

For Immediate Release: New Music Specialist Dr. Lisa Neher Presents *She Became Fire*, a Concert of Contemporary Songs and World Premieres about Social Justice, Feminism, Loss, and Love.

May 22, 2024 (New York, NY): Join Dr. Lisa Neher, Portland, Oregon's New Music Mezzo and "supremely talented" Composer (*Willamette Week*) for *She Became Fire*, a program of **contemporary songs about social justice, feminism, loss, and love, including 2 World Premieres**. Neher is joined by New York pianist Nacho Ojeda and flutist Emily Duncan.

What is the American dream, and who is it for? Danielle Olana Jagelski's *gichi-mookomaan-aki* ("United States") delves into these questions by setting interviews with citizens of the tribal nations to music. Drew Swatosh's unaccompanied song "*Riots*" (a World Premiere, with poetry of Carolyn Quick) faces violent police responses to protest, while in Lisa Neher and Bea Goodwin's Scottish-folksong-infused *she conjures*, a young woman seeks justice after her mother is burned at the stake but questions whether justice or revenge was truly done.

Gabriela Lena Frank's *Cuatro Canciones Andinas* (Four Andean Songs) explore themes of departure, loss, and magic, setting traditional Peruvian poetry translated into Spanish by José María Arguedas. A woman explores the magic of self-healing and growth after trauma in Melissa Dunphy and Nikita Gill's song cycle *Four Poems of Nikita Gill. Volume* (World Premiere), words and music by Carolyn Quick, evokes the freedom and joy of hair and through that, the self. And Gilbert Galindo's *iVíctor, Catarina!*, which sets the words of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, a 17th-Century Mexican nun, boldly celebrates feminism and challenges the patriarchy of Church and society.

WHAT:	She Became Fire, Concert of Contemporary Songs about Social Justice, Feminism, Loss, and Love
WHEN:	Friday, July 5, 2024, 7:00 pm Eastern
WHERE:	St. John's in the Village Episcopal Church 218 W 11th St., New York, NY 10014
TICKETS:	https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/lisaneher/she-became-fire
COST:	Pay what you will tickets. We kindly suggest contributing the equivalent of your hourly wage.
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Program:

gichi-mookomaan-aki ("United States") music by Danielle Olana Jagelski, words from interviews with citizens of tribal nations

"*Riots*," (World Premiere) music by Drew Swatosh, poetry by Carolyn Quick

she conjures, music by Lisa Neher, libretto by Bea Goodwin

Cuatro Canciones Andinas, music by Gabriela Lena Frank, setting traditional Peruvian poetry translated into Spanish by José María Arguedas

Volume (World Premiere), music and poetry by Carolyn Quick

Four Poems of Nikita Gill, music by Melissa Dunphy, poetry by Nikita Gill

¡Victor, Catarina!, music by Gilbert Galindo, words by Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz

About the Performers:



Lisa Neher, Mezzo-Soprano & Composer

Dr. Lisa Neher (she/her, "NEER") is an award-winning composer and new music mezzo on a mission to transform audiences through sound, story, and vulnerability. With a voice praised as "full and rich" and "especially alive" (*Oregon ArtsWatch*), Neher's performance credits include Third Angle New Music, Really Spicy Opera, Portland Columbia Symphony Orchestra, Opera Theatre Oregon, New Music

Gathering, Resonance Ensemble, Experiments in Opera, Renegade Opera, and Big Mouth Society. She is a member of Portland Opera Chorus and President of New Wave Opera.

Described as a "supremely talented," "visionary composer" (*Willamette Week*), "maestro of beautifully wacky noises" (*Oregon ArtsWatch*) and author of "liquid, impressionist piano writing and fluent melding" of voices (*New York Classical Review*), Neher's compositions are inspired by the climate crisis, the tender love of family and friends, and the eerie mystery of deep ocean life. She is Composer in Residence for the Beaverton Community Band. She has been commissioned and performed by the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Cincinnati Song Initiative, Third Angle New Music, FearNoMusic, Dinosaur Annex, New Opera West, Mirror Visions Ensemble, Alma Ensemble, Opera Elect, and Opera Santa Barbara, among others.

Her awards include the Flute New Music Consortium Competition, ICDA/ICF Choral Competition, Mirror Visions Ensemble Young Composer Competition and the Celebris Ensemble Choral Competition.

www.lisanehermusic.com.



Nacho Ojeda, Piano

Nacho Ojeda is a musician, pianist and interdisciplinary performer based in New York City. Born in Sevilla, Spain in 1995, he began his studies at the age of 5. He earned his Bachelor of Music in piano performance in the Royal Conservatory of Music of Madrid and a Master of Music in classical piano performance in the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland, as well as a master's in Contemporary Performance in the Manhattan School of Music under renowned musicians Peggy Kampmeier and Anthony de Mare.

Nacho is deeply interested in the music of our time and the inventive possibilities New Music provides in terms of performance and collaboration among artists of different disciplines. He understands composition, performance and improvisation as three sides of the same process – music-making – and approaches music with passion and intention regardless of its genre.

He has inspired and premiered works by Colombian composer Samuel Torres, Wong Foo Jeng, Luis McDougal, among many other composers in the New York City scene. Additionally, he has premiered several works from leading Spanish and Latin-American composers with friend and violinist María Muñoz, including pieces by Agustín González Acilu, Miguel Bustamante, Pedro Guajardo, Roberto Mosquera, Jorge Grundman, Eduardo Costa, and Miguel Ángel Santaella, in addition to collaborating with many more during his time in Madrid. In the New Music opera scene, he was part of the world premiere production of the stage version of Ruby Fulton's opera "Adam's Run", as well as having been the lead keyboardist and harpsichordist in the world premiere of the microtonal opera "Flash Flash: The Two Deaths of Andy Warhol", composed by Finnish composer Juhani Nuorvala.



Emily Duncan, Flute

Flutist and producer Emily Duncan is an electrifying, theatrical artist creating new musical experiences that live at the intersection of music, technology, theater, and art. As a fierce champion of contemporary music, Emily almost exclusively performs music by living composers. She has worked with David Lang, Thomas Adés, Nathalie Joachim, Kathleen Supové, Maya Beiser, Evan Ziporyn, Kaija Saariaho, and Nadia Sirota. She has recently performed with Lizzo at the 2023 Met Gala and toured with the bands Hawthorne Heights and Escape the Fate. Her debut album *Woolf at the Door*, featuring the music of Randall Woolf, will be released later this year.

As a theater-maker, Emily has served as the music supervisor for PasticheNYC's Persuasion (2021) and House of Mirth (2023) and was a producer for the Off-Broadway premiere engagement of SCOUTS (2023). She recently worked as a music consultant for the 2023 industry presentation of Crashlight, featuring Mykal Kilgore and Lianah Sta. Ana.

In 2022, Emily founded the web app GigCrunch to help freelance musicians take back control of their finances and ensure they are being paid fairly. Emily is a graduate of The University of Iowa and The Juilliard School. To keep up with Emily's projects, please visit <https://www.rebelflute.com/>.