

# Illuminate

## WOMEN'S MUSIC

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March

International Anthony Burgess Foundation 7.00pm



**THE MARCHUS TRUST**



SHINING LIGHT  
ON THE  
WORK OF WOMEN  
COMPOSERS & PERFORMERS

Illuminate Women's Music is an organisation dedicated to the promotion of music, both historical and contemporary, composed by women. Also supporting talented female performers, Illuminate arranges repeat performance opportunities across the UK through annual concert series.

***Trio Sonorit ***

**Jelena Makarova (pianist) Daryl Giuliano (cellist) and Neyire Ashworth (clarinettist)**

**PROGRAMME**

<i>(left detail)</i> for piano trio (2022-23)	Sylvia Lim *	6'
<i>Varshini</i> for piano trio (2022-3)	Vinthya Perinpanathan *	5'
<i>Dervish</i> for piano and cello (2001)	Errollyn Wallen	8'
<i>Auctumnus</i> for piano trio (2023)	Stephanie Ann Boyd	14'

*Short interval (c. 5 mins)*

<i>Still</i> for solo piano (2004)	Diana �emeryt�	7'
<i>Tangled breath in winter air</i> for piano trio (2022-3)	Angela Elizabeth Slater *	12'
I.    Breathe		
II.   Inhale		
III.  Exhale		
<i>Two pieces</i> for clarinet, cello and piano (2022)	Kristina Arakelyan *	6'
I.    Song Without Words		
II.   Burlesque		

**(left detail) for piano trio (2022/3)****Sylvia Lim**

(left detail) is a set of five miniatures: Fanfare, Loop A, Loop B, Loop C, Coda

All the material of the work is contained within the opening fanfare. What follows is a honing in to the fanfare as object - an invitation to look at it in more detail. Splinters of the opening are isolated and revealed through obsessive reiteration and changes of frame. Rather than encountering more material, we find what's already there. The loops draw our attention to the almost aligned, the near synchronicities and inherent rhythmic instabilities of the opening. While the fanfare is declamatory and outward-facing, the piece unfolds with a living interiority and introspection, combined with an objective and focused precision.

**Varshini for piano trio (2022)****Vinthya Perinpanathan**

This work is titled after the goddess of rain, Varshini. The piece is composed around Raga Amritavarshini, a pentatonic, child-raga from the South Indian Carnatic tradition which holds a legendary association with causing rain or showers.

While the piece's imagery and initial inspiration were derived from such ancient and programmatic tales, the repetitive musical material is drawn from the composer's love of two contrasting, yet appropriate, musical traditions: Techno and Konnakol.

Techno is a repetitive, four-to-the-floor, electronic dance music genre, often performed for extended periods of time. Konnakol is an ancient art form and can be defined as a verbal performance of percussion syllables in Carnatic music. Both music idioms are monotonous and enchanting, which the composer felt fitting for a piece essentially inspired by a rain dance.

**Dervish for piano and cello (2001)****Errollyn Wallen**

In dervish dances, contrary to popular myth, there is absolutely no hedonistic wildness; the swirling skirts move from rapt and still devotion. The Sufi dance is solely for worship. I wanted to capture this atmosphere (Dervish proceeds from an intense, trance-like state) and also to set it beside the passion that is in speed.

**Auctumnus for piano trio (2023)****Stephanie Ann Boyd**

Commissioned by Jennifer Fischer and her trio, this piece was born out of a fiery, autumnal palette of colors, of fickle October winds and mischievous, scuttling leaves. The first movement was born out of a fiery, fall palette of colors, the second movement speaking to murky harbors and foggy grey skies, and the third movement is this frenetic, exciting, vibrant space of tone and time that brings in a little of a Dvorakian Furiant rhythm and ends with the way autumn usually ends... a little spooky, a little cold; darker colors seeping in where the gold and orange used to be.. these all hint at my memories of autumn in Michigan, especially of Sundays spent playing in youth orchestra on the University of Michigan School of Music campus, where this piece was premiered. For Illuminate's series the composers arranged the work for piano trio with clarinet

SHORT INTERVAL (c. 5 mins)

**Still for solo piano (2004)**

**Diana Čemerytė**

*Still* was composed in 2004 when Frankfurt's archive called "Frau und Musik" ("Woman and Music") was celebrating 25th anniversary. Jelena Makarova performing here today premiered "Still" in the UK (London) in 2022 during the pandemic in an online concert from 1901 Arts Club. The premiere was funded by the Lithuanian Council for Culture.

Composer Ben Lunn's notes about *Still*

'A work which in its seven minutes takes you away to something distant and profoundly mystical. The opening is intensely quiet, with lines bouncing around the highest reaches of the instrument. Notes hang in the air as the counterpoint thickens. Despite being so still and silent, the listener is frozen in place. You slowly begin to pick out small instances of the harmonic language, but due to the sparsity and modesty of it all these hints fall into insignificance. The flowing lines steadily pick up momentum and you gain the sensation of a rippling energy under the surface, like a river flowing under the ice.'

**Tangled breath in winter air for piano trio (2023)**

**Angela Elizabeth Slater**

I. Breathe. II. Inhale III. Exhale

*Tangled breath in winter air* is a work in three movements, written for Trio Sonorite as part of the Illuminate Women's Music Spring 2023 season. The work is a reflection on the sense of exhaustion I have been feeling, serving as a reminder to take time to breathe; to inhale and exhale; to be calm and reflect; to allow myself to be lost in the flow of creativity; to enjoy the beauty and emotion of that. The outer movements explore a reflective calm world rich in colour, expression and emotion, both in timbre and harmony. The middle movement - 'Inhale' - evokes a sense of failing to be calm, a reflection of being overwhelmed by the world.

**Two pieces for Violin, Clarinet and Piano (2022)**

**Kristina Arakelyan**

I. A Song Without Words. II. Burlesque

Two Pieces for Clarinet, Violoncello and Piano are an arrangement of Kristina Arakelyan's Trio for Violin, Saxophone and Piano, originally written as part of a series of compositions reacting to the word 'dance'. The initial compositional reaction was to create a fast, fun, breathless dance (Movement II: Burlesque) which would be reminiscent of a circus act, perhaps a clown's haphazard movements. The first movement, A Song Without Words, was written as a contrast to the dance movement; and, as the title hints, this is a lyrical movement, perhaps a confession of love.



Thank you for coming to Illuminate Women's Music at concert today!

Illuminate Women's Music is delighted to announce that our 2023 Spring season is being supported by the Vaughan Williams Foundation, Hinrichsen Foundation and Marchus Trust.

We still need further help for going forward into future years to keep bringing women's music to audiences. If you wish to support Illuminate Women's Music activities please visit our website:

[www.illuminatewomensmusic.co.uk](http://www.illuminatewomensmusic.co.uk) and donate through the PayPal link.

## Illuminate Composers

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### **Angela Elizabeth Slater**

Angela Elizabeth Slater is a UK-based composer and Director of Illuminate Women's Music. She has an interest in musically mapping different aspects of the natural world into the fabric of her music.

Recent significant achievements include being selected for the Royal Philharmonic Society Composer programme for 2021-22, as a 2020-22 Tanglewood Composition Fellow, and a 2017-18 Britten-Pears Young Artist through which Angela worked with Oliver Knussen, Colin Matthews and Michael Gandolfi. Angela was the 2019 Mendelssohn Scholar at New England Conservatory (Boston) and has continued to have performances of her works across the US, including the world premiere of *Roil in Stillness* by the New England Philharmonic.

In 2021 she wrote two new works for Royal Scottish National Orchestra, alongside six solo works for the *Connected Skies* project, funded by Arts Council England. In Autumn 2022 Angela had the world premiere of her piano concerto *Tautening skies* performed by Laura Farré Rozada with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of Yannick Mayoud supported by PRS Foundation, the Ambache Charitable Trust, and the RWV Trust. Her clarinet quintet called *The Light Blinds* was premiered by Ensemble 360 at Music in the Round as part of the RPS Composers 2021-22 programme. In July 2022 she also had premiere performance of her viola concerto, *Through the fading hour*, given by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, with the soloist Richard Waters.

In addition to the CBSO commission as part of this programme, 2023 will see Angela developing a new accordion concerto for the accordionist Sanja Mlinarič, and writing new works for both the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and the Mostly Modern Festival's chamber ensemble and orchestra.

For more information please visit: <https://angelaslatercomposer.co.uk>

### **Sylvia Lim**

Sylvia Lim is a London-based composer. Her music is intimate, investigating a small amount of material in depth. She is interested in the materiality of sound, notions of close listening, perception, rawness, and instability. Her work focuses on unearthing found sounds through reiterative means. Led by curiosity, playfulness, and a love for the unknown, her practice involves navigating the different agencies of material, composer, and performer. It explores ways of framing the material so that it is simple, honest, and immersive. Sylvia teaches composition at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and The Purcell School.

### **Kristina Arakelyan**

Described as a 'rising star' by the BBC Music Magazine, Kristina Arakelyan is an award-winning composer, pianist and educator. She studied at the Royal Academy of Music and Oxford University, and is currently completing her doctoral studies at King's College, London, where she leads music theory and composition seminars. She also teaches composition and music theory at the Junior Royal Academy of Music and at Surrey University. Her compositions, which are often described as lyrical and moving, have been heard on BBC Radio 3 and in distinguished London venues including the Royal Albert Hall, the Southbank Centre, St John's Smith Square, St Martin-in-the-Fields and the Wigmore Hall, as well as in concert halls in Belgium, Croatia, France, Mexico, Spain, the USA, and in her native Armenia.

### **Vintha Perinpanathan**

Vintha Perinpanathan is a London-based composer, violinist and DJ, due to begin her PhD in Sri Lankan ritualistic and religious music in September 2023. Vintha's British-Sri Lankan identity is expressed through her combining of Western and South Asian music traditions. Her interest in cross-cultural composition was sparked while writing her 2019 duo for tabla and cello, commissioned for the Commonwealth Resounds Awards Ceremony. Vintha has since gained international performances of multiple works, most notably her 'Caprice in Raga Kharaharapriya' and 'Flight UL505'. Following a recent trip to Bangalore for the India/UK Together RhythmXchange project, there are numerous exciting musical excursions to be expected from this rising star.

## **Illuminate Performers**

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**Jelena Makarova** is an award-winning Lithuanian pianist based in London. Jelena studied at Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre and Royal Academy of Music (PGDip), where she had masterclasses with French pianist Pierre Laurent-Aimard and György Kurtag. She was supported by the Kathleen Trust. Jelena performed in the world's finest concert venues which include Carnegie Hall, Mozart Konzerhaus, London Southbank and in festivals such as London

Contemporary Music Festival, Beethoven Piano Society of Europe Summer Festival, Kaunas 2022 European Capital of Culture Festival and Lidköping Festival, Sweden. She is a co-founding member of the "Living Songs" project, Trio Sonorité and Chromatikon art/music collective. Both were featured on Women's Radio Station. Jelena was a BBC Concert Orchestra ensemble pianist for the UK tour of Errollyn Wallen's opera 'The Paradis Files' with Graeae Theatre Company. She also collaborated with New London Orchestra, National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain and Royal Ballet School. Alongside traditional repertoire Jelena promotes music by established and emerging living composers.

Canadian cellist **Daryl Giuliano** performs internationally as a soloist and chamber musician. She is known for her expressive playing through which she embodies the music. Daryl specialises in Romantic and Modern repertoire and has worked with many contemporary composers. She also enjoys improvising as part of her performance. Daryl searches to find ways to bring colour and energy to her work through inspiration and collaboration with literature and visual art. Daryl is a founding member of several chamber ensembles, including Trio Sonorité and her duo with pianist Guy Murgatroyd. She also performs with accordionist Iñigo Mikeleiz and as a member of Celia Quartet.

**Neyire Ashworth** pursues a career as clarinet soloist, chamber musician and interdisciplinary artist. Her solo show *Stolen Voices* won Best Performer Award, nominated for Best New Writing from Buxton Fringe Festival. Her instrumental theatre piece *Stenclmusic*, was awarded a European Association of Jewish Culture Award. In 2018 she was nominated for a Paul Hamlyn Artist's Award. Neyire has been Countess of Munster Award beneficiary and a Live Music Now! Artist. She made her London solo debut at the South Bank Centre as a Park Lane Group Young Artist. Formerly a member of the Britten-Pears Ensemble and the clarinet quartet No Strings Attached (first prize Royal Overseas League Chamber Music competition, prize-winners Gaudeamus International Contemporary Music competition). Currently plays with the New London Chamber Ensemble (recordings for Meridian, NMC and Naxos) and the Zimro Ensemble, whilst freelancing with UK orchestras and pursuing collaborations on new interdisciplinary works. Neyire is professor of clarinet at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Juniors.