

May 29, 2020 7:30 PM

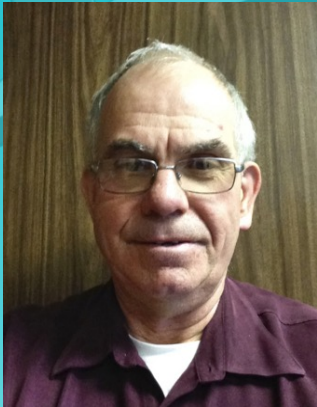
COMPASS

Program

- Fast zu ernst from Kinderszenen
Op. 15, No. 10 **Shinichiro Inaji** - Piano
Robert Schumann
- Six Pieces for Children
Op. 72, No. 5 and No. 6 **Mari Hwang** - Piano
Felix Mendelssohn
- Michelangelo's Slaves
• Arson **AKaiser** - Poet
• Pool in the Woods
- Ebenezer "Ton-y-Botel"
Thomas J. Williams **Keith Ferguson** - Piano
- Image for Solo Flute **Francesca Leo** - Flute
Eugene Bozza
- Songs without words Op.102 No. 3 **Mari Hwang** - Piano
Felix Mendelssohn
- "The Butterflies Came at Lunchtime"
a story by *Shaun Tan* Read by **Jamie Johnson**
in the book *Tales From the Inner City*
- Papillons Op. 2 No. 4 **Louis Yungling** - Piano
Robert Schumann
- Etude Op. 70 No. 14 in G Minor **Mari Hwang** - Piano
Ignaz Moscheles
- Selections from
Love Poems for Anxious People **John Kenney** - Poet
- Over the Rainbow **Kirk Ferguson** - Trombone
Harold Arlen

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Profiles



Keith Ferguson

Keith D. Ferguson, SPC, began studying piano with Elizabeth Glover, and then organ with Betty Stuchul and Monabel Hamilton. Keith also studied composition for keyboards, brass, woodwind quintet, and band under Dr. Jack Stamp, retired Director of Bands at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Keith earned the American Guild of Organists Service Playing Certification while studying with Dr. Christine Clewell, Professor of Organ, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and with the help of the study group led by Joyce Moon-Stobel of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Keith currently serves as organist at the Presbyterian Church, Punxsutawney, PA and Mt Zion Lutheran Church in Trade City, PA. and as a substitute Organist at Saints Cosmos and Damian Roman Catholic Church, First English Lutheran Church both in Punxsutawney, PA and Zion Lutheran Church Indiana, PA. In addition to liturgical services, Keith serves as organist at numerous wedding services throughout the area.

Keith was a member of the committee to establish the Indiana, PA Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and is currently serving as Dean of that chapter. Keith also has been a member of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Guild of Organists since 1988 and is currently serving on their Executive Board.

Kirk and I recorded a CD “Sacred Reflection” at our residence in Trade City. The CD is Trombone / piano and includes a variety of pieces not just limited to one style.

Keith and his wife Melissa reside in Trade City, PA. They are the parents of two sons, Kirk and Kasey.



Kirk Ferguson

Kirk Ferguson was named Assistant Principal Trombonist of the Milwaukee Symphony in September, 2011. Prior to joining the MSO, he served as Principal Trombonist with the Spokane Symphony, Co-Principal Trombonist with the Malaysian Philharmonic and Associate Principal Trombonist with the Honolulu Symphony. He is also a former member of the River City Brass Band in Pittsburgh, PA. Kirk has performed with the Seattle Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Akron Symphony, Wheeling Symphony, Lincoln Center Festival and Clarion Brass Choir. He is a member of the Chicago Trombone Consort.

Kirk is currently adjunct professor of low brass at Wisconsin Lutheran College and an Associate Teacher with the Art of the Practicing Institute. He received his Masters degree from The Juilliard School and his Bachelors degree from Duquesne University.

Kirk began studying meditation in graduate school. He is currently a student and practitioner in the Shambhala Buddhist tradition. He serves as Interim Chair of the Governing Council at the Milwaukee Shambhala Center and also holds a teaching role as a Shambhala Guide. Kirk is a native of Punxsutawney, PA. He currently lives in Mequon, WI with his wife Mary and their two dogs, Frank and Annie. Kirk is proud to be a Yamaha Performing Artist.

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Profiles



Mari Hwang

A multifaceted NYC-based musician Mari Hwang has performed across the U.S. as a pianist, harpsichordist, and conductor.

Ms. Hwang has collaborated in world premieres with composers including Pedro Ramos, Brian Haller, and James Stepleton. She has frequently performed for psychiatric patients at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, a concert series in Brooklyn Heights, “Bach in the Heights,” as a harpsichordist, and Uptown Ballet Academy in Inwood, since the school’s second Spring Annual Recital. And recently participated in Transformative Piano Masterclass Series led by Madeline Bruser, the author of “The Art of Practicing.” Additionally, she has appeared on The Voice of America about entrepreneurship in classical music.

Previously, Ms.Hwang was a staff accompanist at Suzuki Music School in Westport, CT, and a pianist for the Association to Benefit Children’s music program at Cassidy’s Place in the Upper East Side and Echo Park Graham School in Harlem.

Ms. Hwang moved from a sunny suburb of Los Angeles to attend Manhattan School of Music, where she studied with the late Mr. Zenon Fishbein and received a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance.

Currently she is a collaborative pianist at Manhattan School of Music Precollege Division and has a private teaching studio.



Shinichiro Inaji

Born in Kyoto Japan and moved to NY with husband Walter and a dog Yuki in 2018, working as Graphic Designer / Translator (www.uchacreations.com). Shin loves piano and has been learning on his own since he was child, and finally started the long-sought piano lesson under teacher & friend Louis Yungling in Brooklyn since 2018.

He is thrilled and very happy to be a part of the Compass Concert with great performers, and exploring what types of benefits we can share with friends and family through the music and art.

Thanks to Louis for all his efforts and creativity for producing this event!

Jamie Johnson

Since retiring from the corporate world in 2001, Jamie has moved on to far more interesting things. For about 3 years, she was Executive Director of School of Hope, helping to build schools for girls in Afghanistan—and she got to experience Afghanistan first-hand. In 2006, she founded Art Connects New York which, in its 13-year history, placed hundreds of original artworks in over 40 social services throughout all 5 boroughs of New York City.

Since 2007, Jamie has had two key foci: 1) making the artwork in her late husband, William S. Dutterer, available to the public, and 2) creating artwork of her own. For the Dutterer estate she has published a book and has had some success showing, selling, and placing work in various public institutions (<http://www.WilliamDutterer.com>). As for her own work—her leather body-wear has been shown in numerous exhibitions and her Covid-19 project, a quilt made of Dutterer’s studio clothes, is coming along just fine.

She reads widely because she loves to “hear” the wisdom of others.

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Profiles



Photo credit: Beowulf Sheehan

AKaiser

AKaiser is the Pushcart Prize nominated author of <glint>, co-winner of the inaugural Milk and Cake Book Prize (www.milkandcakepress.com). Her poem, Shape Shift, was long-listed for the 2020 Fish Publishing Poetry Prize. Her work has placed as finalist for awards such as the North American Review James Hearst Poetry Prize and the Eggtooth Editions Chapbook Prize. Poems and photos can also be found in Harbor Review, Lavender Review, Mudfish, NewSquare, and The Rumpus. She is currently translating the collected works of Catalan poet Anna Gual, and writing the biography and translating the work of the first Iberian translator of Whitman, into Catalan, transatlantic urbanista, Cebrià Montoliu. In February, she was Fellow at the ATLAS Translation Workshop and in April, she curated and participated in events for the Sant Jordi 2020 Festival. These videos, including her reading of Horse Behavior, the subject of her essay, The layered life of a poem, can be viewed at: <https://www.santjordiny.org/program>. In May, she has been the invited poet in the COMPASS concert series (i, ii & iii), founded by pianist and teacher Louis Yungling (<https://thecompassconcerts.com>).



Louis Yungling

Louis teaches private piano lessons online (and hopefully soon again in person in Brooklyn Heights). He graduated high school from the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan and studied piano at Arizona State University. In 2005 and 2006 he produced and performed in The Dreams Fulfilled concerts, two benefit concerts at Weill Recital Hall in Carnegie Hall to raise money for The High School for Leadership & Public Service and the Globe Institute of Technology respectively. His 4 years of study with New York piano teacher and author of The Art of Practicing, Madeline Bruser, led him to refine his teaching approach to be completely student-centered and strongly informed by his meditation practice. He is a practitioner in the Shambhala Buddhist tradition.

This concert series is the fruition of seeds planted almost nine years ago by my teacher Madeline Bruser. Her commitment to helping musicians play free from tension and stage fright, and her work with meditation and contemplative exercises inspires me every day. The idea that audiences could meditate together before a concert came from her. For me these COMPASS concerts are an expression of my gratitude for all the gifts she has passed on to me.

I am thrilled to share this journey with you and these very talented, generous and courageous artists. Thank you Keith, Kirk, Shin, Mari, AKaiser, Francesca, John, and Jamie for sharing your gifts and creating a beautiful program of music and poetry.

COMPASS

Profiles



John Kenney

John Kenney is the New York Times bestselling author of the poetry collections *Love Poems for Married People*, *Love Poems for People with Children*, and *Love Poems for Anxious People*, and the novels *Talk To Me* and *Truth In Advertising*, which won the Thurber Prize for American Humor. He has worked for many years as a copywriter. He has also been a contributor to *The New Yorker Magazine* since 1999. He lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Love Poems for Anxious People and all of John's books can be purchased on Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/s?k=John+Kenney&ref=nb_sb_noss_2



Francesca Leo

Francesca Leo is a cutting edge flutist, entrepreneur and educator. She has given solo and chamber performances internationally in Italy and France and has performed as a soloist with the New Albany Symphony Orchestra and the Manhattan School of Music Chamber Sinfonia. A Michigan native, she has won top prizes in many competitions including the Manhattan School of Music Eisenberg-Fried Concerto Competition, the Central Ohio Flute Association Young Artist and Collegiate Division Competitions, the Lima Symphony Young Artist Concerto Competition, the New Albany Symphony Orchestra Concerto Competition and the MTNA Solo Division Competition.

A fierce advocate of contemporary music, Francesca has appeared as a soloist at the Society for Composers International (SCI) and the Society for Electroacoustic Music in the United States (SEAMUS) Conferences, where her performance won a recording spot on the 2018 *Music From SEAMUS*, vol. 27 CD. She is the flutist and a founding member of the Quintilia Ensemble, a quintet committed to pushing the boundaries of contemporary chamber music. Francesca has participated in the premieres of many new works in solo, chamber, orchestral and operatic settings, including the Mid-American premiere of Kaija Saariaho's opera *Émilie*. She is currently working with numerous composers to premiere new repertoire for solo flute.

As an orchestral musician, Francesca has performed under the baton of renowned conductors such as Roderick Cox, George Manahan, and Leonard Slatkin. She specializes in performing arts health and is the founder of www.playingwithoutpain.com, an award-winning interactive web resource designed to provide collegiate music students with information to treat and prevent performance-based injury. She has presented her research at various institutions across the United States including the Manhattan School of Music, West Virginia University, Ohio Northern University, among others. Francesca currently serves as a board member on the National Flute Association Performance Health Care Committee and is a Social Media Assistant for the Art of Practicing Institute.

Francesca holds a masters degree in Classical Flute Performance from the Manhattan School of Music as a former Joseph F. McCrindle scholarship recipient and a bachelors degree in Music Performance and Entrepreneurship from Bowling Green State University. Francesca's primary teachers and mentors include Linda Chesis, Conor Nelson and Jeffrey Zook.

<http://www.francescaleoflute.com>; <http://www.playingwithoutpain.com>

Instagram: @francescaleoflute; @playingwithoutpain



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Poems

All poems form part of *glint* (www.milkandcakepress.com)

Michelangelo's Slaves previously published in *Amsterdam Quarterly*.

Arson & Pool in the Woods previously published in *Sweet Action Poetry Collective* chapbooks.

Pool in the Woods nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

Michelangelo's Slaves

Bathroom in the hallway, like in all chambres
de bonne. The ceilings, slanted. If I stood
tiptoe and leaned from the slanted window
I could see the Eiffel Tower. I had no fridge.
Grocery bags hung from the back window the
one giving out to the interior courtyard down
into the tunnel below. That winter we were
no longer. The side where laundry hung.
Each evening, from the train to the bus, back
to town, to that corner. I can't remember
if the slaves were lighted at night. The Tower
was. Waking late a quiet Saturday,
I reached hungry to fish back into the room
some soup. The neighbor across the way,
who I never saw a photographer perhaps
had taken glossy black and white shots of my
food, taken the time
to string them across his window for me.



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Poems

Arson

after Greg Kaiser

Glass caught in continuous melt. Window depth
distorted inside, the same way old glass held
to the eye can make you feel stretched and twisted
out of shape like you're again in the funhouse
of your youth. As if, drunk fun or not, you could
step into it - the path of mirrors, all the chakras from
the heart to the root. Morphing pale yellow, whole
blood suspension: plasmic forever where heat & light
release in the controlled mania of fuse, flux & influx.

Flames lick the soles of feet, hover over heads.
Temple mounds of white cinder. Nearly perfect sunspot
sphere twirls its conflagration. Evanesce. Blaze
ignites, confounds boundaries. There are none to fury
if not the purification of genuflecting onto coals. Snowbound,
blued feet before the fireplace to see how long
we could. Pleading to the Spartan to not make us do it.
I let fire enfold me in its heal. Lava liquid. Search for
those burnt books, charred dialogue. With one hand,
I grip the lantern, watch its oil ooze. With the other,
cradle a vast tear. The burst of a flick of a lighter
wakes me, forges into the night, warming that corner
of the house. I see it glow in the dark, a cigarette
in the air next to the chair of an insomniac.

Everything smolders undone. Night. Burn. Tears. Ash.



COMPASS

Poems

Pool in the Woods

after Georgia O'Keefe

Ragged edges of green jagged edges of blue
the good brown earth damp and smooth
near that core of a pool deep in the woods.

The dark cave of sleep, the nearing boats
full of the huddled and tested. I among them.

The leader with her oar, purpose recognizable
to dip and drip, break and push water away.

The bristling ridges of the entranceway seem
far from where we are, behind her bow.

The inkwell of water, our flesh bodies, held apart by the wooden
bottom of the boat where green meets blue, the day, the night.

Light standing at our backs as we float
to the mouth, its black so black, the oar silenced
its rough wood held against a closed palm.

You see great grandmother in her housedress
bending towards you with something sweet.

You see yourself through your father's mirror
hopping through a sunfield fistfuls of flowers.

You hold your son gazing out into emptiness,
tracing his finger around the crows of your eyes.

Madeline Bruser
<https://artofpracticing.com>

The Art of Practicing Institute:
<https://artofpracticing.com/summer-program>