



TAC Alumni — Behind the Scenes

June 2, 2018

Works-in-progress by alumni of the Technology and Applied Composition program at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music

The **Technology and Applied Composition** program [TAC] readies students for a cutting-edge compositional career, dynamically bridging art and technology. Find information online at www.sfc.edu/tac **MaryClare Brzytwa** is Executive Director of the program.

Daniel De Togni

Music for *The Jerome Project*

The Jerome Project is a multi-platform art history project to preserve, protect and further the artistic legacy of the late Jerome Caja (1958-1995). The goal is to bring greater visibility and accessibility to Jerome's paintings and performances. The film *Jerome and the Art of Sainthood* is an unconventional, art-driven feature documentary that explores the cultural relevance of Caja's work as a master American painter.

Anthony Cianciolo, director

works in many artistic arenas, including film, which we'll see tonight. Cianciolo received a B.F.A. from Columbus College of Art & Design with a double major in illustration and fine art painting. (More biographical information can be found in the *Notes* section below.)

Daniel De Togni — Born in St. Louis (1993) and raised an Arkansas Native, Daniel De Togni is currently a composer living in the San Francisco Bay Area. His works have been performed in Japan, at the Hot Air Music Festival in San Francisco, New Music on the Point, as well as being performed throughout the United States.

Daniel's music is that of cross-pollination between genres and styles, and the exploration of sonic environments and the musical organisms that dwell in them. His focus is that of creating emotionally-moving listening experiences for the listener and on the creation of rich and compelling musical architectures.

Niko Korolog

Nocturne in G Minor

Daniel De Togni, piano

Nocturne in G minor was composed over several years, and finally completed in 2014. A neo-romantic take on the nocturne genre, Nocturne in G Minor remains one of Niko's personal favorite pieces, and he hopes to eventually complete a collection of piano music in the same vein. The sheet music for Nocturne in G Minor is available on SheetMusicPlus.Com

Found

Found was my first VR soundtrack, and an unexpected success. The project was programmed over the course of two weeks in summer of 2016 as part of the Make School VR track program, and I composed the soundtrack over the same period of time, using old MOTU samples and software. The success of Found was the door that allowed me to venture into the world of VR audio as a professional. Look for Niko's upcoming VR cinematic, *Avaloki*, coming this summer. —Niko Korolog

Found:

"A dimly lit train cabin ...
swaying grassy plains ...
flickering fireflies ...
a mighty dragon."

Found immerses you in a journey that has left early reviewers with an awe "eerily reminiscent of a Miyazaki film." Fans of beautifully handcrafted worlds like *Limbo* and *Journey* may find VR's worthiest heir, which melds a captivating realm with a narrative that unfolds in fragments of gradual discovery. Built in less than a month, this departure from traditional gameplay delivers the feels we've been dreaming of since VR landed.

Enter *Found*, and you just might lose yourself... "

Niko Korolog is a Bay Area native with a background in Classical and Electronic music composition and Game Audio implementation. He has been composing music since 2005, and has been writing commissioned works for film and video games since 2007. He is credited on a number of short films, and several published video games, including most recently the *Found Virtual Reality Cinematic Experience* for HTC Vive and Oculus Rift. He is currently working on the upcoming VR cinematic *Avaloki*.

Daria Novo

Lullaby (traditional Russian folksong)

Khala Branningan, choreographer

Claire Fisher, Sydney Franz, Katie Meyers, dancers

Anna Aistova, soprano

Inna Malygina, sand animation

Lullaby (translation)

Lullaby hushabye,
Vanya, sleep, my angel

Sleep my angel Vanya,
sleep all day
Lullaby

Guardian angels
are sitting around you
Lullaby

They are sitting around
and telling God's grace
Lullaby

They are telling God's grace
And promising the Advent of Deiparous Virgin

Daria Novo (b. 1986) earned her master's degree in choral conducting from the Saint Petersburg State Conservatory named after N. A. Rimsky-Korsakov in 2010. While studying at the Conservatory, she worked as a singer and arranger for the Saint-Petersburg Concert Choir conducted by Vladimir Begletsov, where she composed her first program of arrangements entitled "Forbidden Songs" (2008). Since 2013 Novo has held the position of orchestrator in residence for the St. Petersburg Theater of Musical Comedy. Daria Novo is the laureate of the Youth prize of St. Petersburg in the field of Art (2013).

She has worked as an orchestrator alongside many famous Russian film composers including Ivan Burlyaev (*Prizrak, Attraction*), Maksim Koshevarov (*"Young Guard"*), Dmitry Noskov (*"Quackerz"*), Michail Chertischev (*"Barboskiny"*, *"Luntik"*). She has also composed music for puppet shows at "Stray Dog" Puppet Theater and Krasnodar Regional Puppet Theater.

She completed the SFCM TAC Professional Studies Diploma in 2017 and currently is a recording engineer and music composition teacher at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Intermission

“Sky” (James A. Schuyler)

Excerpts from *Beings of Light and Darkness*

Beings of Light and Darkness was written in 2016, 2017 and 2018. This several-movement piece for string ensemble with woodwinds, reflects the arc of trauma, resolution and recommitment. The arc begins in "Chaos Reigns" with its conflicting and powerful currents, progresses through the disbelief and drifting of "Suspension", into "Remastering" where dramatic action takes place, to the ultimate realization that there is "Kindness Everywhere." Tonight's performance will feature portions of this half-hour work.

The projections are fantasy worlds created in the **Terragen 4** app.

Dakini Dances #3 (*Another Time*)

Khala Branningan, choreographer

Claire Fisher, Sydney Franz, Katie Meyers, dancers

Daniel De Togni, piano

Anju Goto, violin

Federico Ramirez, cello

The Dakini Dances are based on the concept of the "Dakini," which the composer interprets as essential motive spirits of the world. In Tibetan lore, dakinis are depicted as sky dancers, feminine principles that watch out for and defend (or sometimes mess with) sentient beings. The eight Dakini Dances represent various aspects of their protective principles. In Dakini Dance #3, which is subtitled "Another Time," you may envision the dakinis reminiscing about times past and looking forward to the future. The piece is melodic and structured for live dancers. Tonight it is orchestrated for piano, violin and cello.

James A. Schuyler, but call me "Sky" (b. 1946 somewhere in the Midwest) is a pianist turned computer scientist turned composer. At age 18 he had to decide between conservatory study with his teacher Kurt Wanieck (American Conservatory of Music, Chicago) and a career in engineering. His PhD from Northwestern University was one of the earliest granted by its first department of computer science. He has founded several software companies. He recently returned to music, earning a TAC Professional Studies Diploma at SFCM in 2016, the inaugural year of the program.

Costas Dafnis

Musical Structure in C.R. Coppola's *Torch*

A multimedia lecture-performance on narrative construction in the orchestral score for C.R. Coppola's feature film *Torch*. Presentation includes projections from the premiere and recording process, footage from the film, and live excerpts performed by piano trio.

C.R. Coppola, director

Daniel De Togni, piano

Anju Goto, violin

Federico Ramirez, cello

Costas Dafnis (b. 1989 Athens, Greece) is a composer, conductor and sound artist based in Pacifica. For more information visit www.CostasDafnis.com

Costas completed the TAC Professional Studies Diploma at SFCM in 2016, in the first year of this acclaimed program.

Notes

(in order of their appearance on the program)

Anthony Cianciolo, Writer, Director, Animator, Estate Rep

is an artist at heart, working in many artistic arenas, such as 2D/3D animation, visual FX, industrial product design, magnetic jewelry design, and fine art drawing, painting, collage and sculpture. He worked on cutting-edge films that fused animation with live action (Natural Born Killers, Tank Girl); mainstream 2D/3D animated films that re-defined visual FX technology (The Iron Giant, Space Jam, Osmosis Jones, Looney Tunes Back in Action); and numerous innovative commercials. He helped establish Warner Brothers Feature Animation division, working as an art director, technical director, compositor, and animator. Cianciolo received a B.F.A. from Columbus College of Art & Design with a double major in illustration and fine art painting.

Anthony Cianciolo's The Jerome Project www.thejeromeproject.com is a multi-platform art history project to preserve, protect and further the artistic legacy of the late Jerome Caja (1958-1995). The goal is to bring greater visibility and accessibility to Jerome's paintings and performances. Here you will find descriptions of the seven main projects: (1) feature-length documentary film, (2) digital catalogue raisonné, (3) revival art shows, (4) biographical timeline, (5) large-format fine art book, (6) historical preservation and (7) non-profit foundation dedicated to Jerome's art. The film Jerome and the Art of Sainthood is the driving force for all these projects. It is an unconventional, art-driven feature documentary that explores the cultural relevance of Jerome Caja's art and places him where he belongs in contemporary art history as a master American painter.

Khala Brannigan, choreographer

A native of Santa Fe, New Mexico, Khala began her training with Moving People Dance Theatre under the direction of Ronn Stewart and Layla Amis. Brannigan is a LINES Ballet Training Program alumna of 2011-2013 and since graduating, she founded Brannigan Dance Works. As a choreographer, Brannigan has formerly collaborated with local opera singers, musicians, visual artists, video designers and more. Her work has been included in West Wave Dance Festival, Summer Performance Festival, San Francisco Dance Film Festival and SF International Arts Festival. As a dancer, Brannigan is currently working with Robert Moses' Kin.

Founded by Khala Brannigan in 2013, **Brannigan Dance Works** provides exhilarating live performance art that empowers emerging

artists to share their cultural wisdom through their bodies. Fiscally sponsored by Intersection For The Arts, Brannigan Dance Works has made an appearance in over six different dance festivals presented at ODC Theatre, Z Space, Cowell Theatre, Joe Goode Annex, SAFEhouse Arts and San Francisco International Film Festival amongst emerging and established choreographers. In 2017, Brannigan Dance Works commissioned New York City choreographer Sidra Bell to set a new work on the company that culminated into a shared evening with a five piece jazz band. Brannigan Dance Works looks forward to commissioning David Harvey to set work on the company this summer for their fall season at Joe Goode Annex September 7th & 8th.

Claire Fisher, dancer

Claire grew up in Tracy, California. She has trained with Alonzo King LINES Ballet, San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, & Northwest Dance Project. Residing in San Francisco, Claire is currently a freelance dancer and has appeared with Brannigan Dance Works, dazaun.dance, TWObigsteps and The MoveMessenger(s).

Katie Meyers, dancer

Katie Meyers was born and raised in Evanston, Illinois. She received her training under the direction of Summer Lee Rhatigan at the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance. She currently dances for Brannigan Dance Works, Alex Ketley's The Foundry, The Anata Project, and Fullstop Dance.

Sydney Franz, dancer

Sydney Franz is a dancer, improviser, and graphic designer from Houston, Texas. An alumna of Loyola Marymount University and the San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, she's performed with artists including Courtney Mazeika, Detour Dance, Chlo & Co Dance, and Fullstop Dance, and is currently in process with Risa Jaroslow on upcoming projects.

Anju Goto, violin

Anju Goto is currently a student at SFCM studying for the Violin Performance Bachelor's degree. As a San Francisco native, he has performed throughout the Bay Area, which includes collaborating with Mason Bates, Kronos Quartet, and students from the TAC program.

Federico Ramirez, cello

Federico Strand Ramirez is a recent graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He has participated in chamber music festivals such as the Aria International Summer Academy, Bowdoin International Music Festival, and Yellow Barn Young Artists Program. He was a member of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra in 2014-2015 Season and embarked with the orchestra to Europe the

following summer. He will pursue his Masters Degree at the Mannes School of Music this fall.

Omar Akrouche, sound engineer

Omar Akrouche is a student in the Technology and Applied Composition program.



Please follow our series of concerts and events at WritingMusic.org online.

You may help financially support tonight's performance at WritingMusic.org — all donations go directly to fund the performers.

skyHi Digital: Tonight's works-in-progress event was produced by skyHi Digital, Inc. Online at www.skyhi.digital **Sky** is founder and CEO of skyHi Digital.

Daria Novoliantceva coordinated logistics and engineering for tonight's performance.