



PRESENT MUSIC

CELLO CELLO

JAN 31 + FEB 1 | 2024

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CELLO CELLO

JANUARY 31 AND FEBRUARY 1, 2024 | 7:30 PM CT

JAN SERR STUDIO | PRESENT MUSIC DIGITAL STAGE

MILWAUKEE, WI

JAN SERR & JOHN SHANNON, PRESENTING SPONSORS

When the Night (2018) Paul Wiancko

Set for solo voice and electronics by Pamela Z

Quatre Couches (2015)

Badagada (1988)

Syrinx (2003)

Other Rooms (2018)

American Haiku (2014) Paul Wiancko

I. Far Away

II. In Transit

III. Home

Closed Universe (2016) Paul Wiancko

INTERMISSION

Raise (2024) Pamela Z

World Premiere

Commissioned from Pamela Z by the Fromm Music Foundation for Nick Photinos

I. Raise

II. Raised

III. Mommy

IV. 'ture

V. Honor

(sampled voices: Nick Photinos, Beverly Brooks, Carol Brooks, Elena Maria Bey, Beth Beauchamp, Cameron Beauchamp, Jeffrey Zeigler, Pamela Z)

Distant Maneuvers for Present Music (2023) Paul Wiancko

World Premiere

Commissioned by Jan Serr & John Shannon for Present Music

Drinking and Hooting Machine (1976) John White

SPONSORS

Jan Serr & John Shannon and **Guardian Fine Art Services** are the Presenting Sponsors of **CELLO CELLO**. Paul Wiancko's *Distant Maneuvers for Present Music* is commissioned by **Jan Serr & John Shannon**. Pamela Z's *Raise* is commissioned for Nick Photinos by the **Fromm Music Foundation**.

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

This program is supported in part by a grant from the **Wisconsin Arts Board** with funds from the State of WI and the **National Endowment for the Arts**. Present Music's 2023-2024 season is also made possible with sponsorship of **Saint John's On The Lake** and **Peck School of the Arts**, and funding from **The Warehouse Art Museum, Amphion Foundation**, the **Milwaukee Arts Board**, and the **Milwaukee County Cultural, Artistic and Musical Programming Advisory Council**.

Present Music is grateful for additional recent support and funding from the **Herzfeld Foundation, The Aaron Copland Fund for Music** and **Maihaugen Foundation**.

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PRESENT MUSIC

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Co-Artistic Directors

GUEST ARTISTS

Paul Wiancko
Cello/Glockenspiel

Nick Photinos
Cello

Yaniv Dinur
Conductor

Pamela Z
Vocals and Electronics

Ayane Kozasa
Viola

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ABOUT THE MUSIC

Paul Wiancko: *When the Night* (2018)

When the Night is a harmonically rich and texturally innovative celebration of all things cello. An important recurring motif alludes to the first three notes of Ben E. King's 1961 hit "Stand By Me"—hence its title. Wiancko describes it as a lullaby that incorporates soul, R&B, and jazzy elements.

Pamela Z:

***Quatre Couches* (2015)**

A sonic trifle, tiramisu, or mille-feuille – juxtaposing four contrasting layers and toying with them – mixing them and moving them around on the plate until they all melt away.

***Badagada* (1998)**

One of Pamela Z's early digital delay pieces, the syllables "ba-da-ga-da-ga-da-ga" are layered in multiple delay lines to form a harmonic, rhythmic accompaniment to a melody sung in English.

***Syrinx* (2003)**

This piece is named for the avian vocal organ. In this little extract from Pamela Z's longer 2004 sound work, a birdsong is pitch-shifted and consequently stretched until its individual notes are slow enough and low enough to be accurately produced by a human voice.

***Other Rooms* (2018)**

Constructed from samples of the speaking voice of Paul David Young taken from an interview recorded by Pamela Z — part of the process of making the performance work *Memory Trace*.

Paul Wiancko: *American Haiku* (2014)

Paul Wiancko's fascination with haiku runs in the family. His father, while working as a filmmaker in Japan, became fascinated with the Haiku form, and believed that no Haiku had ever been accurately translated into English. The 5-7-5 syllabic meter was, in his eyes, too simplistic for the deeply emotional nature of authentic Japanese Haiku. After seeking to write a book translating Haiku, Wiancko senior met Wiancko's mother, a Japanese woman who helped him in the process of translating the poetry. Later, growing up in California, Paul Wiancko's Japanese American heritage became increasingly important to him, and he became enchanted with both traditional Appalachian music as well as Japanese folk music. *American Haiku* offers its listener an elegant rapprochement of the two cultures all the while delving into the emotional depths of the three-part Haiku, reflected in three movements without break.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Paul Wiancko: *Closed Universe* (2016)

Closed Universe came to the composer in the midst of a worrisome news addiction that made it hard for him to focus on composing. “I felt like I was trapped in this little universe, just wanting to read headlines all day long. It’s sort of an attempt to find some beauty and some peace within this very small world,” Wiancko says of the work. “To be able to find joy when you can, where you can, in the conditions that you can is sort of the theme of the piece. And with the glockenspiel, there are definitely some Disney princess moments. I’m not ashamed to say that these moments did bring me great joy when writing them.”

Pamela Z: *Raise* (2024)

A work for cello quartet and tape commissioned from Pamela Z by Fromm Music Foundation for Nick Photinos.

“When Nick approached me about writing him a piece for cello and media, he was thinking about putting together a collection of works that he would dedicate to his late mother Janet Photinos, an avid amateur musician who raised him as a single parent from the time he was four. He expressed the hope that this would be ‘an homage to the people – parents, mentors, friends – who brought us up and made us who we are.

I started the compositional process by interviewing Nick and a handful of friends and relatives, and their speaking voices became building blocks for the fixed media part of the work. I wrote this five-movement piece for four cellos and a collage of speech fragments culled from six lively, impassioned conversations”.

Paul Wiancko: *Distant Maneuvers for Present Music* (2023)

Commissioned for Present Music by Jan Serr & John Shannon

The composer writes: “I prefer composing at home in long stretches when possible, but *Distant Maneuvers for Present Music* had to be written in short, concentrated bursts over the course of 2 years, each in a different location and headspace. Enough time passed between sessions that I had little memory of the music I had previously written or how those ideas had been generated—it was as though a stranger had begun the process and it was up to me to decipher their intentions and pick up where they left off. The title refers to the resulting feeling that all of my decisions, even those long forgotten, were still unavoidably in control of my present trajectory.

The music of *Distant Maneuvers for Present Music* is based on themes of conflict and culpability—it stumbles into frame with a [slap] before settling into a distant, kabuki-inspired “canto,” gradually growing nearer and more insistent before retreating once more. As violence and suffering continues to engulf the world around us, I hope that this piece might serve as a reminder that just as music composed in the past can seemingly reach across time to slap us in the face, so too can our own actions directly affect the lives of those struggling in distant places.”

John White: *Drinking and Hooting Machine* (1976)

Written for the experimental Scratch Orchestra in the mid-seventies in England, which included such luminaries as Brian Eno, Gavin Bryars and Michael Nyman. John White’s “process music” was a British precursor to American minimalism and has much in common with Terry Riley’s seminal “In C”, which itself has only one part, which performers move through at their own pace. The composer writes, “*Drinking and Hooting Machine* presents some observations on the world of bottles and their non-percussive musical potential. The effect of this piece has been compared to that of an aviary full of owls all practicing very slow descending scales”.

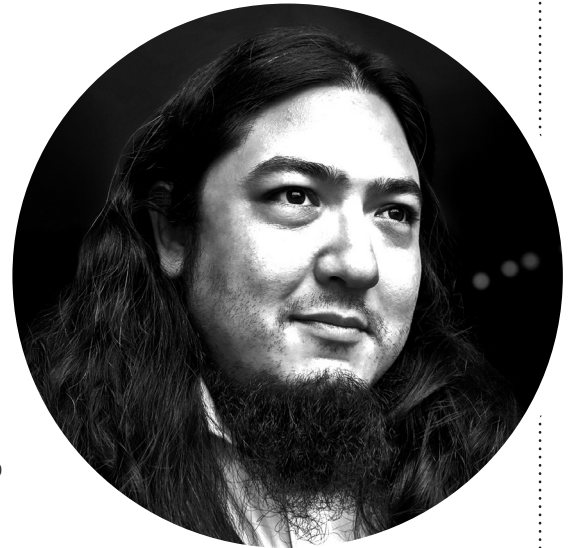
ABOUT THE GUEST ARTISTS

PAUL WIANCKO

Paul Wiancko has led an exceptionally multifaceted musical life as a composer and cellist. Paul's compositions have been described as "dazzling", "compelling" and "vital pieces that avoid the predictable".

As a college student, Paul was simultaneously winning international cello competitions and recording strings for local punk bands in his dorm room. That duality is embedded in Paul's artistic DNA, and over the years has resulted in close collaborations as a performer with a wide range of artists, from Chick Corea to Yo Yo Ma, from Norah Jones to Nico Muhly.

Paul has recently been named to two prestigious positions: he is the new 'cellist of the world-renowned Kronos Quartet, who have been criss-crossing the globe on their 50th Anniversary tour, and he also was named the new Director of Chamber Music at the Spoleto Festival USA.



PAMELA Z

Pamela Z is a composer, performer, and media artist working with voice, live electronic processing, sampled sound, and video. In addition to her solo performances, she has a growing body of works for chamber ensembles as well as installation works using multi-channel sound and video.

A pioneer of live digital looping techniques, Z processes her voice in real time to create dense, complex sonic layers. Her solo works combine experimental extended vocal techniques, operatic bel canto, found objects, text, and sampled concrete sounds. Z has toured extensively throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan, and has shown work in exhibitions around the world.

Z is the recipient of many honors and awards, including the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Walter Hinrichsen Award, the United States Artists Mellon Fellowship, the American Academy Rome Prize, and the Guggenheim Fellowship in Music Composition.



NICK PHOTINOS

During **Nick Photinos'** 24-year tenure as the founding cellist and co-Artistic Director of Eighth Blackbird, he performed over 1000 concerts, premiered hundreds of new pieces, and worked closely with many of the foremost composers of this era. Apart from four Grammy wins, he has received Musical America's Ensemble of the Year Award, the MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions, the inaugural Chamber Music America Visionary Award, the Naumburg Award, and the Concert Artists Guild Grand Prize.

This season Photinos begins a brand new role as Professor of Chamber Music and Eminent Scholar at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. He also debuts in Sweden, at the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, in a solo recital at the Winnipeg Gallery of Art, at the inaugural Chosen Vale International Cello Seminar, and returns to the Bang on a Can Summer Festival, where he has taught since 2007.



ABOUT THE GUEST ARTISTS

AYANEKOZASA

Ayane Kozasa is a sought-after chamber musician, collaborator, and educator. Since winning the Primrose International Viola Competition in 2011, Ayane has developed a career that revolves around the art of chamber music. As a founding member of the highly-regarded Aizuri Quartet for 11 years, she developed her ensemble management skills. She currently plays in the duo Ayane & Paul, with composer and cellist Paul Wiancko, and the quartet collective Owls with violinist Alexi Kenney and cellists Gabriel Cabezas and Wiancko. And she has recently been appointed to the viola faculty at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.



YANIVDINUR

Conductor **Yaniv Dinur** was the winner of the 2019 Sir Georg Solti Award, the largest and one of the most prestigious of its kind awarded to young conductors working in the United States. He recently finished a 7-year appointment as the Resident Conductor with the Milwaukee Symphony, and is currently Music Director of the New Bedford Symphony in Massachusetts and guest conducting around the world.

Yaniv is also an accomplished pianist and a passionate music educator, who is committed to exposing new audiences to classical music, and classical music audiences to new music. Born in Jerusalem, he became, at 19 years old, the youngest person ever to conduct a professional orchestra in Israel.



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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 would be appreciated up to \$25,000 per recording.



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

Daniel Petry, Present Music Development Manager
414.581.4972 / 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 CONCERTS

PRESENT MUSIC

THE BLUE HOUR

APRIL 11, 2024 • 7:30PM
Milwaukee Art Museum

A unique concert-length song-cycle from a consortium of five leading women composers: Rachel Grimes, Angelica Negron, Shara Nova, Caroline Shaw and Sarah Kirkland Snider. Set to fantastical and jarring imagery from an epic poem by Caroline Forche, sung by indie band diva **Shara Nova**.

This program is aligned with two exhibits at the Milwaukee Art Museum – “50 Paintings” and “Idris Khan: Repeat After Me”

PRESENT MUSIC

HONEST MUSIC

MAY 9, 2024 • 8PM
Milwaukee Art Museum

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

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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 January 15, 2024.

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