



**For Immediate Release:
Fear No Music Celebrates Oregon Culture
with Locally Sourced Sounds VI**

*“a bully pulpit for new music by Oregon composers”
- Oregon ArtsWatch*



Locally Sourced Sounds VI

L to R: composers Allen Skirvin, Li Tao, Jake Safirstein, Kirsten Volness, Nicholas Emerson, and Jennifer Wright

January 6, 2020; Portland, OR: In the sixth iteration of its highly anticipated annual concert event, Locally Sourced Sounds, “one of Oregon’s most valuable music series” (*Oregon ArtsWatch*) Fear No Music proudly showcases a kaleidoscopic array of gorgeous new music, from composers with strong ties to Oregon.

In keeping with Fear No Music’s season focus on restorative justice, the 2020 installment of Locally Sourced Sounds features music from young composers specifically. Millennials face unnecessary injustices passed down through decisions made by prior generations (examples being the student loan debt crisis, higher incarceration rates for noncriminal activity, and the effects of climate change), but are often the most passionate and active organizers around restorative justice, offering fresh solutions to decades of accumulated problems. This concert highlights their talent and unique voice.

Locally Sourced Sounds VI

WHEN: Monday, January 20, 2020 | 7:30 pm

WHERE: The Old Church Concert Hall

COST: Online Presale (fearnomusic.org): \$10 Students/Seniors; \$20 General Admission
Door Sales: \$15 Students/Seniors; \$25 General Admission

Concert program includes:

Jake Safirstein: *Sonata* for viola and piano

A former student of Fear No Music Artistic Director Kenji Bunch and a graduate of Fear No Music's Young Composers Project, Jake is in his first year at The Juilliard School studying composition. He wrote this piece for Kenji a few years ago, exploring the use of traditional classical forms in a contemporary American context, while presenting the viola as a virtuosic instrument.

Li Tao: *Gu Yan Er* (A Little Wild Goose) for soprano, bass clarinet, and cello

A graduate of the University of Oregon, Li Tao uses ancient Chinese ideology combined with contemporary Western techniques to create her own distinct musical language. Chinese traditional culture profoundly influences her music, and she maintains a deep interest in the inner connections between composer, performer and instrument. *Gu Yan Er* is a setting of a poem by 11th century Chinese poet Li Qingzhao.

Nicholas Emerson: *Piano Trio* * WORLD PREMIERE

Portland born composer and sound engineer Nicholas Emerson is deeply rooted in the Pacific Northwest through his Nez Perce heritage and family on the Collville Reservation. A student of Composition and Music Production at Portland State University, Nick recalls his prior experiences working as a combat medic for the Navy through this powerfully emotional piano trio.

Kirsten Volness: *Year Without A Summer* for clarinet, marimba, and fixed media

Dr. Volness is the new visiting composition professor at Reed College, and Fear No Music welcomes her to the Portland new music community. This representative work draws inspiration from nature, as well as from current social and environmental issues. About the piece, Dr. Volness writes: "On April 10, 1815, Mount Tambora in Indonesia erupted, sending a plume of ash into the atmosphere that created a climate disaster the following year: temperatures fluctuated wildly, snow fell as far south as Virginia through August, and frost killed crops planting after planting in New England and Europe, leading to the most recent widespread food shortage experienced in the Western hemisphere."

Allen Skirvin: *Sanguine* for viola and piano

Originally from the forests of Clatskanie, violist and composer Allen Skirvin hails from a logging family and among other unique abilities, grew up a champion logroller. Currently studying at Boise State, Allen offers this short, beautiful work for viola and piano that Kenji is excited to bring to Fear No Music audiences.

Jennifer Wright: *X Chromosome* for mixed ensemble

Longtime Portlander Jennifer Wright is very active in the new music community. Her compelling work often involves theatrical elements and a sense of humor. Originally scored for five toy pianos, *X Chromosome* utilizes a flexible instrumentation which lends itself to toy piano, violin, clarinet, soprano, and marimba in this context. Of the piece, Jennifer writes: “Invited by my charming friend Dan to be the token female composer on an all-male concert (“We need a girl! But, I mean, we also love your work!”), naturally I decided to contribute a piece entitled *X Chromosome*. Rather than doing something obvious and uninteresting like explore the nature of femininity, I was intrigued by the “X” and its suggestions of intersection and the synchronicity of chance meetings... At the crossroads of intention, whim and chance, the energy of this piece emerges as individual lines phase in and out of the texture – overlapping, causing unintended interactions, and possibly lining up with one another occasionally – like children on playground swings.”

To enhance audience experience and revel in what it means to be Oregonian, Fear No Music also pays homage to the region’s incredible foodie culture by way of a complimentary reception following the performance, featuring samples from celebrated local food and beverage vendors. Refreshments generously donated by:



This performance features Fear No Music core musicians (pictured below left to right): Arwen Myers, voice; James Shields, clarinet; Inés Voglar Belgique, violin; Kenji Bunch, viola; Nancy Ives, cello; Monica Ohuchi, piano; and Michael Roberts, percussion



Fear No Music's 2019-20 Justice (Just Us) season provides an amplified voice to the stories of oppressed peoples, environmental issues, and important musical works that survived initially dismissive reviews. Through these programs, Fear No Music offers an alternative way to process emotions associated with the stark realities of the world we live in, thus offering an avenue for healing and positive change. The shared experience of Fear No Music's live performances encourage conversations about and inspired action around the commonalities of our human experience that transcend our differences. The Justice (Just Us) season is made possible with support from the Oregon Cultural Trust, Regional Arts and Culture Council, and Ronni Lacroute.

Upcoming Justice (Just Us) concerts include:

- **March 23 - *Just Us***
- **May 18 - *Haters Gonna Hate***
- **June 14 - *Folk you, too!***

Fear No Music promotes music education through the high quality public performance of modern and contemporary classical music, and by offering groundbreaking youth mentorship in composition. Comprised of highly talented musicians, this flexible chamber music ensemble champions living composers and exposes audiences to new music being made both locally and globally through a uniquely relevant annual concert series. The group educates and trains the next generation of young composers in our community through its Young Composers Project. Fear No Music is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Learn more at fearnomusic.org.

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