



## NEWS RELEASE

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### NEW YORK YOUTH SYMPHONY ANNOUNCES 35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FIRST MUSIC COMMISSIONS

Through its **First Music** program, the **New York Youth Symphony (NYYS)** has selected seven of America's emerging orchestra, chamber music, and jazz composers under age 30 to write commissions for the 56<sup>th</sup> Season, which marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First Music program. The works will be premiered by **NYYS Orchestra** and **NYYS Chamber Music Program** at Carnegie Hall, and **NYYS Jazz** at Jazz at Lincoln Center, and in a new partnership with the Interlochen Center for the Arts, one grand prize winner will have its mid-West premiere by the World Youth Symphony Orchestra at the Interlochen Arts Camp. Called "invaluable" by *The New York Times*, the NYYS **First Music** commission program has been widely acknowledged as one of the leading forces in the United States for bringing the work of gifted young composers to the public's attention for the past 34 years.

The **First Music** commissions for the 2018/2019 Season:

#### ORCHESTRA

**Natalie Dietrich:** Sunday, December 2, 2018, 2 PM at Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall  
**Theo Chandler:** Sunday, March 10, 2019, 2 PM at Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall  
**Ryan Lindveit (Grand Prize Winner):** Sunday, May 12, 2019, 2 PM at Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage, Carnegie Hall; Mid-West premiere TBD at Interlochen Center for the Arts.

Orchestra/Chamber honorable mentions: **Jules Pegram, Will Healy, Phil Taylor.**

#### CHAMBER MUSIC

**Baldwin Giang:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019, 7:30 PM - Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

#### JAZZ

**Zachary Rich:** Tuesday, December 4, 2018, 7:30/9:30 PM - Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* at Jazz at Lincoln Center  
**Sam Wolsk:** Tuesday, March 12, 2019, 7:30/9:30 PM - Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola* at Jazz at Lincoln Center  
**Dave Meder:** Wednesday, May 23, 2019, 7:30 PM – The Times Center  
Jazz honorable mentions: **Gregory Weis, Samuel Genualdi.**

This year's Chamber Music/Orchestra Jury was chaired by Pulitzer Prize winner Christopher Theofanidis, and included Kati Agócs, Eric Nathan, Clara Kim, Eric Stomberg, and Michael Repper. The Jazz Jury was chaired by Rufus Reid, a leading string bass player with over 250 recordings in his discography, and included Nadje Noordhuis, Josh Deutsch, and Andy Clausen.

**First Music** Applications are accepted annually between September and December. Past **First Music** commission winners have gone on to receive a total of 12 Rome Prizes, 16 Guggenheim Fellowships, the Grawemeyer Award, and 4 Pulitzer Prizes. Additional information about **First Music** can be found at <http://www.nyys.org/programs/first-music>

The remaining **First Music** commissions to be premiered in the 2017/2018 Season include:

*The Adventures of Rick and Birdperson* by **Nate Sparks**

Monday, March 5, 2018, 7:30 PM/9:30 PM at Dizzy's Club *Coca-Cola*, Jazz at Lincoln

For reservations and info, please visit: <http://www.jazz.org/dizzys>

*go and* by **Thomas Kotcheff**

Sunday, March 18, 2018, 2:00 PM at Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall

For tickets and info, please visit: <http://www.carnegiehall.org>

*Beneath My Shadow, I Look* by **Daniel McGee**

Thursday, May 3, 2018, 7:30 PM at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

For tickets and info, please visit: <http://www.carnegiehall.org>

*Torgbui* by **Jonathan Ragonese**

Monday, May 14, 2018, 7:30 PM at The Times Center

For tickets and info, please visit: <http://www.nyys.org/events/>

*Slant* by **Peter Shin**

Sunday, May 27, 2018, 2:00 PM at Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage at Carnegie Hall

For tickets and info, please visit: <http://www.carnegiehall.org>

**First Music** is funded in part by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and New York State Council on the Arts.

### **Composer Biographies:**

**Natalie Dietterich** is an American composer and vocalist from Harleysville, Pennsylvania. Her visceral work mines patterns and is often tangential to social issues. Recently her music has been performed by the Shanghai Symphony, LA Philharmonic's National Composers Intensive, Big Sky New Music Initiative, and Bang on a Can Summer Institute. Ms. Dietterich has been awarded residencies at the Avaloch Farm Music Institute, Norfolk Chamber Music Institute, and at Arts, Letters, and Numbers. She is the recipient of the 2016 Leo Kaplan Prize of the Morton Gould Young Composer Awards, and has received honorable mentions from BMI, ASCAP, and The American Prize. Ms. Dietterich is a graduate of the Yale School of Music with an M.M. and M.M.A. in composition, and holds a dual degree in composition and violin from the West Chester University. She will be starting her Ph.D. in composition at Princeton University this fall. For more info on Ms. Dietterich please visit [www.nataliedietterich.com](http://www.nataliedietterich.com).

**Theo Chandler** is a composer of concert and stage works, currently pursuing his Doctorate of Musical Arts at the Rice University Shepherd School of Music, studying with Anthony Brandt. He received his previous degrees from The Juilliard School and Oberlin Conservatory, studying composition with Melinda Wagner, Samuel Adler, Steven Stucky, and Lewis Nielson. While at Juilliard, he was selected as a winner of the Orchestra Competition, Gena Raps Chamber Music Competition, and New Juilliard Ensemble Competition. Mr. Chandler has received commissions from Les Délices, Golden West Winds from the United States Air Force Band of the Golden West, Amir Eldan, George Sakakeeny, Alexa Still, Michael Rosen, and others. Chandler has been a fellow at Tanglewood Music Center and the Aspen Music Festival and School, and has attended Brevard Music Center, and New Music on the Point Festival.

Presently, he is the Emerging Composer Fellow for Musiqa, and was previously the Young Composer in Residence for the Detroit Chamber Winds and Strings.

**Ryan Lindveit** is a composer whose music has been performed across the United States and abroad by Alarm Will Sound, "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, Orkest de Ereprijs, the USC Thornton Symphony, numerous university wind ensembles, the Donald Sinta Quartet, FearNoMusic, and the City of Tomorrow, among others. His music has received recognition from BMI, ASCAP, SCI, the American Modern Ensemble, the National Band Association, Tribeca New Music, and the Texas Music Educators Association. Mr. Lindveit grew up in Texas and is a graduate of the University of Southern California, where he was selected as Salutatorian for the class of 2016 and named the Thornton School of Music's Outstanding Graduate. He is currently a master's student at the Yale School of Music, where he studies with Aaron Jay Kernis. Recent and upcoming projects include *Mysterious Butterflies* for chamber ensemble and eight voices, *Like an Altar with 9,000 Robot Attendants* commissioned by a consortium of 30 university wind ensembles organized by conductor H. Robert Reynolds, a commission for the Big 12 Band Directors Association, and pieces for chamber ensemble and orchestra to be premiered at the Aspen Music Festival in the summer of 2018.

**Baldwin Giang** is a composer interested in acoustic and electroacoustic mediums, whose music aims to empower communities of audiences and performers by creating concert experiences that are opportunities for collective wonder and judgment. Described as "taut and cohesive...challenging and rewarding" (*Cacophony*), Mr. Baldwin's music has been performed by such celebrated performers as the Arditti Quartet, JACK quartet, Argento Ensemble, Civic Orchestra of Chicago, Yale Symphony Orchestra, University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra, [Switch~ Ensemble], and So Much Hot Air. Current projects include works for the International Contemporary Ensemble, orkest de ereprijs, and Curtis Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Baldwin is a graduate of Yale University, earning a B.A. with Honors in both Music and Political Science, and the University of Michigan, earning an M.A. as a Regents Fellow. At Yale, Baldwin earned the Beekman Cannon Friends Prize, and the Abraham Beekman Cox Prize awarded to the "most promising and gifted composer in his class." As a winner of the Chicago Symphony's Civic Orchestra Composers Project, Mr. Baldwin had a newly commissioned work premiered at Chicago's Symphony Center. Other recognition has come from the ASCAP Morton Gould Competition and the PARMA Composer Competition. Mr. Baldwin is currently a PhD student and Benjamin Franklin Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. For more information, please visit <http://www.baldwingiang.com>.

**Zach Rich** is a jazz trombonist and composer from Wichita, Kansas. He is currently studying jazz composition at the University of Northern Colorado where he is a graduate teaching assistant. He works throughout the Midwest as a freelance performer, composer, arranger, and educator. Currently based in Greeley, Colorado, Mr. Rich enjoys virtually all music but jazz is his favorite. He and co-writer Joseph LeClerc plan to release an album of original music in the summer of 2018.

**Sam Wolsk**, 20, has been an avid jazz composer since his early teen years. Beginning with self-study of online scores and experimentations in the notation software Finale, Mr. Wolsk wrote his first full big band chart, *Effervescence*, at 16, for which he won Downbeat Magazine's student award for best original jazz composition. Since then he has studied jazz theory and composition with Joe Clark, Jeremy Kahn, Bob Gravener, and Russ Johnson. As a freshman at Northwestern University, Mr. Wolsk co-founded the DW Jazz Orchestra, a 17-piece big band, and recorded their debut album, *Coalescence* (2017) of all original music. DWJO continues to perform his original music in both the New York and Chicago areas, with past performances at Dizzy's Club in NYC and SPACE in Evanston, IL. His latest recorded original works include *Return Trip*, *When I Knew You*, and *The Final Stretch of Dawn* (on *Coalescence*), *Goodbye For Now*, *Down to the Wire* (to be released on *Live At Dizzy's* - 2018), *Effervescence* (2014), and *Dawn's Excitement* (2015).

Pianist, composer, and educator **Dave Meder** is poised to become one of the most prominent musical voices of his generation, with fluid technique, novel rhythmic conception, and an intuitive sense of musical drama. He is the winner of the 2013 Great American Jazz Piano Competition and the recipient

of two DownBeat Magazine Awards for Best Instrumental Jazz Soloist. As a composer, he was recognized in the 2014 ASCAP Young Jazz Composer Awards and recently was accepted into the BMI Jazz Composers Workshop. He has performed at the Tokyo Jazz Festival, The Kennedy Center, and Jazz at Lincoln Center, among other venues. Mr. Meder holds the Artist Diploma from The Juilliard School, where he studied with Kenny Barron and Julian Martin. Additionally, he has studied improvisation with Ari Hoenig and Mark Turner, and composition with Philip Lasser. An educator in his own right, Mr. Meder has served as adjunct instructor of jazz piano at New York University and has presented at various forums, including the 2016 Jazz Educators Network Conference. He is currently a faculty member in the Evening Division at The Juilliard School and the music director for Fordham Lutheran Church in Bronx, NY.

**About the NYYS:**

The **New York Youth Symphony** is internationally recognized for its award-winning and innovative educational programs for talented young musicians. Founded in 1963 as an orchestra to showcase the metropolitan area's most gifted musicians, ages 12-22, its programs have since grown to include Chamber Music groups, Jazz, Composition, Apprentice Conducting, and the First Music and commissioning programs.

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