

# HAVEN

*Soul, power, connection.*

*A refuge for the creation of new music for soprano, clarinet, and piano.*

## PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

Hailed by Fanfare Magazine as an “artist of growing reputation for her artistry and intelligence...with a voice of goddess-like splendor” **Lindsay Kesselman** is a soprano who passionately advocates for contemporary music. This season, Kesselman will be featured on several new recording releases: Chris Cerrone’s *The Pieces That Fall to Earth* with LA-based ensemble Wild Up (New Amsterdam Records), Mathew Rosenblum’s *Falling* with the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble (New Focus Recordings), and Jon Magnussen’s *Twinge* with HAVEN (Blue Griffin). Recent and upcoming highlights include a leading role in a new opera by Chris Cerrone, a world premiere performance at the national CBDNA convention in 2019 (John Mackey), a world premiere with the UNCG Wind Symphony in 2019 (D.J. Sparr), the John Corigliano 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration at National Sawdust (2018), *Quixote* (Amy Beth Kirsten and Mark DeChiazza) with Peak Performances at Montclair State University (2017), a leading role in Louis Andriessen’s opera *Theatre of the World* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Dutch National Opera (live recording released on Nonesuch Records, 2017), and an international tour of *Einstein on the Beach* with the Philip Glass Ensemble (2012-2015). Kesselman has been the resident soprano of the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble for 8 seasons, and will tour to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August 2019 with this ensemble for 30 performances of Kieren MacMillan’s *The Gray Cat* and the *Flounder*. Kesselman holds degrees in voice performance from Rice University and Michigan State University. She is represented by Trudy Chan at Black Tea Music and lives in Charlotte, NC with her husband, conductor Christopher James Lees, and son Rowan.

With reviews such as “breathtaking...” (*The Clarinet*), “virtuosic tone and technique” (*Tampa Bay Times*), “exceptionally sensitive and introspective rendition” (*The Clarinet*), and “a most skillful artist” (*Fanfare Magazine*), **Kimberly Cole Luevano** continually establishes herself as a formidable soloist and chamber musician known for poignant interpretations and inventive programming. With pianist Midori Koga and soprano Lindsay Kesselman, she forms the trio, Haven, “...A refuge for the creation of new music for soprano, clarinet, and piano.” She is also a founding member of the violin, clarinet, and piano trio, TrioPolis. Luevano’s recordings of contemporary American clarinet works on the Fleur de Son label, *Bright Angel* (2013) and *Atonement* (2015), received critical acclaim and consideration in the Grammy nomination process. Her disc of world premiere recordings for clarinet, violin, and piano, *TrioPolis One*, was released in 2017, and her recording of Michael Daugherty’s “Brooklyn Bridge” with the UNT Wind Symphony was released on the GIA label in 2016. Numerous chamber recordings are also available on the Centaur and Albany labels. Luevano joined the faculty at the esteemed College of

Music at the University of North Texas in 2011 and served as a member of the clarinet faculty at the renowned Interlochen Arts Camp from 2003 to 2012. She was Pedagogy Chairperson for the International Clarinet Association from 2012-14 and has given acclaimed solo and chamber performances, adjudicated, and taught masterclasses on four continents. Former students occupy performing and teaching positions throughout the United States and Canada. Originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, Luevano studied in Paris as the recipient of a Fulbright Grant and Kade Fellowship. She plays and endorses Selmer Paris instruments and is a D'Addario and Company Performing Artist. Luevano resides in Texas with her husband and two teen-aged sons (who still like to watch TV with her).

With performances described as "passionate" (*Ann Arbor News*), "meltingly lovely", "rippling clean" (*Globe and Mail*), and "with exquisite tone colors" (*Fanfare Magazine*), pianist **Midori Koga** has been featured as soloist and chamber musician throughout Canada, USA, Spain, Taiwan, China and Austria, including highlight appearances in New York's Merkin Hall, Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium, and for the ProMozart Society of Detroit. In the current season, Koga joins *Soundstreams Ensemble* as featured guests at the Shanghai Conservatory New Music Festival, and at Koerner Hall in Toronto, Canada. Internationally released recordings can be heard on the Albany, Equilibrium, Fleur de Son, NAXOS, Blue Griffin and Centrediscs labels. In addition to her collaboration with HAVEN, Midori has performed with NEXUS Percussion on multiple occasions, including on the recently released CD *NEXUS Plays John Cage: The City Wears a Slouch Hat*. The CD recorded with mezzo-soprano Patricia Green *Ice Age and Beyond: Works by Canadian Women Composers*, funded by a grant through the Canadian Music Centre, with distribution throughout the US (Albany) and Canada (CMC Distribution Inc.), was awarded a Four Star review by the BBC Music Magazine. In another Canadian project funded by the Ontario Arts Council, the recording *Glistening Pianos: Two Piano Works by Alice Ho* featuring the piano duo 2X10 with pianist Lydia Wong, received a JUNO nomination for recording in the Best Contemporary Work category. Koga currently serves on the piano and pedagogy faculty at the University of Toronto, and is Associate Dean, Graduate Education.