



## Young Composers Project Featured Composers

Tuesday, 27 June  
7:00 P.M.  
Boe Memorial Chapel

### Program

#### Juniors

Variations in E-flat Major

Miriam and Lydia Kessler  
(b. 2005, 2008) Elgin, IL

Creatures of the Deep  
A Song of the Ocean

Annalynn Waddy  
(b. 2006) Macon, GA

#### Teen I

Moonlight on the Waves

Isabelle Gatien  
(b. 2001) Albany, OR

Oiseaux  
1. Colibri  
2. Faucon  
3. Manchot

Karisa Ellerbrock  
(b. 2002) Highlands Ranch, CO

#### Teen II

The Descent

Emily DeLia  
(b. 2001) East Windsor, NJ

Starlight

Ari Schwartz  
(b. 2000) Oak Park, IL

#### Young Adult

Mythos  
Anna Koopman  
Chaos  
Spring  
Earth  
Dance  
Night

(b. 1998) Motley, MN

Moon Phases  
VI. Full Moon

Joshua Weinberg  
(b. 1993) Minneapolis, MN

## Guest Composer

The Pattern Wheel, Suite for Harp Solo (2016)

Rachel Brandwein

Indigointro

(b. 1982)

i. bluefive

ii. greenfour

iii. yellowthree

iv. orangetwo

v. redone

*Please turn off cell phones and electronic devices. No photographing or videotaping allowed.*

*This concert is sponsored in part by contributions from Mu Phi Epsilon and Mount Calvary Academy of Music*

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“To celebrate our legacy, inspire excellence, and empower the next generation of harpists.” AHS’s newest educational program meets all three goals of its ambitious mission statement. The **Young Composers Project** provides an opportunity for harpists aged 25 and younger to try their hand at composition, receive one-on-one feedback from world renowned professional composers, and perform their original work at this evening’s concert. The selected new “composers” will receive a recording of their performance following the Institute and will be recognized in the *The American Harp Journal*.

Private feedback and personal guidance was provided today by the young harpists/composers by one of the great living American composers of our time, Grammy Award-winner **Libby Larsen**, as well as the award-winning, inspiring harp composer, **Rachel Brandwein**. These two professionals also presented a master class and workshop today for all attendees.

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**Emily DeLia** began writing music from as early as two-years-old. In 2011 the VOICES chorale premiered and toured with her first large composition, an 8-part choral work. Emily won the inaugural MATA Jr. competition in 2014 and was praised in the *New York Times* for her arrangement of Jay Z’s *Empire State of Mind* for string quartet performed at Make Music New York 2016. Emily will have her second harp ensemble piece performed at the 2017 Young Artist Harp Seminar. She is in demand as a singer-songwriter throughout New Jersey and the surrounding areas and will take part in her second Jamming 4 Dignity concert this June to raise awareness about human trafficking. She collaborates in performance and in the studio with local artists and in September of 2016 released her self-produced CD, *Lift*, made up entirely of original music. Emily currently studies harp with Kristi Shade of Duo Scorpio, and is in the Honors Music Program at Westminster Conservatory majoring in voice and composition. She is on a mission to innovate with the lever harp, and is thrilled to be a part of the AHS Summer Institute Young Composers program.

**Karisa Ellerbrock** started harp lessons with Lynne Abbey-Lee after watching a harpist on YouTube playing *Fireflies* by Owl City. A year later Karisa began shaping two ideas, *Raccoon*, and the other, *12 Year March* (inspired via a Holocaust research project) in to musical compositions. Karisa delights in playing with the Colorado Youth Symphony Orchestra and faithfully participates in the Mile High (Denver) chapter of the AHS Harp Fantasia, a bi-annual performance of up to 50 harps. Karisa's future goals include learning the techniques of therapy harp playing, and researching the science of sound, learning what tones and notes bring about the most healing benefits. She intends to compose, using these restorative tonalities to play for health. When she was thirteen Karisa received her Camac pedal harp, affectionately named Louie.

**Isabelle Gatien** plays the harp, piano and violin, and loves to compose. She studies harp with Laura Zaerr. Isabelle's favorite composer is John Williams. Her hobbies include spending time with family and friends and playing music with others.

**Miriam** and **Lydia Kessler** began their musical pursuits with piano. They added harp at ages 5 and 8 and have studied with their current harp teacher, Erin Freund, since 2014. Miriam and Lydia enjoy performing as a duo and with a small string ensemble, composing, and competing on both harp and piano. In 2015, they participated in the Chicago Harp Society chapter Auditions and Evaluations program. Miriam was selected for the honors recital and Lydia received Honorable Mention. When not involved in music, they find time for reading, crafts, and tennis.

**Anna Koopmann** is currently an undergraduate at St. Olaf College, pursuing Bachelor degrees in Music Education and English. She is a proud member of the St. Olaf Orchestra and also plays harp and viola with the Philharmonia Orchestra. Her harp teachers include Rachel Brandwein, Gretchen Johnson Brumwell, Carol Harrison, Joan Raeburn Holland, Sylvia Norris, Elinor Niemisto, and she has played in master classes for Kathy Kienzle and Bridget Kibbey. Anna continues her studies of voice, viola, cello, and piano at St. Olaf. Miss Koopmann plays with a variety of community based orchestras and choirs across Minnesota, and has participated in summer music programs in Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota. An avid student composer, Miss Koopmann was a winner of the 2011 ARCH award, from the Minnesota Chapter of the AHS, and was honored by the premiere of two of her works for both instrumental and choral chamber ensembles at the Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival, in 2013 and 2014.

**Annalynn McTyre Waddy**, ten years old, is from Macon, Georgia, where she studies piano and harp, and ensemble with her mother, Calista Anne Koch. As a member of the Middle Georgia Harp Ensemble, Annalynn has had the honor of performing in the ensemble for a Mercer University Faculty Recital, and during a lunchtime concert at the 2016 American Harp Society National Conference in Atlanta. Annalynn also participated in the Youth Harp Ensemble for the closing concert of the 2016 AHS conference. Growing up around other musicians. *Creatures of the Deep* is Annalynn's first completed, full-length composition for harp.

**Ari Bertulfo Schwartz** is a high school sophomore who has been playing harp since age seven. He is the student of former American Harp Society Vice President, Lillian Lau. Ari composed his first piece, *Shadows*, at age eight, and was selected to perform the work on (Chicago) Harp Day 2009 at Lyon and Healy. He has won numerous scholarships and awards for his performances and compositions. Ari's compositions and commissioned pieces have been performed at Oak Park River Forest High School, Intuit Dance Studio, in the Grant Park Music Festival's Music in the Parks Series, and at Lyon and Healy. Ari is thankful to have been selected as a featured composer for the AHS Young Composers Project and for the opportunity to perform his piece *Starlight Variations* at the 2017 American Harp Society Summer Institute.

**Joshua Weinberg** is a Minneapolis based flutist/harpist/composer. He made his solo debut in 2011 at the Fitzgerald Theater in Saint Paul, Minnesota. With a passion for new and experimental music, Joshua has performed with Zeitgeist, Renegade Ensemble, Spitting Image Collective, Contemporary Undercurrent of Song Project, MusikaNova, Improvestra (a completely improvised orchestra), and Encore Wind Ensemble. This year, Joshua was invited for a two-week artist residency for the Hinge Arts program at the Kirkbride in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, where he will compose and perform new music for flute, harp, and spoken texts. In 2015, Joshua won first prize in the Schubert Club of Minnesota competition, and in 2011 was the Showcase Artist for Minnesota Public Radio's *Varsity Contest*. His performances have been broadcasted on Minnesota Public Radio, National Public Radio, and the television station TPT2. Joshua graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from Saint Olaf College in 2015 under the tutelage of Catherine Ramirez and Elinor Niemisto.

**Rachel Brandwein** is the 2014 Mu Phi Epsilon International Solo Competition winner, and currently on the faculties of Luther College, in Decorah, Iowa; the College of Saint Benedict & Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN; and Mount Calvary Academy of Music in Lake Minnetonka, MN. Ms. Brandwein is the recipient of first prizes and grants in national competitions sponsored by the American Harp Society, the American String Teachers Association, and Mu Phi Epsilon. She has performed with the Minnesota Orchestra and in solo and chamber concerts around the U.S., in Asia, and in Ireland. She performs frequently with trombonist David Peterson as the *Branderson Duo*. Rachel performed a program of original compositions for the 2014 AHS National Conference, and has received commissions to compose works for various ensembles and soloists, most recently by the House of Hope Presbyterian Church in Minnesota to write a work for organ and harp, premiered in May of this year. Ms. Brandwein holds degrees from the University of Michigan School of Music, The Juilliard School, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Stony Brook University.

Composer **Libby Larsen** has created a catalogue of over 500 works spanning virtually every genre, from intimate vocal and chamber music to massive orchestral works and over twelve operas. Grammy Award winning and widely recorded, including over fifty CDs, Larsen's commissions and premieres by major artists, ensembles, and orchestras around the world, have established a permanent place for her works in the concert repertory. In 1973 Larsen co-founded the Minnesota Composers Forum, now the American Composers Forum to be a catalyst in advocating for the cause of contemporary composers and their music. Larsen was named to the Harissios Papamarkou Chair in Education and Technology at the John W. Kluge Center of the Library of Congress and has been composer-in-residence with the Minnesota Orchestra, the Charlotte Symphony, and the Colorado Symphony. She is the recipient of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Eugene McDermott Award in the Arts, a Peabody Award, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters Lifetime Achievement award.