



For Immediate Release:

## Fear No Music Celebrates *Asian Resilience & Joy*

*"unimpeachable performance credentials... and a mature sense of social justice and responsibility"*  
— Oregon ArtsWatch

April 21, 2022; Portland, OR: On May 9th, Fear No Music continues its landmark 30th Anniversary Season with *Asian Resilience & Joy*, an exuberant celebration of new work by composers from the vast Asian diaspora. With awareness of the ongoing discrimination towards Asian Americans, Fear No Music offers a vibrant, prismatic look at the multi-dimensional lives and richly diverse influences of Asian cultures. This concert is sponsored by Oregon Rises Above Hate and coincides with Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Artistic Director Kenji Bunch offers these thoughts on the program:

“With this concert, we extend the recent conversation around the Asian diaspora in America beyond the discrimination this population has endured, as we celebrate the vivid colors, wildly diverse backgrounds, and full range of expressions of the human experience, including humor, playfulness, gratitude, and elation.

Resilience is reflected in the enduring beauty of WWII-era confinement camp survivor Paul Chihara’s *Haiku*, Wu Man’s settings of ancient Uyghur songs from China’s Xinjiang province, and hauntingly pensive music written by Dai Fujikara on a piano that miraculously survived the bombing of Hiroshima.

We hear joy in Ke-Chia Chen’s colorful depiction of children playing in Taiwan, Viet Cuong’s grooving celebration of a great shave and haircut, the infectious rhythms of Jiyoun Chung’s *Freestyle Battle*, and the electrifying urban energy of Hiromi Uehara’s sensational *BQE*.”

As one of few BIPOC-led non-profits in the Portland metro area, Fear No Music revels in the bold presentation of music that reflects cultural significance and heritage. Join this pioneering group for its concert tribute to our world’s largest continent!

Part of Fear No Music’s 30th Anniversary Season

### **ReTurn: Fear No Music at 30**

*a celebration of resilience and renewal*

**Live concert: Monday, May 9th | 7:30pm; limited capacity at The Old Church Concert Hall**

**Virtual concert: available Monday, May 23rd | 7:30pm; Fear No Music YouTube channel**

**Performances are donation-based; RSVP and donate at [fearnomusic.org/upcoming](https://fearnomusic.org/upcoming)**

Fear No Music’s new donation-based ticketing model puts a mission of inclusion into action:  
*pay what you can, and no one is turned away.*

## Concert program

Viet Cuong: *Well-Groomed* for solo snare drum (7:30)  
Paul Chihara: *Haiku* for two flutes (8:30)  
Dai Fujikara: *Akiko's Diary* for solo piano (4')  
Jiyoun Chung: *Freestyle Battle* for piano, clarinet, violin, and cello (8')  
Ke-Chia Chen: *Taiwanese Children's Games* for piano four hands (7')  
Wu Man: *Glimpses of Muqam Chebiyat* for string quartet (8:45)  
Hiromi Uehara: *BQE* for solo piano (10')

## Performers:

Amelia Lukas & Adam Eccleston, flutes  
James Shields, clarinet  
Keiko Araki and Inés Voglar-Belgique, violins  
Kenji Bunch, viola  
Pansy Chang, cello  
Monica Ohuchi & Jeff Payne, piano  
Michael Roberts, percussion

## Concert sponsor:

Oregon Rises Above Hate is a group of AANHPI community leaders who want to defeat anti-Asian hate through targeted government action, broad educational programs, and by harnessing the power of the entire AANHPI community and all Oregonians.



## UPCOMING: June 20/July 4 - Tomorrow Is My Turn

This program revisits last year's groundbreaking season of works by Black American composers with large ensemble works featured alongside encore, live performances of some of the most compelling performances from last year's virtual season. Community partner: Don't Shoot PDX.

**ReTurn: Fear No Music at 30** is made possible with support from the Oregon Community Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Cultural Trust, Regional Arts and Culture Council, Anne Naito-Campbell, Ronni Lacroute, the Templeton Foundation, and Autzen Foundation.



*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. As a public advocate for global peace and equity, Fear No Music leverages its platforms for healing, activism, and social justice. Fear No Music is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. [fearnomusic.org](http://fearnomusic.org).*

**For additional information, media materials and interview inquiries, please contact:**

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