



# *Intercultural Music*

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**Intercultural Music**  
CONFERENCE AND CONCERTS

**Sunday, February 28th**  
at Noon

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**Musical Dialogues Across Continents: IcM Closing Concert**

*Experimental Theater, Conrad Prebys Music Center*

- Pamela Flores ***Jab'init (2014)\****  
Christopher Clarino and Fiona Digney, marimba  
Michael Matsuno, flute
- Luk Wai Chun ***Jazz Pipa (2015)\****  
Zhuxi Wang, pipa
- Anahita Abbasi ***Sketch II (2016)\*\****  
Niloufar Shiri, kamancheh  
Anahita Abbasi, electronics
- Zhaoyu Zhang ***Power of the script for trombone and electronics (2015)\****  
Eric Starr, trombone
- Franghiz Ali-Zadeh ***Music for Piano (1989/97)***  
Mirna Lekić, piano  
*Intermission*
- Elisabet Curbelo ***Kara Toprak (2011)\****  
Sanaz Nakhjavani, kanun  
Elisabet Curbelo, voice  
Elliot Patros, electronics
- Shing Chun-hay ***By the Lovesick Tree (2015)\****  
Michael Matsuno, flute
- Tobin Chodos ***middlemen who didn't do diddly (2014)***  
Christopher Clarino, marimba  
Tyler J Borden, violoncello  
Michiko Ogawa, bass clarinet
- Based on a  
Kurdish melody  
Poem by Hafez* ***Faryaad***  
Sibarg Ensemble  
Josh Charney, piano  
Arian Khoroushi, percussion  
Niloufar Shiri, kamancheh  
Kyle Motl, bass  
Hesam Abedini, voice and percussion  
Ebrahim Poustinchi, tar

\*USA premiere  
\*\*World premiere

**Jabi'init** (spring solstice) is a small composition that evokes different meanings for Guatemalans. "The Land of Eternal Spring" is the nickname of Guatemala, concerning the favorable mild climate of Guatemala. Also, the reference "Spring" recalls a time in the history of Guatemala called the "Democratic Guatemalan Spring" period which spanned from 1944 -1954, a time where major changes occurred. From the Maya worldview, the astrological movements of the Sun over the Ecuador line provides a balance in humans and the universe that enables everyone to "order" their own life. In the Kakchikel Maya language, "Jab" means Spring and nit' means solstice.

**PAMELA FLORES** was born in Guatemala in 1992. She joined the Metropolitan Orchestra of Guatemala City as a cellist debuting in the USA, Costa Rica and Honduras. Her works have been presented on stages in Guatemala and El Salvador. Moreover her work was recorded in 2014 on the "visual music" album SPECTRUM. <https://goo.gl/rsEnJ3>

**CHRISTOPHER CLARINO** is a doctoral percussion student here at UCSD. He received his BM from the Eastman School of Music, a minor in ASL from the University of Rochester, and his MM from Stony Brook University. Chris enjoys hiking and backpacking. He's gone on some pretty awesome trips. Chris likes beer, too - he's been to every brewery in San Diego County. Yum.  
[www.christopherclarino.com](http://www.christopherclarino.com)

**FIONA DIGNEY** is an Australian-born multi-faceted percussionist who holds both education and performance degrees and is currently based in California while she undertakes doctoral studies under the guidance of Prof. Steven Schick. [www.fionadigney.com](http://www.fionadigney.com)

**MICHAEL MATSUNO** is a San Diego based flutist dedicated to performing contemporary repertoire and the music of our time. <http://www.michaelmatsuno.com>

**Jazz Pipa.** The Pipa is a Chinese traditional plucked string instrument. This piece aims to combine Jazz musical elements such as improvisational passages, swung rhythms and chord progressions with traditional performance practice - "wen" (civil - lyrical, slow and expressive) or "wu" (martial – rhythmic, fast) and Pipa techniques such as lun and jiaxian in order to show another possibility in Pipa music and demonstrate a fusion of different musical languages.

**LUK WAI CHUN** is currently a Master's student in composition at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), studying composition with Professor Lee Wan Ki Wendy, focusing on the fusion of Chinese and Western musical elements in Contemporary Music. He won the Outstanding Individual Award and the Hong Kong Composers' Guild mentor program scholarship in the 20th School's Creative Music Showcase with "War of Ferocity".

**ZHUXI WANG** serves on the board of the professional association of pipa virtuosos at the China Nationalities Orchestra Society. She was professionally trained by pipa master, Grammy Award nominee Wu Man. Ms. Wang won numerous awards in both national and international music competitions, has toured Germany, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macau as a soloist or the principal performer of multiple orchestras. [zhuxipipa.com](http://zhuxipipa.com)

*Sketch II* derives from a close artistic collaboration between me and Niloufar. The piece zooms in on a moment in our daily lives. Memories and emotions passing by...The tape ( fixed media) is made of soundtrack fields & instrumental sounds and it co-exists with Kamancheh/ Niloufar ( live media), which is improvising, acting and reacting to the live process in the electronics and spatialization. In this piece I am observing / confronting the action and reaction, existence and co-existence and the behavior of our listening - how we perceive the experience, when two different sound worlds aim to become one - melt with each other and at the same time try to stay in their own original shape...

**ANAHITA ABBASI** (Iran-1985) studied music theory with Clemens Gadenstaetter & composition with Beat Furrer & Pierluigi Billone in KUG Graz, Austria. Her music has been featured in various cities in Europe, Asia & the USA. Anahita is the winner of ASCAP young composers Award (2015), and one of the founders of the Schallfeld Ensemble (since 2013). She is currently pursuing her Phd in Composition with Rand Steiger at UCSD. <http://www.anahita.abbasi.com>

**NILOUFAR SHIRI** (1992) is an Iranian composer of acoustic music as well as a Persian music performer. She has studied music at Tehran music school (a music-oriented secondary school) and received her diploma in Persian music performance. Niloufar is currently residing in San Diego and pursuing her bachelor in Composition at the University of California, San Diego.

The work *Power of the script* is inspired by African art, script, which draws certain types of intriguing lines and shapes on the canvas, and presents a variety of colors and symbols. The work is about how strongly and inevitably life grows on the land no matter how difficult the environment is. Africans reserve a great devotion towards the earth, and they regard earth as being the foundation of everything. I was visiting Krannert Art Museum at the University of Illinois, and had a chance to see the exhibition of this art. The huge swirling lines exhibit an admiration of the solemn, spiritual and historical land.

**ZHAOYU ZHANG** is a composer trying to incorporate experimental elements into his compositions by using simple and creative ways that produce high quality sounds. Zhaoyu is currently a doctoral degree student in the music composition division at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where he received his master's degree.

**ERIC STARR** leads a multi-dimensional career as a faculty member of SDSU, the Trombonist with Westwind Brass and the Executive Director for San Diego New Music. He enjoys teaching many courses in the School of Music and Dance including studio Trombone and Euphonium, Brass Chamber Music, Brass Methods, and Aural Skills I-IV.

*Music for Piano* is a work inspired by the Mugam traditions of Azerbaijan. A complex music involving both improvisation as well as a nuanced set of rules, Mugam uses seven principal modes and is traditionally inspired by poetry on love and mysticism. In *Music for Piano*, Ali-Zadeh cyclically combines three different sections (a treatment typical of Mugam tradition), altering them at each appearance. A glass-bead necklace inside the piano creates sounds reminiscent of folk instruments associated with Mugam. The piece was composed for the first all-Ali-Zadeh concert, organized in 1989 by Leonard Stein and the Arnold Schoenberg Society of Los Angeles, to whom it is also dedicated.

**FRANGHIZ ALI-ZADEH** (b. 1947) studied piano and composition with Kara Karayev at the Baku Conservatory, where she later taught. She writes works that combine traditional music of Azerbaijan with Western, often experimental, contemporary techniques. Ali-Zadeh currently lives in Germany. <http://goo.gl/B14Xgf>

Pianist **MIRNA LEKIĆ** is active as a recitalist, chamber musician and educator. She currently serves as Assistant Professor of Music (Piano) at Queensborough Community College, City University of New York. [www.mirnalekic.com](http://www.mirnalekic.com)

The title *Kara Toprak* meaning Black Earth, comes from Turkish, the language in which the text is sung. The text itself, a love poem to the black soil that covers the grave is attributed to the Turkish minstrel Şık Veysel Şatıroğlu (1894-1973) who also composed a song using this poem. The work loosely follows the form of the poem in structure, it is used quite freely and not in its complete form, vocalizations and repetitive elements can be found in the soprano part. However the sonority and character of the work correspond with the meaning and nature of the poem.

**ELISABET CURBELO** is a Spanish composer and performer, currently pursuing a PhD in Music Composition at UC, San Diego. Her research in composition and voice involves Flamenco, Turkish and Persian Music. Moreover, the use of electronics with acoustic instruments in her compositions and performances are an important feature of her music. Nowadays she is developing the use of motion controllers in her new works. [www.elisabetcurbelo.com](http://www.elisabetcurbelo.com)

**SANAZ NAKHJAVANI** is a PhD candidate in Ethnomusicology at Istanbul Technical University. She has an MA in Turkish music, BA in Music and Spanish Language and Literature. Sanaz has played kanun since 1997 and has benefited from masters in Turkey and Iran. She has performed with different ensembles and played kanun on various albums.

**ELLIOT PATROS** is a UCSD computer music PhD who likes thinking about space and eating tacos.

*By the Lovesick Tree.* "Acacia confusa", more commonly known as "lovesick tree", is a tree native to Taiwan and extensively planted in South East Asia. The name "lovesick tree" originates from a love story from the Warring States period in ancient China. Forced to be separated by the king, a couple resorted to death and was buried separately. Legend has it that overnight, from their graves, two trees grew out intertwined. The couple were reunited in death, and the tree was called "lovesick tree" in memory of them. This music work is not an attempt to depict the love story, but rather an expression of the sentiment that the lovesick tree has come to symbolise since a millennia ago. The sentiment still resonates today.

**SHING CHUN-HAY** identifies creativity with its power to inspire new perception, whether of music, of art, or of life. His prize-winning works have been featured in music festivals in Hong Kong, Italy, Singapore and Indonesia. He holds a Master of Arts in Music degree and is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree (Composition) at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, studying with Professor Wendy Lee.

*middlemen who didn't do diddly* is a piece about rhyme. It is an attempt to learn from two of my favorite rappers (Big Punisher and Raekwon) and bring their techniques to bear in a completely different musical world.

**TOBIN CHODOS** is a composer, pianist and musicologist. He was a 2004 Dave Brubeck Fellow, a 2014 Asian Cultural Council Fellow, and is pursuing a Ph. D. at UC San Diego. [www.tobinchodos.com](http://www.tobinchodos.com)

**TYLER J. BORDEN** grew up in Rochester, NY and is a dedicated purveyor of modern music. He has performed with contemporary luminaries such as the JACK Quartet and Tony Conrad and has worked with established composers such as Brian Ferneyhough, La Monte Young, and Alvin Lucier. He currently studies with Charles Curtis. [tylerjborden.com](http://tylerjborden.com)

**MICHIKO OGAWA**, born and raised in Tokyo, her formal training began at the Toho Gakuen School of Music. After being awarded her bachelor's degree, she pursued her master's studies at the Hochschule für Musik Freiburg. Currently, Michiko is doing a Doctor of Music Performance at UCSD. She also teaches clarinet as an Assistant-in at UCSD.

**THE SIBARG ENSEMBLE** was established in 2008 by Hesam Abedini at the Tehran Music Conservatory. Since 2010, the Ensemble has since moved to the U.S. where they have performed at many academic and cultural institutions. In 2015, Sibarg invited two of the Doctoral students from the UCSD music department to join the ensemble and combine traditional Iranian and Jazz music in order to create a sense of unity and peace.



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Intercultural Music Conference and Concerts 2016 Organizing Committee:

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