

Saturday, November 2, 2019 at 1:00pm
Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall

MEET THE MUSIC

with musicians from
The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

BRUCE ADOLPHE, *Host*

LLEWELLYN SANCHEZ-WERNER, *Piano*

ALICE IVY-PEMBERTON, *Violin*

ESTELLE CHOI, *Cello*

XAVIER FOLEY, *Double Bass*

SOOYUN KIM, *Flute*

ROMIE DE GUISE-LANGLOIS, *Clarinet*

BRAD BALLIETT, *Bassoon*

VICTOR CACCESE, *Percussion*

Poems by Kate Light

**BRUCE
ADOLPHE**
(b. 1955)

Oceanophony for Chamber Ensemble and Narrator

Marine Snow

Puffer

Coral Music

Stoplight Parrotfish

Parrotfish Lullaby

Octopus Octet

Cleaning Station

Sea Horse Greeting Dance

Sarcastic Fringehead Fish



OCEANOPHONY

A LETTER FROM BRUCE ADOLPHE

If you have ever been to an aquarium, you might be familiar with some of the amazing, beautiful, and weird creatures living in the ocean, such as the pufferfish, parrotfish, octopus, seahorse, and sarcastic fringehead fish. When the Birch Aquarium of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2003, they asked me to compose a piece of music about the ocean as part of the festivities. I took my family to the Birch Aquarium to get some inspiration, and happily, I found that the creatures were strangely musical in lots of ways.

For example, the seahorses hook their tails together and spin around in a silent underwater dance! The way a pufferfish puffs itself up gave me some fun ideas about how to make the music seem to puff up and deflate. And just imagine what a virtuoso musician the octopus might be with its eight arms!

I thought it would be fun to have poems to introduce the creatures and the music, so I called Kate Light, and she wrote the enchanting poetic gems you will hear today. Along with the music and poetry, we also have beautiful photographs of undersea life taken by our friends at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Oceanography means the study of oceans, but if you look carefully at the title of the piece you will notice that Oceanography is not its name. The piece is called *Oceanophony*. It is a mishmash of the words “oceanography” and “symphony!”

Oceanophony is a celebration in music, poetry, and photographs of the astounding ocean life forms that share our planet with us. We need to take care of them, which means cleaning up our oceans right away and then keeping them safe and clean for the next generation... hey, that's you!

Bruce 



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The Chamber Music Society's education and outreach programs are made possible, in part, with support from the AE Family Foundation, Colburn Foundation, Consolidated Edison Company, The Jerome L. Greene Foundation, The Hearst Foundation Inc., The Frank and Helen Hermann Foundation, Alice Ilchman Fund, the Daniel and Joanna S. Rose Fund, and the Tiger Baron Foundation. Public funds are provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council, and the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.



**BRUCE
ADOLPHE**
host/composer



MEET THE ARTISTS

When he was a child, **Bruce Adolphe** watched both Victor Borge and Leonard Bernstein on TV, and after seeing them, he began “playing piano” on the breakfast table and cracking jokes with a Danish accent. Having no choice, his parents bought him a toy piano, at which Bruce pretended to be Schroeder of the *Peanuts* cartoons. Soon after the toy piano was pecked apart by the family parakeet, Bruce’s parents purchased a real piano and a larger bird. By age ten, Bruce was composing music, and no one has been able to stop him since. As a “tween,” Bruce studied piano, clarinet, guitar, bass, and—as a teen—the bassoon. All this time, he wrote music and improvised accompaniments to everything that happened around him, as if life were a movie in need of a score. His favorite summers were spent at the Kinhaven Music School in Vermont, and he loved his Saturdays at The Juilliard School’s Pre-College Division. Today, Bruce spends his time composing chamber music, playing the piano, and performing in concerts for people like you. He lives in New

York City on the Upper West Side with his wife, pianist Marija, his daughter Katja, and his opera-and-jazz-singing parrot PollyRhythm, the same bird he has had since he was 10 years old. Bruce performs weekly on public radio’s *Performance Today*, playing his Piano Puzzlers (familiar tunes in the styles of the great masters), and you can catch that show on WQXR, iTunes, or as a podcast from American Public Media. Many great musicians have performed Bruce’s music, including cellist Yo-Yo Ma, violinist Itzhak Perlman, the Brentano String Quartet, over 60 symphony orchestras around the world, and of course lots of amazing players at The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, where Bruce has been making music since 1992. If you want to check out Bruce’s CDs and educational pieces for all ages, please visit the website of The Learning Maestros. You might enjoy his book *The Mind’s Ear: Exercises for Improving the Musical Imagination*, published by Oxford University Press in 2013.



**BRAD
BALLIETT**

bassoon

Brad Balliett started playing music in 3rd grade, when he started the violin. After playing some clarinet and saxophone, he finally settled on bassoon, because when he saw a picture of it, it looked so crazy that he had to try it. Soon he fell in love with the sound and now he loves playing it every day. Brad grew up in Massachusetts and went to school at Harvard University, where he worked hard learning to write his own music. Brad loves all sorts of musical activities, so in New York City he plays with orchestras like the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and the New York City Ballet, plays lots of chamber music, writes music for big and small groups, plays in a rock band, and also teaches music to college students in Baltimore. One of Brad's favorite things to do is help people write their own music for the first time, which he does in several maximum-security prisons around the country. His other favorite thing is to go to Central Park to find crazy looking birds.



**VICTOR
CACCESE**

percussion

Victor Caccese is a percussionist and plays on many different kinds of instruments. Some of these instruments include things we have all heard like the snare drum or a xylophone, but others include sounds that you can find right in your kitchen or living room like tin cans or even a glass bottle. Victor started playing the piano at the age of nine but switched to percussion because of the many instruments you get to play and because you get to play very loud! Victor's favorite percussion instrument is the drum set because of the many different styles of music you can play on it. While many people go to school to be a doctor or lawyer, Victor went to school to be a musician. Today he plays concerts all over the world and even started his own percussion quartet called Sandbox Percussion. Victor also loves to play golf, soccer, and go surfing. Above all he loves playing music for many different people all around the world.





**ESTELLE
CHOI**

cello

Born and raised in Calgary, Canada, **Estelle Choi** started learning the cello at the age of 5. She also played piano but wasn't very good at it, so she stuck with the cello as her primary instrument. Estelle has three older siblings, and they all play music professionally (two pianists and one cellist), so she learned a lot from them when she was growing up. After high school, Estelle went to Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. Then she spent six years in Los Angeles, California at the Colburn Conservatory. She now lives in New York City and loves performing all around the globe. She is a member of the award winning Calidore String Quartet, a group that travels together to perform concerts and teach students of all ages here and abroad. When Estelle isn't on tour or practicing, she loves cooking for friends, exploring New York City, and going to watch theater productions and concerts. Estelle will play on our series again this season with the Calidore Quartet on February 20, 2020. If your parents will let you stay up a bit past your bedtime, you could come hear her again.



**XAVIER
FOLEY**

bass

Xavier Foley is from the suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia and started playing the double bass at age 11. He wanted to play the bass because it was so much bigger than him. After growing up in Atlanta, Xavier moved to Philadelphia to go to school at The Curtis Institute, where he studied with Edgar Meyer, Eric Sessler, and Hal Robinson. He graduated last year and has already toured around the United States, playing with the Atlanta Symphony, Nashville Symphony, and with the Philadelphia Orchestra. Xavier has won quite a few prizes, such as first prize at the Sphinx Competition and at the International Society of Bassists Competition. Most recently, he won first prize at the Young Concert Artists International Auditions and is only the second bassist to ever win! Xavier is not just a double bass player, he is also a composer. His favorite piece to perform live is "Irish Fantasy," which he wrote himself! Xavier loves to eat and drive his car, play soccer, basketball, and video games. He enjoys listening to music in his car and is inspired by the music of Jeremy Soule, who composed the music for a video game called Skyrim. Xavier says, "Music is love, music is life!"



**ROMIE
DE GUISE-
LANGLOIS**

clarinet

Romie de Guise-Langlois is a clarinetist. She was born in Montreal, Canada and played the recorder until she was 12 years old, when she chose to start playing the clarinet. Since then, the clarinet has brought her to live in cities such as New Haven, Connecticut and New York City and led her to learn English. She has won many prizes and awards for her playing, including the Woolsey Hall Competition at Yale University and the McGill University Classical Concerto Competition. She is a former member of The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center CMS Bowers Program. Romie enjoys playing in orchestras such as the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. She also enjoys traveling all over the world playing chamber music with some of her closest friends. Her favorite activity when traveling is to discover delicious foods from other cultures.



**ALICE
IVY-
PEMBERTON**

violin

Alice Ivy-Pemberton began playing violin when she was four years old because she wanted to start a family band with her parents. Since then, she has played all kinds of music on her violin (from bluegrass to Bach) with friends all over the world! Alice grew up in New York City and loves it so much that she can't seem to leave—she even stayed to go The Juilliard School and learn as much as she could from her violin heroes, Itzhak Perlman and Catherine Cho. At Juilliard, she got to perform as a soloist with The Juilliard Orchestra in one of her favorite halls, Alice Tully Hall. (It's not her favorite just because it shares her name, but that helps!) When she isn't practicing or performing, Alice loves watching baseball, exploring cities, and spending time with her cats Sake and Udon.



Princeton University Concerts thanks Thomas Sweet Ice Cream and Chocolate for its in-kind contribution to our 126th Season.



**SOOYUN
KIM**

flute

Flutist **Sooyun Kim** was born in Seoul, Korea and grew up in Millburn, New Jersey. Sooyun began playing the flute in Korea when she was nine years old and just one year later when she turned ten, she played the Mozart Flute Concerto in D major with the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra. Since then, she has played many concerts all around the world, most recently in Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and in France. Her recital at the Louvre Museum was broadcast live on Radio France and on the web via medici.tv. (You can still watch the concert!) She also lived in Boston for many years while she studied at the New England Conservatory of Music, and now she lives in New York City. When she is not playing the flute, Sooyun is often found musing in front of beautiful paintings and sculptures in museums, dancing in her dance studio, or riding her bike around town.



**LLEWELLYN
SANCHEZ-
WERNER**

piano

It seems that **Llewellyn Sanchez-Werner** loved the piano before he was born, because by two and a half he began lessons with a local teacher Mrs. Ludwig (alas, no relation to Beethoven). Living on the beach meant that the sand could be Llewellyn's gigantic writing board. Every day in sunny California, he played on the beach with his mom and with a stick brought in by the tide and drew staves and notes, jumping from one note to another rapidly learning to read music. By age three Llewellyn was as prolific reading music as he was reading prose. At age five he enrolled as a full-time college student and at age six he began performing as soloist with orchestras and hasn't stopped since, performing all over the world! It was fun performing for President Obama at the White House, the Presidents of Mexico and Rwanda, and the Prime Ministers of Israel and Singapore. After starting his Bachelor's at Juilliard at 14, now 20-year-old Llewellyn is about to finish his Master's. He was jogging in Central Park when he found out he received the Gilmore Young Artist Award, given every two years to "the most promising American pianists of the new generation," and now jogs more frequently in hopes of getting similar calls.