

# PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION 2018 ADULT WINNERS

## COMPOSER: JORGE SOSA

**Artwork:** Moller, Hans "Sunrise"

**Program Notes:** In "Sunrise" I tried to musically convey the vibrancy of colors, the stillness, and vastness, portrayed in Moller's painting. I find great beauty in nature's every day drama. The natural processes that unfold with grace, and violence, as in a stage work. I wrote most of the music while traveling in Puerto Rico. The beauty of the Island's sunrises as they lit the Caribbean ocean were an important source of inspiration."



**Composer's Bio:** Jorge Sosa is a Mexican-born composer and Associate Professor of Music at Molloy College. Jorge has recently been commissioned to write his second opera "Monkey" with librettist Cerise Jacobs. "Monkey" is scheduled for workshop performances in Boston during the Fall 2018 season. Jorge's first full-length opera, "La Reina," commissioned by the American Lyric Theater (ALT), and was performed in a concert version as part of the 2016 "PROTOTYPE" festival in NY. Jorge has been composer in residence with the NYUNME during the 2015/2016 concert season collaborating on several projects with the group. Jorge was a guest artist at the Difrazione Festival in Florence in 2017 premiering the works "Longing" and "Distorted Reality." In 2016 his piece "Domino Effect" for Alto Sax and String Orchestra was selected for the closing of the Foro Internacional de Música Nueva in Mexico City. This season Jorge will be a guest artist at the Southern Alabama University, and will be presenting his work at the Society for Electroacoustic Music in the United States (SEAMUS) National Conference, and the New York City Electronic Music Festival. Jorge's CD's "Plastic Time" and "Enceladus" are available on all the major music download sites and through the website [www.jorgesosa.com](http://www.jorgesosa.com).



## COMPOSER: HEEYOUNG YANG

**Artwork:** Shono, haku-u (Driving Rain) by Ando Hiroshige

**Program Notes:** This short piece for string orchestra is a symphonic portrait of sudden rain shower demonstrated in "Shono, haku-u (Driving Rain)" by Ando Hiroshige. The powerful and overwhelming scene of a vibrant rainstorm is captured using string instruments in expansive 16 divisions, while the simplistic yet bold touch of the rainstorm scene is represented by the homogeneous instrument configuration.

**Composer's Bio:** Inspired by diverse cultural backgrounds, Heeyoung Yang has been actively composing a variety of music with a wide spectrum, which crosses multiple dimensions: the East and the West, the old and the new, the irrational and the logic, and the sacred and the secular. Such cross-cultural components are naturally embedded in her approach on musical language, timbre, intonation, lyric, pulsation, time, and expression. These ingredients enable Heeyoung's music to deliberately touch audience by a unique way of delivering the tradition of Korean and Western music in a contemporary form and by a lyrical and imaginative storytelling of her own thoughts and faith.

Her works range from solo instruments to full orchestra, as well as choral, dance, and electroacoustic music. While devoting herself mainly to the field of contemporary art music, she also experiments with other genres, writing music for theatre as well as improvisation.

Originally from South Korea, Heeyoung Yang received both her D.M.A. and M.M. in music composition from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, working with Joel Hoffman, Michael Fiday, and Mara Helmuth. She also received her M.M. and B.M. from the Yonsei University in South Korea, studying with Chan Hae Lee.

## **COMPOSER: BEN GOLDBERG**

**Artwork:** Edward Moran - The Sinking of the Cumberland by the Merrimac

**Program Notes:** The Sinking of the Cumberland by the Merrimac captures the energy and action portrayed in Edward Moran's painting of the same title. In looking at Moran's work I imagined the panic, unsteadiness, and chaos felt by the crew of the Cumberland. To represent the wooden ship, I used wood-like sounds produced by the whip in the percussion and the col legno (with the wood) bowing technique in the strings. I want the listener to feel the motion of the water as the two ships engage. Although it is not seen in the painting, the eventual fate of the Cumberland is understood by the closing musical gestures.



**Composer's Bio:** Ben Goldberg is a New York-based composer who has received awards for his concert music, film music, and academic achievements. A storyteller through music, his compositions often use programmatic elements to communicate to the listener. He is the Composer-in-Residence for Baltimore chamber orchestra Symphony Number One. Ensembles that have performed his works include the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Central Ohio Symphony, and Reno Philharmonic Youth Strings Symphonia. His composition Reconnecting was featured in Symphony magazine and at The League of American Orchestras and Percussive

Arts Society national conferences. He was the winner of the 2013 Susanville Symphony Composition Competition, American Composers Category, and selected as the only orchestral Composer Fellow for the 2015 UC Davis Music and Words festival and Composition Workshop. He was one of three composers selected for the Lexington Philharmonic's 2016 New Music Experiment, where they performed his composition Declaration. Goldberg received an Honorable Mention for the 2016 American Prize in Composition (Orchestra division) for Reconnecting. His composition American Frontier was selected as the winner of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's 2017 Audience of the Future composition contest. His music has been broadcasted in over thirty countries and featured internationally in films, television programs, podcasts, video game apps, and advertisements. He studied composition at Berklee College of Music, and was the recipient of the school's Film Scoring Achievement Award.

## **COMPOSER: NATHAN BALL**

**Artwork:** Giovanni Agostino da Lodi -- "Adoration of the Shepherds"

**Program Notes:** The listener is presented with an original tune, played on plucked strings, which harkens back to the pastorello style of a shepherd. Suddenly, a host of brass instruments appear proclaiming good news of great joy. In an effort to mimic the da Lodi painting, the music continually shifts focus between the events of adoration (harp melody) and proclamation (brass interjection). In the midst of this musical dialogue the lowly shepherd tune is exalted and joins with the highest "choirs" of the orchestra.



**Composer's Bio:** Inspired by Christian iconography, Nathan's compositions place an emphasis on music's ability to layer and juxtapose multiple signs, or sound worlds. This approach to composition, which was praised by the Boston Globe as "adroit and expressively efficient," stresses the relationship between concrete musical elements and establishes a purposeful gap in the narrative for the audience to reconcile. Performance highlights from Nathan's career include premieres by the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and internationally acclaimed violinist, Chee-Yun (a work commissioned by the Vail Valley Foundation). Nathan is working on his Doctorate of Musical Arts degree at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, where he studies with Kevin Puts. He has also had the privilege to study with Michael Gandolfi at the New England Conservatory (M.M.), Thomas Oboe Lee at Boston College (B.A.), and Robert Aldridge at the Brevard Music Center. Originally from Colorado, Nathan now resides in Malvern, PA with his wife and son.

## COLLEGE WINNER

### COMPOSER: COLIN WORRICH

**Artwork:** Colin Campbell Cooper - Columbus Circle, New York



**Program Notes:** Colin Campbell Cooper's 1909 painting, 'Columbus Circle, New York', provides a bird's-eye view of bustling American city life in the early 20th century. Here at the dawn of the modern world, Cooper's work romanticizes the industrious whimsy of an urban center, complete with horse-drawn carriages, automobiles, streetcars, and the faint suggestion of steamships on the distant Hudson River. Each of these modes of

transportation receives its own motif in the musical depiction, which draws inspiration from the rich American orchestral heritage of dancing woodwinds, noble strings, and bold brass.

**Composer's Bio:** Colin Worrich is a recent graduate of The University of Hartford, where he studied trombone at The Hartt School of Music with John Rojak and Haim Avitsur. A native of Bethlehem, PA, he grew up playing music in the Moravian church and other various community ensembles. Colin's interest in composing has recently developed out of a life-long passion for music for film, video games, and other media. With a degree in Acoustical Engineering and Music, he works as an Acoustical Consultant for the company Acentech, based in Philadelphia, PA.

## HIGH SCHOOL WINNER

### COMPOSER: YASH PAZHIANUR

**Artwork:** Edward Moran - The Sinking of the Cumberland by the Merrimac

**Program Notes:** "The Sinking of the Cumberland by the Merrimac" was inspired by a painting at Allentown Art Museum by Edward Moran with the same title. The painting describes the famous battle and the ultimate sinking of the USS Warship



Cumberland during the American Civil War, fighting against slavery. I intended to mimic the brutal nature of the battle, the sound of the gunfire, the smell of the burning, the feel of the rocking ship, and the rising spirit of Good against Evil.

**Composer's Bio:** Yash Pazhianur was born in July 2003 in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. He is 14 years old and will be attending 9th grade at Princeton Day School in Princeton, NJ in September.

Yash will be a second-year student at The Juilliard School Pre-college, where he majors in Composition under Dr. Ira Taxin and minors in Piano with Mr. Elisha Abas.

## K-8<sup>th</sup> GRADE WINNER

### COMPOSER: YANFEI WEN

**Artwork:** Mary Hilda Ruth Bauermeister - Untitled, 1965. River pebbles on fabric covered panel

**Program Notes:** Imagine yourself walking along a stream in a forest, picking up pebbles now and then, with nature as your only companion. Listen for the contrast between short, quick-moving notes, and long, swelling ones - this represents the different sizes of the stones in the artwork, as well as the varying aspects of nature, especially the stream's current. The piece leads you from waves lapping at a pebble-covered shore to roaring rapids at the climax, and back again as the coda fades out into a pool of string harmonics.



**Composer's Bio:** Yanfei Sophie Wen, 12, a 7th grader at Southern Lehigh Middle School in Center Valley, started piano at 4, composed her first rondo at 6, began studying composition with Dr. Lipkis at 7, and started violin lessons also at 7. Her solo violin pieces won PMEA composition contests in 2014 & 2015. She attended the New York Summer Music Festival in 2014 & 2015, where her compositions were performed live by professionals. Afterwards, she started composing for orchestra while taking a college-level orchestration class. Her large-scale compositions have won national composition competitions organized by NAFME in 2015 and by NFMC in 2016. She was a finalist of ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composers Awards in 2015-2017. Yanfei joined the Junior String Philharmonic of the Lehigh Valley in 2015 and 2016. One of her orchestral pieces was featured in their 2016 Spring Concert.

Yanfei plays at her school's orchestra and swing jazz band. She has been an active member of the Young Musicians Club of the Allentown Music Club since 201.

**PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION 2018**



JORGE SOSA



HEEYOUNG YAN



BEN GOLDBERG



NATHAN



BALL

COLLIN WARRICH  
*(College Winner)*

*Winner)*

YASH PAZHIANUR  
*(High School*



*Winner)*

SOPHIE WEN  
*(K-8th Grade*

