11TH NIU NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL
Dr. Brian Penkrot, Interim Artistic Director
Ethan Cowburn, Co-Director
November 1-3, 2023

Concert no. 1, Wednesday, November 1, 2023
Recital Hall, 7:00 pm.

PROGRAM

Lorenupi
Liam Teague (b. 1975)
Savion Nichols, steel pan

Stolen
Allison Loggins-Hull (b. 1982)
Christopher Mendez, cello

Piano Sonata No. 1 Mvt. I
Emily Smeenge (b. 1997)
Emily Smeenge, piano

Lorena's Lament from Friday
Kevin Bobo (b. 1974)

Prelude and Happy Hour from Friday
Tzu-Yun Chiu

Dmaathen
Iannis Xenakis (1922-2001)
Fernando Marroquin Mendoza, oboe
Ethan Cowburn, percussion

Intermission

Justice Not Charity: William Sloane Coffin’s Love Letters to America
Ben Wahlund (b. 1977)

An Improvisatory Song Cycle for Percussion Duet and Randomly Accessed Audio Files
Ben Wahlund
Jacob Parra, percussion

Prologue
1. Faith, Hope, Love
2. Social Justice and Civil Liberties
4. Patriotism
5. War and Peace
6. Nature
7. Life in General
8. The Church
9. The End of Life
Epilogue
About our featured Composers (in order of appearance):

**Liam Teague** is head of steelpan studies at Northern Illinois University (NIU) and directs the renowned NIU Steelband. Teague is the recipient of NIU’s Board of Trustees Professorship; Presidential Research, Scholarship and Artistry Professorship; Trinidad and Tobago’s Hummingbird National Award (Silver), and the Ansa McAl Caribbean Award for Excellence. Teague is one of the world’s leading steelpan soloists and has performed with many celebrated musicians and diverse ensembles internationally. He is a composer and arranger, has many recordings to his credit, and has authored the Hal Leonard Corporation’s steelpan method.

**Emily Smeenge** is a 2020 graduate of Judson University (B.A. in Piano Performance) and a current student in NIU's M.M. program in Music Composition.

**Ben Wahlund** is a Grammy nominated, award-winning music educator, composer, and performer who lives in the Chicago area. Mr. Wahlund serves as full-time percussion instructor at Northern Illinois University (DeKalb, IL) and the Director of Percussion at the College of DuPage (Glen Ellyn, IL). Published by C. Alan Music, Bachovich Music, HoneyRock Publications, and Innovative Percussion, his music compositions have won numerous international awards and are performed by professionals around the world. Ben is a member of the Yamaha Performing Artist roster, the Zildjian Artist Program, and endorses Innovative Percussion Sticks and Mallets.
**Program Notes**

**Stolen** (2016) is a sonatine of 3 short movements exploring the journey of a young girl who is sold into marriage. The first movement represents her stolen youth and the lamentation of saying goodbye to childhood. She is reflective of playtime, family memories and former dreams. While she is remembering pleasantries, she is also recognizing they are things of the past. The second movement explores the anxiety and sense of urgency felt about being forced into womanhood. She is full of complex feelings ranging from fear, unpreparedness, resentment and sadness. She also knows she has to bravely and quickly become an adult and sooner than later, a young mother. The third movement is her reluctant acceptance of and submission to an undesired life. She has assumed her new role, but is deeply yearning for the childhood she barely had and to have ownership of herself. Despite this, she must tend to her adult responsibilities as a matter of life or death.

Today, one third of girls in the developing world are married before the age of 18 and 1 in 9 are married before the age of 15. Commissioned by Amanda Gookin for The Forward Music Project.

**Piano Sonata No. 1, Mvt. I**, composed in honor of my mom, is dedicated to organ donors, transplant recipients, and the medical teams that have helped my mom and others like her have a second chance at life. The use of quartal chords and original pentatonic scales (developed from various modes) take this piece away from traditional triadic harmonies and add dissonance.

**Friday** is a study, in four movements, of the musical possibilities of the steelpan. The demands placed on the performer require the skills of an expert steel pannist, since solo steelpan compositions of a homophonic or polyphonic nature are not typical. The piece is a musical portrayal of four events that might take place on a typical Friday.

**Lorenupi** is a love note to my wife Lorena Nunez Pineda whom I met in Panama in the early 2000s. I was a guest steelpan soloist with the Panama National Symphony Orchestra and Lorena was the orchestra’s principal violist. After a relatively short time getting to know each other, we instantly felt a deep connection and decided that we wanted to build a life together. Even though we faced several obstacles (language barrier, living in two different countries, to name a few), Lorena and I remained committed and, along with our son Jaden Teague-Nunez, she permanently relocated to DeKalb, Illinois in 2011.

**Dmaathen** is presented as it was originally scored for oboe and percussion. Subsequent revisions of the piece, by the composer, restructured the oboe part for flute and for soprano saxophone. The piece is presented in two large sections. In the first, drum outbursts sit atop a soundscape of oboe multi-phonics; the second features declamatory and almost humorous march-like passages from both instruments. These two large parts are framed with a short introduction (with slinky sax lines and tribal drum sounds) and a short coda (with a stately dialogue between the oboe and vibraphone). From there, this visceral and abstract piece quickly fades into silence. - A Musical Feast

**Justice Not Charity**: William Sloane Coffin's Love Letters to America is a recital length, improvised percussion duo. Each movement begins with a brief recording of an actor reading a quote from William Sloane Coffin’s book, Credo. For each chapter of the book, eleven quotes have been selected to be randomly accessed via MaxMSP during practice sessions and performance.

William Sloane Coffin Jr. (June 1, 1924 – April 12, 2006) fought in World War II, worked for the CIA after the war, served as a chaplain at Yale and later at Riverside Church. He was jailed as a civil rights marcher with Dr. Martin Luther King, and was an academic, author, and an activist.

Justice, Not Charity... was premiered on the campus of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois on February, 11th 2017. The MaxMSP Patch was created by Brian Riordan (www.brianriordanmusic.com)