

The Juilliard School
presents

New Juilliard Ensemble

Joel Sachs, Founding Director and Conductor

Lennox Thuy Duong, Narrator

Mary Beth Nelson, Mezzo-Soprano

Diana Syrse, Soprano

Monday, April 11, 2022, 7:30pm
Alice Tully Hall

YANGFAN XU

(b. 1998)

Fantastic Creatures of the Mountains and Seas (2021-22)

LENNOX THUY DUONG, Narrator

World premiere, composed for the New Juilliard Ensemble

PAUL FREHNER

(b. 1970)

Sometimes the Devil Plays Fate (2020, rev. 2021)

MARY BETH NELSON, Mezzo-Soprano

World premiere, composed for the New Juilliard Ensemble and the Music Ensemble of the Glenn Gould School, Toronto (funding provided by the Ontario Arts Council)

Intermission

DIANA SYRSE

(b. 1984)

The Invention of Sex (2020)

Cambrian Explosion

From a Hundred Flowers Open

The Hunt

Perpetual Spring

DIANA SYRSE, *Soprano*

World premiere, composed for the New Juilliard Ensemble

PAUL DESENNE

(b. 1959)

Sinfonia Burocratica ed'Amazzonica (2004)

La Leçon

Anaconda

Guasarana

Bananera

Death of the Automobile

Composed for the New Juilliard Ensemble

Performance time: approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes, including an intermission

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A Message From Joel Sachs

Good evening and welcome to the final New Juilliard Ensemble concert of this season! Now we will finally catch up with premieres of pieces written for the group that were deferred by the pandemic.

I am also pleased to inform you that, after 52 years of teaching and making music at Juilliard, I shall retire as of June 30 and become professor emeritus. Tonight is therefore my farewell concert. Of course, I have mixed feelings—making music with our great young performers is always a huge pleasure. But having arrived at age 82 in excellent health, it struck me as time to move on to other projects—recording, performing as a pianist, and writing—and to indulge in luxuries that come with an open schedule, such as more traveling and more time with my children and grandchildren.

To those listeners who have come in the past, I thank you heartily for your loyal support over the years. To those who are new tonight, I hope you return for more Juilliard events! The future will no doubt bring many new musical surprises.

With best wishes,
Joel Sachs

Joel Sachs joined the Juilliard faculty in 1970 as the school's lecturer in music history. He teaches new-music performance, chamber music, and music history, is a member of the doctoral faculty, directs and conducts the New Juilliard Ensemble, and has produced the annual Focus festival since its inception, in 1985. The school is grateful to Joel for his many contributions over the years, and we wish him all the best in this new chapter.

About the Artists

Joel Sachs

Joel Sachs, founder and director of the New Juilliard Ensemble, performs a vast range of traditional and contemporary music as conductor and pianist. As co-director of the new music ensemble Continuum, he has appeared in hundreds of performances in New York, nationally, and throughout Europe, Asia, and Latin America. He has also conducted orchestras and ensembles in Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, El Salvador, Germany, Iceland, Mexico, Mongolia, Switzerland, and Ukraine, and has held new music residencies in Berlin, Shanghai, London, Salzburg, Curitiba (Brazil), Newcastle-Upon-Tyne (U.K.), Helsinki, and the Banff Centre (Canadian Rockies). One of the most active presenters of new music in New York, Sachs founded the New Juilliard Ensemble in 1993. He produces and directs Juilliard's annual Focus festival and, since 1993, has been artistic director of Juilliard's concerts at the Museum of Modern Art. A member of Juilliard's music history faculty, he wrote the first full biography of the American composer Henry Cowell, published by Oxford University Press in 2012. Sachs often appears on radio as a commentator on recent music and has been a regular delegate to international music conferences. A graduate of Harvard, Sachs received his PhD from Columbia. In 2011, he was made an honorary member of Phi Beta Kappa at Harvard for his work in support of new music and received the National Gloria Artis Medal of the Polish Government for his service to Polish music. In 2002, he was presented with Columbia's Alice M. Ditson Award for his service to American music. He has recorded for Naxos and other labels. On May 28, he will give a recital in Oban, Scotland, featuring Charles Ives' Piano Sonata No. 1 and music by Ruth Crawford (Seeger), Aaron Copland, and Henry Cowell. On June 30, Sachs will retire from the Juilliard faculty after 52 years and become professor emeritus.

Lennox Thuy Duong

Lennox Thuy Duong, born and raised in Fresno, California, is a fourth-year MFA drama student at Juilliard. She received an associate of the arts degree in theater arts from Fresno City College and a bachelor's in theater arts from California State University, Fresno. She received an award for distinguished performance by an actress in a play from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in 2016 for *Mulan and the Battle on Black Mountain* by Charles

Erven. At Juilliard, she was a co-recipient of the 2021-22 John Houseman Prize. She wouldn't be who she is without the modeled perseverance and love from her family, friends, and mentors. *Harold and Mimi Steinberg Fellowship*

Mary Beth Nelson

Mezzo-soprano Mary Beth Nelson is a first-year master's student at Juilliard. In 2022, she has performed as soloist in Bach's B-Minor Mass with the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Juilliard415 in Alice Tully Hall and Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* with Opera Delaware and Baltimore Concert Opera. Later this month, she will perform as the alto soloist in Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* with the Messiah Festival for the Arts. Nelson trained at the Glimmerglass Festival, Florida Grand Opera Studio, Seagle Music Festival, and Tri-Cities Opera, and she holds a bachelor of music degree from Oklahoma City University. She studies voice with William Burden and is a native of Southern California. *Lorna Dee Doan Scholarship, Eric Friedman Scholarship*

New Juilliard Ensemble

Joel Sachs, *Founding Director and Conductor*

Curtis Stewart, *Manager*

The New Juilliard Ensemble (NJE), led by founding director Joel Sachs and in its 29th season, presents new music by a variety of international composers writing in diverse styles. The ensemble, comprising Juilliard players from freshmen to doctoral students, appeared annually at the Museum of Modern Art's Summergarden series, was featured four times at the Lincoln Center Festival, and has premiered more than 150 compositions. Members of the ensemble have performed in Israel, Great Britain, France, Germany, Japan, and Russia. In the 2019-20 season, the ensemble featured works by Julian Anderson (U.K.), Oleg Felzer (Azerbaijan/U.S.), Jacqueline Fontyn (Belgium), Deirdre Gribbin (Northern Ireland), Alexander Goehr (U.K.), Balázs Horváth (Hungary), Magnus Lindberg (Finland), Elisabeth Lutyens (U.K.), Ursula Mamlok (Germany/U.S.), Narang Prangcharoen (Thailand), Shulamit Ran (Israel/U.S.), Alfredo Rugeles (Venezuela), Ruth Crawford Seeger (U.S.), Eric Tanguy (France), and Galina Ustvolskaya (USSR). During the pandemic, the ensemble recorded two video concerts of music by composers from Azerbaijan, Japan, France, South Africa, and the U.S.; resumed live performances in October 2021; and reopened to the general public in a concert last November featuring a new piece by Roberto Sierra with David Rockefeller Jr. as narrator. The ensemble annually opens Juilliard's Focus festivals, the most recent edition being January's From "Maple Leaf Rag" to the Prepared Piano: The Making of an American Music, 1899–1948.

New Juilliard Ensemble

XU Fantastic Creatures of the Mountains and Seas

LENNOX THUY DUONG, *Narrator*

Violin 1

Luke Henderson

Flute

Emily Duncan

Trumpet

Shawn Wui

Violin 2

Sophia Su

Oboe

Joseph Jordan

Trombone

Sarah Goldberg

Viola

Leslie Ashworth

Bassoon

Tylor Thomas

Tuba

David Freeman

Cello

Noah Chen

Clarinet

Roi Karni

Percussion

Will Hopkins

Bass

Michael Banks

Horn

Joel Rodeback

Keyboard

Tianyi Li

Harp

Kathleen Hopkins

FREHNER *Sometimes the Devil Plays Fate*

MARY BETH NELSON, *Mezzo-Soprano*

Violin 1

Luke Henderson

Flute

Emily Duncan

Trumpet

Shawn Wui

Violin 2

Sophia Su

Oboe

Mia Fasanello

Trombone

Connor Rowe

Viola

Jeremy Klein

Bassoon

Tylor Thomas

Percussion

Will Hopkins

Cello

Ian Maloney

Clarinet

Bill Foye

Keyboard

Rhany Zhu

Bass

Thomas Green

Horn

Joel Rodeback

Harp

Kathleen Hopkins

SYRSE *The Invention of Sex*

DIANA SYRSE, *Soprano*

Violin 1

Luke Henderson

Flute

Emily Duncan

Trumpet

Tianyu Wang

Violin 2

KJ McDonald

Oboe

Joseph Jordan

Trombone

Theo Swanson

Viola

Leslie Ashworth

Bassoon

Tylor Thomas

Tuba

David Freeman

Cello

Noah Chen

Clarinet

Yan Liu

Percussion

Will Hopkins

Bass

Michael Banks

Horn

Joel Rodeback

Keyboard

Tianyi Li

DESENNE

Sinfonia Burocratica ed'Amazzonica

Violin 1

Luke Henderson

Violin 2

KJ McDonald

Viola

Jeremy Klein

Cello

Ian Maloney

Bass

Thomas Green

Flute

Emily Duncan

Oboe

Mia Fasanello

Bassoon

Tylor Thomas
Sabrina Walch

Clarinet/Piccolo

Yan Liu

B-flat Clarinet

Bill Foye

Bass Clarinet

Roi Karni

Horn

Joel Rodeback

Trumpet

Tianyu Wang

Trombone

Connor Rowe

Tuba

David Freeman

Percussion

Will Hopkins
Judy Hu
Kyle Rappe
Matthew West

Harp

Kathleen Hopkins