

The Juilliard School
presents

The New Series: Spotlight on Composer Reena Esmail

Thursday, March 30, 2023, 7:30pm

Judith Harris and Tony Woolfson Orchestral Studio (Room 543)

6:30pm Preconcert talk with David Serkin Ludwig and Reena Esmail

REENA ESMAIL (b. 1983)

Blaze (2019)

Luke Henderson, Violin

Sameer Gupta, Tabla

ESMAIL

The light is the same (2017)

Alex Lombo, Flute

Kara Poling, Oboe

Anoush Pogossian, Clarinet

Hugo Bliss, French Horn

Zach VonCannon, Bassoon

ESMAIL

Saans (2017)

Xin Quan, Violin

Noah Chen, Cello

Jingting Zhu, Piano

ESMAIL

Who makes a clearing (2022)

Britt Hewitt, Soprano

Sophia Werner, Violin

Boubacar Diallo, Cello

Intermission

ESMAIL

Meri Sakhi Ki Avaaz (My Sister's Voice) (2019)

Shabnam Abedi, Hindustani Singer

Shelen Hughes, Soprano

Sahana Shravan, **Emma Richman**, Violin

Marcus Stevenson, Viola

Wangshu Xiang, Cello

Grace Francis, Piano

Performance time: approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes, including an intermission

Juilliard's creative enterprise programming, including the Creative Associates program, is generously supported by Jody and John Arnhold.

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Juilliard's livestream technology is made possible, in part, by a gift in honor of President Emeritus Joseph W. Polisi, building on his legacy of broadening Juilliard's global reach.

This performance is part of Carnegie Hall's *Women in Music*, a season-long exploration of the many contributions that women have made to the world of music.

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About the Artists

Reena Esmail

Indian-American composer Reena Esmail (BM '05, composition) works between the worlds of Indian and Western classical music, bringing communities together through the creation of equitable musical spaces. Esmail's life and music was profiled on season three of PBS' series *Now Hear This* as well as *Frame of Mind*, a podcast from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Esmail divides her attention evenly among orchestral, chamber, and choral work. She has written commissions for ensembles including the Los Angeles Master Chorale, Seattle Symphony, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and Kronos Quartet, and her music has featured on multiple Grammy-nominated albums, including *The Singing Guitar* by Conspirare, *BRUITS* by Imani Winds, and *Healing Modes* by Brooklyn Rider. Many of her choral works are published by Oxford University Press. Esmail is the Los Angeles Master Chorale's 2020-25 Swan Family artist in residence and she was Seattle Symphony's 2020-21 composer in residence. She holds awards/fellowships from United States Artists, the S&R Foundation, American Academy of Arts and Letters, and Kennedy Center. Esmail also holds degrees in composition from the Yale School of Music (MM '11, MMA '14, DMA '18). Her primary teachers have included Susan Botti, Aaron Jay Kernis, Christopher Theofanidis, Christopher Rouse, and Samuel Adler. She received a Fulbright-Nehru grant to study Hindustani music in India. Her Hindustani music teachers include Srimati Lakshmi Shankar and Gaurav Mazumdar and she studies and collaborates with Saili Oak. Her doctoral thesis, *Finding Common Ground: Uniting Practices in Hindustani and Western Art Musicians*, explores the methods and challenges of the collaborative process between Hindustani musicians and Western composers. Esmail was composer in residence for Street Symphony (2016-18) and is an artistic director of Shastra, a nonprofit organization that promotes cross-cultural music connecting music traditions of India and the West. She resides in her hometown of Los Angeles.

David Serkin Ludwig

David Serkin Ludwig (Graduate Diploma '02, composition) enjoys a career of collaboration with some of today's leading musicians, filmmakers, and writers. This year, he was the recipient of the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Music and, in 2022, he was awarded the Stoeger Prize from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the largest award of its kind. He received the 2018 Pew Center for the Arts and Heritage Fellowship, along with the A. I. duPont Award for significant contributions to classical music. In 2012, NPR named Ludwig one of the Top 100 Composers Under 40. The next year, his choral work *The New Colossus* opened the private prayer service for President Obama's second inauguration. He holds positions and residencies with nearly two dozen orchestras and music festivals in the U.S. and abroad and was named a Steinway Artist in 2021. Ludwig was formerly at the Curtis Institute of Music, where he served as dean of artistic programs, chair of composition, director of Ensemble 20/21, and artistic director of Curtis Summerfest. He also holds degrees from Oberlin Conservatory, Manhattan School of Music, and Curtis as well as a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. Ludwig studied at the University of Vienna and taught

at Cheyney University of Pennsylvania while attending Juilliard. He has received commissions from artists and ensembles including the Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Minnesota, and National symphony orchestras as well as Jonathan Biss, Jeremy Denk, Jennifer Koh, Jaime Laredo, David Shifrin, Eighth Blackbird, Imani Winds, and the PRISM Saxophone Quartet. He has scored Hollywood feature films, written for historical performance ensembles, and created new works for non-traditional and electronic instruments. Ludwig was appointed dean and director of music at Juilliard in 2021, and he serves on the faculty and is the artistic director of Juilliard's collaborative contemporary music project *The New Series*. He lives in New York City with his wife, violinist Bella Hristova, and their four beloved cats.

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