New York Youth Symphony’s
2020/21 Musical Theater Songwriting Program
Features Guest Artists Tom Kitt, Kirsten Childs, Alex Lacamoire, Leigh Silverman, and more

New York, NY - New York Youth Symphony (NYYS), is excited to announce the third season of its Musical Theater Songwriting Program. Led by director Anna K. Jacobs, and in partnership with the Harlem School of the Arts, New York Film Academy, New York Songspace, and Maestra, the program is specially designed to lead students through a range of musical theater songwriting processes. Whether their background is as a classical composer, singer-songwriter, performer, writer, or some cool hyphenate, the program provides students ages 12 – 22 with the opportunity to both study the fundamentals of musical theater songwriting and take artistic risks. Weekly sessions will feature seminars, workshops, and masterclasses with some of Broadway’s most distinguished composers, writers, performers, musicians, producers, directors, and designers. Throughout the year, students will also have the unique opportunity to workshop new material with performers from the Harlem School of the Arts and New York Film Academy, as well as a Broadway pit band.

This season will feature guest lecturers including Tony and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer and orchestrator Tom Kitt (Next To Normal, If/Then), Obie Award-winning composer/lyricist and playwright Kirsten Childs (The Bubbly Black Girl Sheds Her Chameleon Skin, Bella: An American Tall Tale), Tony and Grammy Award-winning music director and orchestrator Alex Lacamoire (Hamilton, Dear Evan Hansen), Tony-nominated director Leigh Silverman (Violet), producer Jennifer Ashley Tepper (Be More Chill, Broadway Bounty Hunter, Love In Hate Nation), orchestrator Kris Kukul (Beetlejuice), costume designer Amy Clark (A Night with Janice Joplin, Chaplin), and composer and orchestrator Mike Pettry (The Light Princess, The Noteworthy Life of Howard Barnes, Vampirina). Guest performers include Austin Scott (Hamilton, Girl From The North Country), Will Roland (Dear Evan Hansen, Be More Chill), Britney Coleman (Tootsie, Sunset Boulevard), and L. Morgan Lee (A Strange Loop).
The students’ original works will be showcased at a final concert at Joe’s Pub on **Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 7:00 pm** performed by the NYYS students themselves, plus students from the Harlem School of the Arts and the New York Film Academy.

Director Anna K. Jacobs said, “We are excited to be able to move forward with our next season despite a global pandemic! We have a star-studded line up of guest speakers and performers, and I look forward to the works our 20/21 cohort will produce.”

Through weekly, 3-hour sessions participating students will develop skills in story and character creation, lyric writing, music composition and arranging, music publishing and production, and collaboration. The NYYS MTS program will help students develop confidence performing and presenting original work and give an exclusive window into the professional musical theater world. Students will discover how different musical theater artists have carved out a career for themselves, and ultimately become part of a creative, supportive, and inclusive community of young artists. Fall and Winter sessions will be held online via Zoom through February 2021. Spring sessions will be held in accordance with health and safety recommendations from the CDC. For more information on the NYYS MTS program please visit [nyys.org/mts](http://nyys.org/mts).

Students who are accepted into the NYYS MTS program will also be eligible to apply for one of ten Vargas-Vetter/Ukena fellowships which offer financial assistance and mentors to young musicians as they prepare for college and beyond. For more information, please visit [nyys.org/community](http://nyys.org/community).

Applications for the 2020/2021 Season are now open. Aspiring songwriters ages 12-22 may apply at [nyys.org/apply](http://nyys.org/apply). The application deadline is 5:00pm EST on **Friday, Sept 25, 2020**. Applications submitted after this deadline will be accepted on a rolling basis at the discretion of the NYYS staff.

Founded in 1963, the NYYS is internationally recognized for its award-winning and innovative educational programs for talented young musicians. As the premier independent music education organization for ensemble training in the New York metropolitan area, the NYYS has provided over 7,000 music students unparalleled opportunities to perform at world-class venues including Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Joe’s Pub, and The Times Center, and to study with world-renowned artists. Beyond the instruction from accomplished musicians, students gain valuable life skills — commitment, discipline, focus, collaboration — and friendships that last a lifetime.

The NYYS is committed to making its educational offerings accessible to a wider and more diverse community. Through partnerships with organizations including the Harmony Program, Youth Orchestra of St. Luke’s Harlem School of the Arts, New York Film Academy, New York SongSpace, Maestra, and Orpheus, the NYYS is creating pathways for young people from all backgrounds to find their way to music. These community partnerships include peer-to-peer instruction, financial support, mentorships with professional artists, free community concerts, and more.

Executive Director [Shauna Quill](http://www.nyys.org) noted, “The New York Youth Symphony is proud of its 58-year history of providing outstanding music education to students through its six outstanding programs. COVID-19 will not slow us down! Through a combination of smaller ensemble rehearsals, and online seminars and instruction, we are committed to providing outstanding education to all of our students this season. We are broadening access to the arts through our partnerships across the city as well as through fellowships which support students as they navigate the pathway towards college and beyond. We are grateful to all of our supporters as we navigate this pandemic together, including the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, and more, and look forward to returning to stages around the city as soon as we are able.”

**ABOUT THE DIRECTORS AND ARTISTS**

**ARTISTIC DIRECTORS**
Anna K. Jacobs is a Jonathan Larson Award-winning composer, lyricist, and librettist. Her works include POP! (Yale Rep, Pittsburgh City Theatre, Studio Theatre; book/lyrics by Maggie-Kate Coleman), TEETH (NAMT, O’Neill; co-book/lyrics by Michael R. Jackson), ANYTOWN (George Street Playhouse; book by Jim Jack), HARMONY, KANSAS (Diversionary Theatre; book/lyrics by Bill Nelson), ECHO (Musical Theatre Factory), and STELLA AND THE MOON MAN (Sydney Theatre Company/Theatre of Image; play by Richard Tulloch, co-composed by Adrian Kelly), and the movie musical, KAYA: TASTE OF PARADISE (NY Film Academy; screenplay by Jerome A. Parker, directed by Paul Warner). She also contributed music and lyrics to the multi-composer song cycle, LETTERS TO THE PRESIDENT (Berkshire Theatre Group). Currently, she and playwright Anna Ziegler are collaborating on a new musical for Barbara Whitman Productions and Grove Entertainment that is inspired by the life and disappearance of child prodigy novelist, Barbara Newhall Follett. Ms. Jacobs is a recipient of the Eric Salzman Award for New Music Theater Composition and the Billie Burke Ziegfeld Award, which aims to celebrate female musical theater composers. She is a former Sundance Fellow and Dramatists Guild Fellow and holds an MFA in Musical Theatre Writing from NYU-Tisch. As an educator, she is passionate about helping the next generation of songwriters to develop their voices and craft, and has served on the faculties of Temple University, Mannes School of Music, and the Dramatists Guild Institute.

GUEST ARTISTS


Amy Clark is a NYC-based costume designer whose work has been seen on Broadway, regional theaters, television, and arenas across the country. Amy’s costume designs for Broadway include *A Night With Janis Joplin* and *Chaplin*. (Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle nominations). Other recent designs include *Follies* (St. Louis Rep), *Carefree Dancing with Fred and Ginger* (Northeast Tour), *Mr. Wolf* (Cleveland Playhouse), *Himself and Nora* (The Minetta Lane), *Heathers The Musical* (New World Stages), *Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus presents Legends and Circus Extreme*, *Chaplin*, *St. Petersburg Russia*, *My Life is a Musical* (Bay Street Theater), *Somewhere*, *On Your Toes* (City Center Encores!) *The Little Mermaid* (Papermill Playhouse). Ms. Clark received the 2012 Theatre Hall of Fame Emerging Artists Fellowship and received an MFA in Costume Design from NYU Tisch School of the Arts. She is currently designing the new musical adaptation of *Romy and Michele’s High School Reunion*.

Britney Coleman has been seen on Broadway in *Sunset Boulevard, Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, Tootsie* and most recently *Company*. She has toured across the country with *Beautiful* and worked at regional theaters including The Old Globe, The Muny, TUTS, St. Anne’s Warehouse, The Asolo Rep and Arena Stage. A native of Ann Arbor, Michigan, she received her BFA from The University of Michigan. In quarantine, she’s currently enjoying singing "Sing for Hope Grams" for our essential workers and loved ones with Sing For Hope.

TOM KITT (Composer/Arranger/Orchestrator/Music Supervisor) received the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama as well as two Tony Awards for Best Score and Best Orchestration for *Next to Normal*. He is also the composer of *If/Then* (Tony Nom); *High Fidelity; Bring it On, The Musical* (co-composer with Lin-Manuel Miranda); *Almost
A Midsummer Night’s Dream

on Broadway’s critically-acclaimed shows

Alex Lacamoire

is an award-winning music director, arranger, and composer. He is best known for his work at Duke University, Columbia University, and Queens College.

Queen and Dash Dexter

is the resident music director for the Williamstown Theatre Festival. He music directed the film scores for Of Many American Songbook: The Music of Elizabeth Swados at Lincoln Center’s The Last Goodbye, and The Heart of Robin Hood. He also recently arranged, orchestrated and conducted Lincoln Center’s American Songbook: The Music of Elizabeth Swados. For 10 seasons, Mr. Kukul served as the resident music director for the Williamstown Theatre Festival. He music directed the film scores for Of Many, a documentary produced by Chelsea Clinton, and My Depression, an HBO animated film featuring the voices of Sigourney Weaver, Steve Buscemi and Fred Armisten. As Composer, he has written the music for Beauty Queen and Dash Dexter, Camp Monster, Wing It!, Oliver Twist (The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey) and A Midsummer Night’s Dream (The Greek National Theatre). Mr. Kukul is a Graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts. He is adjunct faculty at Tisch/Playwrights Horizons Theatre School, and has taught at The New School, Duke University, Columbia University, and Queens College.

Kris Kukul

is a New York City Based Orchestrator, Arranger, Music Director and Composer. Currently he is Music Supervisor, Conductor and Orchestrator for Broadway’s Tony nominated Beetlejuice The Musical! Other recent projects include, In The Green (Lincoln Center Theatre), David Byrne’s Joan of Arc (The Public Theater), Songbird, a remounting of Elizabeth Swados’ Runaways at New York’s City Center, The Aenied, Afterwards, The Last Goodbye, and The Heart of Robin Hood. He also recently arranged, orchestrated and conducted Lincoln Center’s American Songbook: The Music of Elizabeth Swados. For 10 seasons, Mr. Kukul served as the resident music director for the Williamstown Theatre Festival. He music directed the film scores for Of Many, a documentary produced by Chelsea Clinton, and My Depression, an HBO animated film featuring the voices of Sigourney Weaver, Steve Buscemi and Fred Armisten. As Composer, he has written the music for Beauty Queen and Dash Dexter, Camp Monster, Wing It!, Oliver Twist (The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey) and A Midsummer Night’s Dream (The Greek National Theatre). Mr. Kukul is a Graduate of NYU Tisch School of the Arts. He is adjunct faculty at Tisch/Playwrights Horizons Theatre School, and has taught at The New School, Duke University, Columbia University, and Queens College.

Alex Lacamoire

is an award-winning music director, arranger, and composer. He is best known for his work on Broadway’s critically-acclaimed shows Hamilton, Dear Evan Hansen, and In The Heights. Altogether, he has won three Tonys for Best Orchestrations, three Grammys for Best Musical Theater Album, an additional Grammy for producing The Greatest Showman soundtrack, and most recently, an Emmy for Outstanding Music Direction for his work in FX’s mini-series Fosse/Verdon. He was also the recipient of a first-of-its-kind Kennedy Center Honors for his contribution to Hamilton. Lacamoire and the Hamilton creative team were honored as the “trailblazing creators of a transformative work that defies category” — a distinction never before awarded by the arts institution. He currently serves as the Executive Music Producer for Warner Brothers’ upcoming film In The Heights and as the Music Supervisor and Orchestrator on Ross Golan’s new musical The Wrong Man. Mr. Lacamoire’s other credits include: Broadway's Wicked, Bring It On, High Fidelity, Annie (2011 Broadway revival), 9 to 5 (Drama Desk-nominated for Outstanding Orchestrations and Grammy-nominated for Best Musical Theatre Album), Legally Blonde, Bat Boy, Incredibles 2, Sesame Street (Emmy-nominated for Outstanding Original Song), Godspell (2001 National Tour), and orchestrations for The Rockettes and the Oscars. He recently received an Honorary Doctorate of Music from his alma mater, Berklee College Of Music, and resides in New York.

NYC based actress L Morgan Lee is quickly establishing herself as someone to keep an eye on. Her performance in the Pulitzer Prize Award winning musical, A Strange Loop garnered her an OBIE Award (Special Citation) as well as a Lucille Lortel Award Nomination for Outstanding Featured Actress in a Musical. This also gives Ms. Lee the incredible distinction of being the first openly trans actress to originate a role in a Pulitzer Prize winning piece of theatre. On camera, she was recently seen as one of the faces of the Samuel Adams: Love Conquers All campaign in partnership with GLAAD. Other credits include: The Fae, A Black Girl's Manifesto, and Waystation in the Stars. In Concert: Riot Song (Joe's Pub), "Our Lady J: Gospel for the Godless" (NYC, London, Berlin), "Paul McCartney: Driving the USA Tour" (Philadelphia). Ms. Lee is dedicated to being a part of new work that gives voice to marginalized groups as well as reimagining the classics.

L Morgan Lee
Mike Pettry is an NYC-based composer, lyricist, orchestrator, and musician. His musicals The Light Princess and The Pirate Princess had runs at American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, and The Light Princess was a NY Times Critic’s pick when it ran at the New Victory Theater in Times Square. Composer/lyricist Stephen Schwartz called one of Mr. Pettry’s songs “a home run” during an ASCAP workshop, and nominated him for the Harold Adamson Lyric Award. Mr. Pettry is also a Jonathan Larson Award winner. For television, he has written music for At Home With Amy Sedaris, and has orchestrated songs for Documentary Now! on IFC, Vampirina on Disney Junior, and John Mulaney and the Sack Lunch Bunch on Netflix, in addition to other upcoming Netflix projects. He also orchestrates for live theatre and has written music for several video games. As a musician, he has performed all across the US, and has played in the Broadway productions of The Lightning Thief, SpongeBob Squarepants, Bandstand, Finding Neverland, and Godspell. Mr. Pettry received an MFA in musical theatre writing from NYU/Tisch.

Will Roland is a Brooklyn-based actor/singer/human. His most recent credits include the Broadway productions of Be More Chill in which he starred as Jeremy Heere, and Dear Evan Hansen, where he originated the role of Evan’s ‘family friend’ Jared Kleinman. He can also be seen playing financial analyst "Winston" in Billions on Showtime. His regional and off-Broadway theatre credits include Joe Iconis’ The Black Suits at Barrington Stage Company and Center Theatre Group, The Bus at 59E59, and more. Mr. Roland is also a proud longtime member of Joe Iconis & Family, the repertory company of punk-rock musical theatre artists led by Joe Iconis. They have collaborated frequently over the last 10 years. His solo show, LoserSongs had successful runs in New York City in 2014, and in San Francisco in 2018. During the pandemic, he has frequently collaborated with fellow Dear Evan Hansen alums Andrew Barth Feldman and Alex Boniello on charity streaming events including Broadway Jackbox and Supporting Rolls, benefiting a host of charities including: The Actors Fund, Feeding America, the national chapter of Black Lives Matter, and I Need Diverse Games.

Austin Scott – Original Cast: One Day: The Musical (Off-Broadway), Car Wash: The Musical (LA Workshop), Inappropriate: The Musical (LA Premiere) West Coast Regional Credits: Car Wash: The Musical (LA Workshop), Choir Boy (u/s Geffen Playhouse), In The Heights (Broadway By the Bay), Hairspray (Pacific Coast Rep.), Rent (The Other Space Theater and Diablo Light Opera Co.) Film/TV credits include: Falling Skies (TNT National Spot), Counting Stars Feat. Disney villains (Disney), Tattoo Nightmares (Spike), Prep School (Feature Film).

Leigh Silverman – Broadway: Grand Horizons (2ST; Williamstown Theater Festival); The Lifespan of a Fact (Studio 54); Violet (Roundabout; Tony nomination); Chinglish (Goodman Theatre; Longacre); Well (Public Theater; ACT; Longacre). Recent Off-Broadway: Soft Power (Public Theater; Ahmanson Theater/ Curran Theater; Drama Desk nom); Tumacho (Clubbed Thumb); Hurricane Diane (New York Theatre Workshop; Two River Theater); Harry Clarke (Vineyard Theatre/Audible, Minetta Lane; Lortel nom); Wild Goose Dreams (Public Theater; La Jolla Playhouse); Sweet Charity (New Group); On The Exhale (Roundabout); All The Ways To Say I Love You (MCC); The Way We Get By (2ST); The Outer Space (Public Theater); Bright Half Life (WP); No Place To Go (Public Theater); American Hero (WTF; 2ST); Kung Fu (Signature Theatre); The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence (Playwrights Horizons). Encores: Violet; The Wild Party; Really Rosie. 2011 Obie Award and 2019 Obie for Sustained Excellence.

Jennifer Ashley Tepper is producer of the musicals Be More Chill, Broadway Bounty Hunter, and Love In Hate Nation, recent projects that are part of a decade-long collaboration with the group known as Joe Iconis & Family. From producing small concerts in basements to producing a show on Broadway, Ms. Tepper has cultivated the theatrical collective which The New York Times called “the future of musical theatre”. She is also the Creative and Programming Director at Feinstein’s/S54 Below, where she has curated or produced over 3000 shows, including musicals in concert, original solo acts, theatrical reunions, songwriter celebrations, and more. As a writer, Ms. Tepper has authored three volumes of The Untold Stories of Broadway book series. On Broadway, she has worked on The Performers, Godspell, Macbeth, and The Parisian Woman, and off-Broadway Smokey Joe’s Café and Boys’ Life. She is the conceiver and director of The Jonathan Larson Project which premiered in fall 2018 and received an original cast recording from Ghostlight Records. She is historian consultant on the upcoming tick, tick... BOOM! movie and co-creator of the Bistro Award- winning concert series, If It Only Even Runs A Minute, now in its 11th year. Ms. Tepper recently received a 2020 Lincoln Center
Emerging Artist Award. She was named one of the 10 professionals on Backstage Magazine’s "1st Annual Broadway Future Power List".

NEW YORK YOUTH SYMPHONY 2020-2021 PERFORMANCE CALENDAR

Tickets & Information: www.nyys.org/events

ORCHESTRA
Michael Repper, Music Director

Recorded Album
Valerie Coleman: Umoja
Jessie Montgomery: Soul Force
Florence Price: Ethiopia’s Shadow in America
Florence Price: Piano Concerto in One Movement, featuring Michelle Cann, piano

The McCrindle Concert
Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall
Sunday, March 7, 2021 at 2:00 PM
Valerie Coleman: Umoja
Barber: Violin Concerto, op. 14, featuring Grace Park, violin
Jonathan Cziner: Ruach (and Other Delights) (First Music commission and World Premiere)
Gershwin: An American in Paris

The Spring Concert
Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall
Sunday, May 9, 2021 at 2:00 PM
Jessie Montgomery: Soul Force
Mahler: Songs of a Wayfarer, featuring Paulo Szot, baritone
Rogers/Hammerstein: Some Enchanted Evening, featuring Paulo Szot, baritone
Mahler: Symphony No. 1, “Titan”

NYYS JAZZ
Andy Clausen, Director

October 11 – December 6, 2020: Big Band Jazz Performance Practices with Andy Clausen (Online)

Monday, March 8, 2021, at 7:30 & 9:30 PM at Dizzy’s Club, Jazz at Lincoln Center
Drew Zaremba: First Music commission and World Premiere

Dreams of New Orleans
Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 PM at The Times Center
Benjamin Morris: First Music commission and World Premiere
Soloist: Wycliffe Gordon, trombone, trumpet, vocals

CHAMBER MUSIC
Dr. Lisa Tipton, Director

An Evening Among Friends
Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7:30 PM at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall
Nina Shekhar: tikka (First Music commission and World Premiere)

An Evening of Chamber Music
Monday, May 17, 2021 at 7:30 PM at Scandinavia House
Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7:30 PM at Scandinavia House
COMPOSITION
Dr. Kyle Blaha, Director
Composition Date 2021
Thursday May 13, 2021, at 7:30 PM at Leonard Nimoy Thalia at Symphony Space
Featuring original student compositions performed by members of the NYYS Orchestra, Jazz, and Chamber Music programs

MUSICAL THEATER SONGWRITING
Anna Jacobs, Director
Musical Theater Songwriting Showcase 2021
Wednesday, May 26, 2021, at 7:00 PM at Joe’s Pub
Featuring original works, performed by NYYS students, and students from the Harlem School of the Arts and the New York Film Academy

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