Petry  
Leonard J. Sobczak

## INTONERS \$100-249

Anonymous  
George Affeldt  
Beth Anderson  
Christine & Steven Anderson  
Sue Berce

Keith G. Berg & Mary L. Hedblom  
Joyce Broan –  
*26 Little Deaths recording fund*  
Jill Broekhuizen  
James Chenevert  
Judith Donegan  
Karen Drummond  
Douglas Frazer & Karen Schapiro –  
*Jewish Community Foundation*  
Virginia Finn-Lenhardt –  
*In honor of Ronald Jacquart*  
David S. Flores  
Joanne Gaines  
Robin Gerson  
Catherine & John Gordon  
Rachel & Dennis Hafemann  
Dave Hilker & Lisa Walters  
Alyce Katayama  
Rebecca Kiefer  
Lois & Edward Kinsvogel –  
*In memory of Cecile Cheng*  
Russell & May Klisch  
Jonathan Kohrs  
John & Jan Liebenstein  
Richard Taylor & Lynn Lucius  
David Lussier  
Karen Lupa  
Cory Masiak  
Emily Sue Medford  
Patricia Monroe  
Eric Nelson & Margot Jones  
Kathy & Dave O'Brien  
William O'Neill  
Jill Anna & William Ponasik  
Helen Reich  
Deborah Roy - *In memory of Cecile Cheng*  
Amy Shapiro  
Nancy Simuel  
Donald Ray Sipe  
Kevin Stalheim  
Barbara Tays  
Winifred Thrall

Sandra Wiegand  
Marshall Zarem  
**IGNITORS \$1-99**  
Kyle Alcaraz & Maggie Seer  
Rosemarie Balistreri & Bruce Murphy  
Alex Barry  
Catheryn Brue  
Helen Ceci & Brian McDermott  
Flora Coker  
Connie Collopy  
Ana Cook  
Timothy Couillard  
Mary Ann Erdtmann  
Nan Fitzpatrick & Lee Gierke  
Dennis Grzezinski  
Thallis Hoyt Drake  
Paul Kaarakka & Andrea Gargas  
Jennifer Lautz  
Barbara and Dale Lenz  
William Loder  
Kent Maurice Mayfield  
Leva Norvelis  
Lisa and Ken Nowakowski  
Nicole Palasz  
Nicole Reid  
Susan Rieder  
Jo Ann Rucker  
Mildred Schapiro  
Barbara Schneider  
Kathy Steinberg  
Sharon Tiedge  
Patricia Tully & Dennis Darmek  
Judith Uelmen  
Adrien & Braden Zitoun  
**CORPORATE SUPPORT**  
Clark Graphics  
GE Healthcare - *matching*  
Guardian Fine Art Services  
Hilker & Associates  
Lakeside Brewery – *in-kind*  
Orion Motors – *in-kind*  
Moberg Piano Services  
Pieper Electric - *matching*  
Raymond James



Co-Artistic Directors Eric Segnitz and David Bloom

## Support Present Music Today!

This concert would not be possible without the support of community members like YOU. In honor of 42 years of Present Music, we ask that you consider a donation to continue offering a platform for diverse and groundbreaking new music, as experienced here tonight.

**Go to [www.presentmusic.org](http://www.presentmusic.org) to make a secure online donation or call 414.664.1126**

**Donations can also be made by check to:**

1120 North Market Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202

Present Music is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All charitable donations are tax-deductible.



▲ SCAN + DONATE



**PRESENTING SPONSORS**



**UNITEDPERFORMINGARTSFUND**

**Ellen & Joe Checota • Jan Serr & John Shannon • Laskin Family Foundation**



*If you're for*  
**FUN**  
*the arts are for you.*

**UPAF**  
UNITED PERFORMING ARTS FUND

**AND WE'RE FOR THE ARTS!**  
UPAF supports the entertainment and excitement of over 50+ diverse performing arts groups across Southeastern Wisconsin.

**JOIN US AND DONATE TODAY AT**  
**UPAF.ORG/DONATE**