

HAVEN

Soul, power, connection.

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

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

Lindsay Kesselman is a two time GRAMMY-nominated soprano known for her warm, collaborative spirit and investment in personal, intimate communication with audiences. She regularly collaborates with orchestras, wind symphonies, chamber ensembles, opera/theater companies, and new music ensembles across the United States, often premiering, touring and recording new works written for her by living composers. She is a passionate advocate for contemporary music, and has commissioned/premiered over 100 works to date.

Recent and upcoming highlights include the premiere of the wind transcription of Caroline Shaw's *Is a Rose, Energy in All Directions* by Kenneth Frazelle with Sandbox Percussion at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, the role of Anna in Kurt Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins* with the Charlotte Symphony, the role of Ada Lovelace in a new opera, *Galaxies in Her Eyes* by Mark Lanz Weiser and Amy Punt, *Astronautica: Voices of Women in Space* with Voices of Ascension, ongoing performances of two works written for Kesselman by John Mackey with orchestras and wind symphonies across the country, the John Corigliano 80th 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 and an international tour of *Einstein on the Beach* with the Philip Glass Ensemble (2012-2015).

She is featured on several recent recordings: David *Biedenbender's all we are given we cannot hold* (2023, Blue Griffin), Chris Cerrone's opera *In a Grove* (2023, In a Circle Records), Caroline Shaw's *Is a Rose* (2023, Blue Griffin), Chris Cerrone's *The Arching Path* (2021, In a Circle Records), Russell Hartenberger's *Requiem for Percussion and Voices* (2019, Nexus Records), Chris Cerrone's *The Pieces That Fall to Earth* with Wild Up (2019, New Amsterdam Records), Mathew Rosenblum's *Lament/Witches' Sabbath* with the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble (2018, New Focus Recordings), Louis Andriessen's *Theatre of the World* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic (2017, Nonesuch), and Jon Magnussen's *Twinge* with HAVEN (2016, Blue Griffin).

Kesselman has been the resident soprano of the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble for 12 seasons, and HAVEN, Kesselman's trio with Kimberly Cole Luevano, clarinet and Midori Koga, piano (www.haventrio.com) actively commissions and tours throughout North America. HAVEN is the recipient of a 2021 Barlow Endowment for Music Composition award with composer David Biedenbender and a 2021 Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Grant with composer Ivette Herryman Rodriguez.

She is a dedicated teacher, currently serving as Visiting Assistant Professor of Voice at UNC Greensboro. A frequent guest clinician at colleges and universities across the United States, Kesselman specializes in voice teaching, leadership, entrepreneurship, musicianship, young composer mentoring, chamber music, audience development, programming, interdisciplinary collaboration, harnessing vulnerability in performance, and community engagement. This season she is an adjudicator for student composer competitions through North Star Music, LLC and Connecticut Summerfest, and she co-teaches the Heretic's Guide to Score Study and Interpretation with Kevin Noe.

Kesselman holds degrees in voice performance and music education from Rice University and Michigan State University. She is represented by Trudy Chan at Black Tea Music and lives in Charlotte, NC with her fiancé Kevin and son Rowan. More information can be found at: www.lindsaykesselman.com

Kimberly Cole Luevano fulfills multiple callings in life: clarinet performer, chamber music collaborator, teacher/educator/advisor, university administrator, wife, mom, and daughter, amongst many other roles. With reviews such as "a most skillful artist" (*Fanfare Magazine*), "breathtaking..." (*The Clarinet*), "virtuosic tone and technique" (*Tampa Bay Times*), "exceptionally sensitive and introspective rendition" (*The Clarinet*), she has presented acclaimed solo and chamber performances, adjudicated, taught at festivals, and presented masterclasses on four continents. Former students have been prize-winners in international competitions and occupy performing and teaching positions throughout North America. Currently Professor of Clarinet and Chair of the Division of Instrumental Studies in the College of Music at the University of North Texas, Luevano relishes her work with UNT's diverse, talented students and colleagues. Luevano joined the UNT faculty in 2011, taught at the Interlochen Arts Camp for nine years, and has served the International Clarinet Association as Pedagogy Chair and coordinator of their High School Competition. With pianist Midori Koga and soprano Lindsay Kesselman, she forms the trio, HAVEN (www.haventrio.com).

HAVEN received grants in 2021 from both the Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Fund and the Barlow Foundation to partner with composers in the creation of new works for the trio. Their recording of David Bienenbender's "All we are given we cannot hold" was released in July 2023. HAVEN also released their recording, *Twinge*, in 2019. Luevano recorded William Bolcom's Clarinet Concerto in 2022 for the GIA label with Eugene Corporon and the North Texas Wind Symphony. GIA also released their recording of Michael Daugherty's *Brooklyn Bridge* in 2016. Luevano's recordings on the Fleur de Son label, *Bright Angel* (2013) and *Atonement* (2015), received critical acclaim and were considered in the Grammy nomination process. World premiere recordings with TrioPolis, *TrioPolis One*, were released on the Fleur de Son label in 2017. Numerous chamber recordings are also available on the Centaur and Albany labels.

Originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, Luevano studied in Paris, France as a Fulbright Scholar. She earned degrees at Michigan State University and the University of North Texas and is immensely grateful to her mentors, Elsa Ludewig-Verdehr, James Gillespie, and Keith Lemmons. Prior to her appointment at the University of North Texas, she was Professor of Clarinet at Eastern Michigan University for fifteen years. Luevano plays and endorses Selmer Paris instruments and is a D'Addario and Company Performing Artist. She resides in Corinth, Texas with her husband and savors time spent with her two college-aged sons and spirited border collie.

With performances described as "passionate" (*Ann Arbor News*), "meltingly lovely", "rippling clean" (*Toronto Globe and Mail*), and "with exquisite tone colors" (*Fanfare Magazine*), pianist **Midori Koga** has been featured as soloist and chamber musician throughout Canada, US, Spain, Taiwan and Austria, including highlight appearances in New York's Merkin Hall, Ann Arbor's Hill Auditorium, for the ProMozart Society of Detroit, and has held performance residencies with Interlochen Centre for the Arts, Cleveland Composers Forum, and Connecticut Summerfest. Chamber music collaborations include those with the internationally acclaimed percussion ensemble NEXUS and with *Soundstreams Ensemble Canada* as guests of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. In addition, she has performed with the Esprit Orchestra, and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in their *New Creations Festival*. Internationally released recordings can be heard on the Albany, Equilibrium, Fleur de Son, NAXOS, Blue Griffin and Centrediscs labels.

HAVEN <https://www.haventrio.com/> with co-founding members clarinetist Kimberly Cole Luevano and soprano Lindsay Kesselman has been active commissioning, premiering and recording new works for voice, clarinet and piano for the past decade. Haven is recipient of two Chamber Music America commissioning grants, a Barlow Foundation commissioning grant, and an Ontario Arts Council grant and is proud to have ongoing relationships with composers throughout US and Canada.

Recent recordings with NEXUS include *The City Wears a Slouch Hat: Nexus plays John Cage; Steve Reich: Nexus and So Percussion*; and *The Music of Bob Becker*. The disc recorded with mezzo-soprano Patricia Green entitled *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 Best Recording of a Contemporary Work. This collaborative project gave Koga the opportunity to work with famed producer David Jaeger formerly of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

Also active as lecturer and adjudicator, Dr. Koga has served in the College of Examiners for the Royal Conservatory of Music, as national adjudicator for the Canadian Music Competitions, and has presented pedagogical workshops worldwide. Highlight presentations include those for the International Society for Music Education Conference in Italy, Greece, Scotland; the European Piano Teachers' Association in Austria and Finland; the Music Teachers' National Association Conferences throughout the US and Canada, as well as the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy in Chicago.

A passionate educator, Midori Koga, currently serves as Professor at the University of Toronto where she teaches piano and directs the first Canadian Masters and Doctoral programs in Piano Pedagogy and Performance. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Michigan.