



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
FACULTY OF MUSIC

**Student Composer Concert #1**

Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 7:30 pm | Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park

**PROGRAM**

The Blue Piano (2023)  
(Annie Castillo, piano)

James Lowrie

Imagine Indonesia (2023)  
(Lifia Teguh, piano)

Lifia Teguh

Artemis (2023)  
(Hsiu-Ping Patrick Wu, violin)

Luke Blackmore

*Intermission*

Sonata (2nd Movement) (2023)  
(Matthew Woolard, piano)

Matthew Woolard

The End of the Beginning (2023)  
(Jeanny Jung, violin I; Ivan Li, violin II; Gavin Yinren Li, viola; Yi-Nung Su, cello)

Hsiu-Ping Patrick Wu

Acquainted with the Night (2023)  
(Monica Lindsay, soprano; Jingren Sun, piano)

Anthony Gunadi

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**WALTER HALL**

Peter Olsen, *sound technologist*

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*We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.*

As part of the Faculty's commitment to improving Indigenous inclusion, we call upon all members of our community to start/continue their personal journeys towards understanding and acknowledging Indigenous peoples' histories, truths and cultures. Visit [indigenous.utoronto.ca](http://indigenous.utoronto.ca) to learn more.

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## PROGRAM NOTES

### **James Lowrie, *The Blue Piano***

The Blue Piano is the lead single off of an album I put together with Annie Catillo called "Relaxing Piano Music on the Bad Piano" (You should buy it on Bandcamp please).

Its name refers to the song "I'm Blue" (1998) by Eiffel 65 which I unironically believe contains one of the most beautiful melodies in all of music.

It's also a sideways reference to "The Blue Guitar" (1983) by Micheal Tippett, as I consider myself inspired by the classical guitar repertoire in general, though not this piece in particular.

James Lowrie writes music at the intersection of pop, classical, and experimental music traditions. It sort of sounds like psychedelic/modernist easy-listening.

Freesound, Current Resonance, The FAWN Chamber Creative, The Berrow Duo, and Soundstreams have all performed his works in concert. In 2020, his "Chainsmoking;Index" for Solo Piano premiered to "great acclaim" (James Lowrie) at ArrayMusic. Last year, he participated in the Bozzini Quartet's Composers Kitchen residency and had a very nice time. He runs a comedy/sound art thing called "Radio Haha" on the first Tuesday of every month at the Tranzac.

### **Lifia Teguh, *Imagine Indonesia (I. Javanese Dance, II. Bali)***

Imagine Indonesia is a compilation of prepared piano pieces that converts the sound of piano into other Indonesian instruments. The collection provides a musical journey through Indonesia, a culturally diverse nation with more than 17,000 islands and around 1,340 ethnic groups, each with their own customs and traditions.

Both movements played in this concert, "Javanese Dance" and "Bali", bring the audience to the islands of Java and Bali, widely known for their unique sets of percussion, the gamelan, that are played by a group of people. "Javanese Dance" transports the audience to the Java island, where in the east the vibe, people, and cultures are energetic and vibrant, whereas the central part is known for its graceful and polite mannerisms. The ngremo (a dynamic east Javanese traditional dance) includes bracelets that are used to create the gong-like sound effects. The second movement "Bali" (world premiered in this concert) depicts the island's rhythmic, vivacious style through the gamelan. The audience interaction part depicts the kecak, a dance performed by a large group of men, with music coming from the mouths of the dancers depicting the sound of the gamelan. "Javanese Dance" is available online on all streaming platforms of your choice, while the other movements of Imagine Indonesia are to be released starting in the spring of 2023.

Lifia Teguh is an Indonesian-born pianist, composer, and audio engineer whose passion is to make music that touches hearts and changes lives. Ms. Teguh's concert venues range from the traditional concert halls to yacht clubs. Her creative and distinct approach breathes fresh air to traditional Indonesian music, combining Indonesian folk tunes and songs with other genres like blues, classical, and pop. Her arrangement of prepared piano music *Rek Ayo Rek*, which transforms the sound of the piano into sasando and kendhang (both Indonesian instruments), "successfully swayed the audience on their seats according to the rhythm of the music" ([goodnewsfromindonesia.org](https://www.goodnewsfromindonesia.org)). Her piano quartet score, *Liber Dangdut*, was performed in the College Music Society National Conference in New York and at the College Music Society & American Musicological Society Pacific NW

Conference. She was featured in Fear No Music's concert, Locally Sourced Sounds VII I, in Portland, Oregon, USA. She was also featured in All Classical Portland's Portland's Thursday @ Three in 2022, 2023, and in the coming May 2024.

Ms. Teguh won the PSU Concerto Competition with Ravel's Piano Concerto in G Major and will perform debut as soloist performing with the Corvallis-OSU Symphony Orchestra in May 2024. She is currently a Master of Music Technology in Digital Media at the University of Toronto. She earned a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance, and two Masters degrees: a Master of Music in Piano Performance and a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano. As an educator, she served as a piano faculty member at Linfield University.

Follow Lifa Teguh on YouTube and @lifiateguh on Instagram for more information, or visit [lifiateguh.com](https://lifiateguh.com).

Performance of Bali (by Fear No Music):

<https://youtu.be/GrOhT1cYciQ?si=M5Ak3Dz60o6aEBht>

### **Luke Blackmore, *Artemis***

Artemis was commissioned by Vancouver-based violinist and composer Jack Campbell. When Jack approached me asking to write a piece based on one of the 12 main Greek deities, I immediately gravitated towards Artemis, Goddess of the Moon, Hunting, and Femininity. Artemis is an intriguing figure, whose stories are uniquely compelling and stoic. Artemis is known for her archery skills and therefore offers a connection to the violin through the use of bow and string. "ARTEMIS" is a calm and controlled piece, with a breath-like rollicking, and fast virtuosic moments of melodic release.

Luke Blackmore is a Canadian composer, sound artist, and saxophonist based in Toronto and St. John's.

His current artistic practice centers around works that explore acoustic and electronic spaces, and he is interested in exploring the connections and divisions between these two sonic environments. Luke's work seeks to investigate how these boundaries can be exploited, assured and otherwise manipulated in order to subvert the collective expectations of audiences. He is invested in creating music that is exciting for listeners and performers alike, synthesizing influence from a broad palette of musical genres and eras.

Born in St. John's, Luke studied at Memorial University under Andrew Staniland and Clark Ross before beginning his master's degree at the University of Toronto, where he studied under Eliot Britton and Kotoka Suzuki. Luke currently resides in Toronto, pursuing a DMA in composition.

Luke is the recipient of numerous awards and commissions, most notably the SSHRC CGS-M grant for his ongoing creative research into computer-controlled instrument systems. He has worked with performers and ensembles such as Ryan Scott (percussion), Naomi McCarroll-Butler (saxophone), Jing Xia (guzheng), Jack Campbell (violin), Ben Diamond (guitar), the UofT guitar ensemble, the Grenadier Quartet, and others. Other collaborations of his include the CMC's ACTIVATE program, the Toronto Strings Composition Workshop, the Newfoundland Festival, and others. Luke's compositions have been performed from coast to coast in Canada, in venues ranging from dive bars to concert halls.

Luke spends his spare time exploring cooking, urbanism, film and tv, cycling, and more.

### **Matthew Woolard, *Sonata (2nd movement)***

This is the second movement of a three-movement sonata that I composed in memory of my great aunt who encouraged me to pursue my passion for music. She was a very traditional old Scottish lady who enjoyed classical music. This piece reflects that fact, being a modern take on a traditional sonata. As well, I incorporated segments of a twelve-tone row throughout the second movement, with the entire twelve-tone row revealed at the end. The entire sonata represents the changes in emotion that are created as one watches the sea and beach outside her old house. This second movement reveals the sense of mysterious calm that often falls over the sea at twilight.

Matthew Woolard is currently enjoying his second year as a student in the Bachelor of Music Program at the University of Toronto, where he is pursuing studies towards a Minor in Music Composition and a Major in Comprehensive Studies. His current Composition Instructor is Andrew Clarke. Matthew completed his ARCT Diploma in 2021, achieving First Class Honours with Distinction. He plays the piano and the trumpet. His hometown is Burlington, Ontario.

### **Hsiu-Ping (Patrick) Wu, *The End of the Beginning***

"The End of the Beginning" was Wu's first string quartet. This piece was heavily influenced by the style of Romantic violin literature, as well as minimalism and improvisational works. The original idea was to create a neo-Romantic style string quartet; however, throughout the composition process, the piece evolved into a modern crossover with variations based on the Latin hymn, Dies Irae.

Taiwanese-born Canadian Hsiu-Ping Patrick Wu is a composer, violinist, and multimedia artist who is constantly on the search for a musical language that bridges his multicultural identity. Patrick's music ranged from his own style of romanticism to avant-garde soundscapes, fusing theatrical elements and improvisational techniques.

### **Anthony Gunadi, *Acquainted with the Night***

This song is set to the text of Robert Frost's poem "Acquainted with the Night", a sorrowful and eerie poem about isolation. The intensity of the character's emotions stifles any desire to seek out a connection with another person; the character chooses to dwell alone in darkness instead. There is a sense of helplessness (lines in quasi third person; "one acquainted with the night", "stopped the sound of feet") and timelessness ("time was neither wrong nor right") on this rainy night, lit by nothing but the moon.

Before writing this song, I spoke with Monica Lindsay to discuss her voice and what she would like to sing. This song was written with her voice and tastes in mind.

I have been one acquainted with the night.  
I have walked out in rain—and back in rain.  
I have outwalked the furthest city light.

I have looked down the saddest city lane.  
I have passed by the watchman on his beat  
And dropped my eyes, unwilling to explain.

I have stood still and stopped the sound of feet  
When away an interrupted cry  
Came over houses from another street,

But not to call me back or say good-bye;  
And further still at an unearthly height,  
One luminary clock against the sky

Proclaimed the time was neither wrong nor right.  
I have been one acquainted with the night.

Anthony Gunadi is a Canadian classical composer from Mississauga inspired by film and jazz music, with a background in electronic dance music production. He plays the trombone in the Etobicoke Jazz Band and the violin in the UTSO. Additionally, he has been involved in world music like the UofT Steel Band, UofT African Drumming and Dancing Ensemble, and the UofT Japanese Drumming Ensemble. Last year, Anthony Gunadi had a solo piano piece "Rainy Night Stroll" and a string quartet "Coup de Grâce" performed at the UofT Student Composer Concerts as a common year student. Anthony Gunadi is the winner of the Orchestra Toronto 2023-24 Prize in Composition and is currently studying with Professor Norbert Palej as a second-year composition major.

Visit [www.anthonygunadi.com](http://www.anthonygunadi.com) to get in contact or for more information.