



Saturday, August 27th

5:30PM

Peck Pavilion, Marcus Center

cit-ESCAPES: improvisation, electronics, and saxophone

Nick Ortiz, saxophones

Program

Spider Silk Blooze – P.R. Martin (2022) *

Gradus – Philip Glass (1968)

To the Earth with Larvae – P.R. Martin (2022) *

Mandala – Alan Theisen (2021)

Easy-Picking Protein-Pollen – P.R. Martin (2022) *

cit-ESCAPES – Morgan Easterday (2022) *

*Denotes world premiere

Composer Biographies

Morgan Easterday

Morgan Easterday is a Chicago-based composer who recently graduated with her master's degree in Composition from DePaul University. Her music is widely influenced by art and her life's experiences, often gaining inspiration from her environment at the time. Morgan began her path in music studying horn she was 10 years old. Her love for music took her to Louisiana State University, where she continued to play horn and began studying composition. Her compositional journey started through a lens of storytelling, which has carried her music to where it is today. Focusing mostly on solo and chamber works, Morgan's pieces have been most notably performed by the American Modern Ensemble, Boston-based bass clarinet and marimba duo, Transient Canvas, and Chicago-based experimental chamber ensemble, Ensemble Dal Niente. Morgan has hopes to move toward larger ensemble works in the future. She is currently spending her time writing and collaborating with friends and exploring the integration of different genres and mediums into her works.



Philip Glass

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Philip Glass is a graduate of the University of Chicago and the Juilliard School. In the early 1960s, Glass spent two years of intensive study in Paris with Nadia Boulanger and, while there, earned money by transcribing Ravi Shankar's Indian music into Western notation. By 1974, Glass had a number of innovative projects creating a large collection of new music for The Philip Glass Ensemble and for the Mabou Mines Theater Company. This period culminated in *Music in Twelve Parts* and the landmark opera *Einstein on the Beach*, for which he collaborated with Robert Wilson. Since *Einstein*, Glass has expanded his repertoire to include music for opera, dance, theater, chamber ensemble, orchestra, and film. His scores have received Academy Award nominations (*Kundun*, *The Hours*, *Notes on a Scandal*) and a Golden Globe (*The Truman Show*). Glass's memoir *Words Without Music* was published by Liveright Books in 2015.

Glass received the Praemium Imperiale in 2012, the U.S. National Medal of the Arts from President Barack Obama in 2016, and 41st Kennedy Center Honors in 2018. Glass's recent works include *Symphony No. 12*, a completion of three symphonies based on David Bowie's Berlin Trilogy, Glass's first *Piano Sonata*, and a circus opera *Circus Days and Nights*. Glass' upcoming 85th Birthday season will feature programming around the globe, including three world premieres of Symphonies No. 13, 14 and 15.

P.R. Martin

P. R. Martin is an experimental composer, drummer, and digital artist currently based in Portland, Oregon whose work has been called "head music for your feet." Inspired by everything from Indonesian gamelan, American music styles, and modern orchestral music, Martin's music focuses on rhythmically bridging roots, ritual, and concert music. During the decades Martin lived in San Francisco, he composed (under the name Eddie the Rat) for a revolving cast of up to fifteen musicians, actors, and dancers, performed with dozens of prominent Bay Area music artists, and releasing albums with Edgetone Records, Negativland's SEELAND label, ComfortStand, and the Puzzling Music Archive. During this time, he was actively involved in the promotion of original works of new, creative, and experimental music by other artists at the Luggage Store, as well as through community outreach to local schools. Martin was also a Production Consultant and Board member of Outsound.org.

Alan Theisen

ALAN THEISEN (b. 4 October 1981) is a composer, saxophonist, author, and educator. Theisen's compositions encompass a wide array of genres and instrumentation including chamber music, art song, solo piano, concerti, jazz, pop song, musical theatre, symphonies, improvisational music, and more. His music is often inspired by ritual, history, myth, virtuosity, visual art, places, phantasmagoria, and the uncanny. Recent premieres of Theisen's music have occurred at National Sawdust (Brooklyn), New Music Gathering (Peabody Conservatory), and the World Saxophone Congress (Strasbourg, France). An active saxophonist, Theisen concertizes in classical recitals, gigs with jazz bands and musical theater productions, directs multiple ensembles, and premieres/records the music of fellow contemporary composers. His acclaimed voice/saxophone avant-pop band, MIATp, combines experimental music, multiple pop genres, and theatre in live performances across the United States.

As an author, he runs [The Theisen Journal](#), a weekly online periodical exploring both his creative work as composer/saxophonist and happenings in the broader New Music community. Additionally, Theisen writes reviews, liner notes for professionally released albums, and program notes for concerts. Theisen received his Ph.D. in music theory and composition from Florida State University and degrees (B.M. Music History and M.M. Music Theory) from the University of Southern Mississippi. This fall he joins the faculty of Xavier University of Louisiana.

A native of Michigan, he has spent the majority of his life in the Deep South of the United States. He currently resides in New Orleans.



Performer Bio

Nick Ortiz is a saxophonist, improviser, and educator from Lombard, Illinois who recently completed a master's degree in saxophone performance from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has given performances as a soloist and chamber musician throughout the states of Illinois and Wisconsin across various musical idioms. Recent highlights include playing with Darius Rucker on his 2022 tour, concerto soloist with the UWM Symphony Orchestra, a performance at the 2019 Summer Camp music Festival with 6th street Brass Band, and performances in the Greater Milwaukee area with the MIMKE Saxophone Quartet.

In the avenues of new music, Nick has commissioned and premiered works by Benjamin Damann, Morgan Easterday, Elsie Bae Han, P.R. Martin, and Emily McPherson. Nick is also an advocate for free-improvised music, performing acoustic and electro-acoustic improvisation in solo and multidisciplinary collaborations with fellow musicians, visual artists, and dancers.

