

THE ART & HISTORY MUSEUMS OF MAITLAND,
THE CENTRAL FLORIDA COMPOSERS' FORUM,
and the **HOWEY MUSIC SERIES**
present



INSPIRED BY THE ART OF **FUTURE NATURE: THE
SILENT CONVERSATIONS OF SINUHÉ VEGA NEGRIN**

FREE | JANUARY 29 | 5:30-8PM

ANNA ESCHBACH, *soprano* **GALEN KAUP**, *violin* *and* **TROY GIFFORD**, *guitar*
perform music of **ERIK BRANCH, ALEX BURTZOS, NATE CHIVERS, TROY GIFFORD,**
CHARLIE GRIFFIN, GERALD LAW II, PAUL AUSTIN SANDERS, and NICK SCOUT

ART & HISTORY MUSEUMS OF MAITLAND
231 W. PACKWOOD AVE., MAITLAND, FL 32751
JANUARY 29, 2025 5:30 PM

THE ART & HISTORY MUSEUMS OF MAITLAND, THE CENTRAL FLORIDA COMPOSERS'
FORUM, AND THE HOWEY MUSIC SERIES PRESENT

MUSIC IN THE GALLERY

*music inspired by the work of Sinuhé Vega Negrín and in
conjunction with the exhibition,*

“Future Nature: The Silent Conversations of Sinuhé Vega Negrín

ANNA ESCHBACH, soprano **GALEN KAUP**, violin **TROY GIFFORD**, guitar

(The concert will be preceded by a talk by Mr. Sinuhé Vega Negrín)

*All the works are world premières, with the exception of Mr. Griffin's, but this is the
première of this particular arrangement of it.)*

NICK SCOUT

Conversing with Statues
(poem by the composer)

NATE CHIVERS

A Cloud of Flowers
(poems by Matsuo Bashō)

GERALD LAW II

Take a Look
(poem by the composer)

ALEX BURTZOS

Four Haiku
(poems by Natsume Sōseki, Aida Bunosuke, and Yosa Buson)

PAUL AUSTIN SANDERS

“Nature’s Connection To Us...As One We Are”

ERIK BRANCH

There Was Always Time...

(poem by Logan Anderson)

CHARLIE GRIFFIN

Sinking City

(poem by Ariel Francisco)

TROY GIFFORD

Nothing Gold Can Stay

(poem by Robert Frost)

Q & A with the artist, composers, and performers



ERIK BRANCH is a native of New York City, and received a BA and MA in Music (Composition) from Hunter College. He lives near Orlando, Florida, where he is active as a pianist, musical director, composer/arranger, operatic tenor, and actor on stage and screen.

When I first heard about this project and saw Sinuhé Vega's fascinating work, I immediately wanted to participate. The instrumental combination interested me intensely. A particular draw was hearing my music sung once again by Anna Eschbach's lush, brilliant voice. I also immediately thought of my friend and collaborator, the gifted Logan Anderson, to write the text. I have tried to both express the words and depict and depict the magical, dreamlike, vibrant world of Vega's work.

*Photo Credit: Mindy Kerr
Photography*

(A note from Mr. Anderson:)

"I was inspired by Sinuhé Vega's artwork and philosophy—our interactions with the natural world. Connecting with other artists via iterations of creativity was a catalyst. With the writing of poetry for a 'silent conversation' and articulating the continuation of the human cravings for nature, there arose 'There Was Always Time.'"



ALEX BURTZOS is an American composer, conductor, and educator based in New York City and Orlando, FL, whose music has been performed across four continents by some of the world's foremost contemporary musicians and ensembles. Alex is the founder and Artistic Director of ICEBERG New Music, a New York-based composer collective, and the endowed chair of composition studies at the University of Central Florida. His music is published by Just a Theory Press, NewMusicShelf, and others, and can be heard on the Sono Luminous and Ravello Records labels.

Photo Credit: Karjaka Studios

Effective haiku often dedicate their first two lines to evocatively describing an image from the natural world. Then, in a revelatory third line, they make a connection between that image and a larger concept or ideal. I've long been drawn to this form of poetry for its ability to balance profundity with simplicity and concision. My hope is that this set of miniatures accomplishes, to one extent or another, the same feat.



Dr. **NATE CHIVERS** is a composer/ guitarist and arranger based in Kissimmee, FL. He holds a PhD in composition from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, UK. He is currently working on compositions for 15-tone guitar in addition to works bridging pop and classical styles.



Soprano **ANNA ESCHBACH** is an active performer and private voice instructor in the Central Florida area. She earned her bachelor's degree in vocal performance from Appalachian State University and a master's degree in vocal performance from the University of Tennessee. Born and raised in Orlando, Ms. Eschbach has performed with numerous professional organizations throughout Florida, including Opera Orlando, the Brevard Symphony Orchestra, The Villages Philharmonic, Orlando Sings, and the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park. Known for her work in oratorio, Ms. Eschbach's reputable canon of repertoire as soprano soloist includes Handel's Messiah, Haydn's The Creation, Orff's Carmina Burana, and Fauré's

Requiem among many others. She is a founding member of notable Central Florida professional ensembles including Bach Vocal Artists, Solaria Singers, and Helena. Currently, Ms. Eschbach maintains a thriving private voice studio and performing career throughout the Orlando area, and serves on the voice faculty at Rollins College.



TROY GIFFORD is a composer and guitarist whose music synthesizes elements of modern classical, Latin, jazz, and rock styles. His compositions have been performed around the world, including at festivals and concerts in North America, South America, Europe, and Asia. He has won a number of awards for his music, including first prize in competitions sponsored by the Guitar Foundation of America, Fingerstyle Guitar Magazine, and the University of Miami. He is a regularly featured contributor for Fingerstyle Guitar Journal, one of the premier publications for fingerstyle guitarists.

Dr. Gifford holds graduate degrees from Florida Atlantic University and the University of Miami. He currently serves as the chair of the music program at Valencia College in Orlando.



CHARLIE GRIFFIN is an accomplished composer, educator, and arts administrator with a distinguished thirty-year career. His music has been performed in over twenty countries, featuring at prestigious venues like Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and international festivals including Spoleto and Aspen. Notable performances include collaborations with the St. Louis Symphony and Orlando Philharmonic.

A versatile creative professional, Griffin has lectured at renowned institutions like Hofstra University and Columbia University and internationally at U.S. Embassies in Latvia and Lithuania. In 2010, he helped launch Full Sail University's Music Production program and, shortly after, founded the Central Florida Composers Forum. Beyond music, Griffin explores creativity through improv, acting, and creative writing.



GALEN KAUP requested a "little violin" before his second birthday, and it actually arrived at 2 years, 2 months of age. He holds a BM from the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam, a BS in Mathematics from Clarkson University, master's degrees in violin and math from IU Bloomington, and a doctorate in strings from FSU. When not playing the violin, he hosts and DMs a D&D campaign, prints and paints monster miniatures in 1:60 scale for said campaign, lines button and dance mat presses up with flashing arrows, and attempts to grow his hot pepper plants to the point of a decent sized harvest.



GERALD LAW II is a composer based in the Central Florida area. Law's approach brings a unique sound driven by his background as a drummer and cellist, combining rhythm and melody in an inspiring way. His recent work includes music written for Henry Severe's short film, 'Delusionally, Ari'.

Reflection is a valuable tool in our search for progress. As we look inward, it is also our perspective on the world around us that compliments our growth. This piece is inspired by the conversation with self. What is our contribution? Are we helping or hurting those around us? Who do we want to be? The mirror is often where those questions can be met with honesty. Nature, in this case, serves as our reflector.



PAUL AUSTIN SANDERS earned a BA in Vocal Performance from Western Washington University. He has premiered a wide variety of music with CF2. Paul belongs to IATSE Local 835, has performed at Disney, is a studio voice-over artist, as well as a guitarist and bassist who's performed in many groups.

Ideally, we should, and could be connected to nature... Over time, with over-industrialization...that connection is being more and more lost...go down any street and see how many sterile lawns you see..compared to those with raised bed gardens. But a more sustainable consciousness is evolving...and those who choose to live closer to nature are reawakening that connection...I reflect on the importance

of that connection and its potential...but what has unfolded? We have lost our way...the sadness of natural areas decimated to make way for a new suburb is in this music. There are moments of fluid movement where the violin and guitar are connected more, as we should be with nature, and at times there is this tension...when humanity is not... Perhaps at one point we will all understand and fully return to nature...

In this duet for violin and guitar...the only words will be the thoughts of the listeners...



NICK SCOUT is a multi-instrumentalist whose foundation is rooted in stringed instrument, with a style that encompasses everything from Gypsy jazz to neo-soul, classical to country-western, Hindustani to punk. Scout marries emotion with lawless fantasia in an approach all his own.

Upon seeing works from Sinuhe Vega's *Future Nature*, I was forced to reflect upon my relationship with Mother Nature. Although usually pessimistic in thought, my path led me face to face with shortcomings in my link to the earth. I started and finished this piece on a return flight from Ireland to the US- where the majority of my time was spent engulfed by the natural environment. My soul had me asking for forgiveness from the earth for participating in harmful societal norms, and I realized I can only *truly* give back and ask for forgiveness upon my passing- where I can no longer take, but fully contribute to nature's healing process. Note this by the absence of voice on the last pass through the song.

TEXTS

Conversing with Statues...

In Spring
Meet me
Out in the garden for tea.
Statues and bees
Make for good company
We'll eat from the Earth

To death and from birth-
Soil that grew the herbs.

Sculptures, they breathe
Talking in sweet harmony

In Spring
Meet me
Out in the garden to grieve.
Bury relief
My time here now is complete.
We'll sleep in the Earth
In death with no hurt
Back from where we were born.
Now sing
Softly
All of the words that we speak.
Talking in sweet harmony.

—Nick Scout

A Cloud of Flowers

The Old Pond

The Old Pond! A frog plunged-

The sound of the water

At My Hut

A cloud of flowers! An evening bell booms.

At Ueno or at Asakusa?

Cicadas' Voices

What stillness! The cicadas' voices

Penetrate the Rocks

Moon Viewing at an Old Temple

No pretty face is to be seen

Among the group viewing the moon.

—Matsuō Bashō

Take a Look

[Verse 1]

Life, we chase the things that seem to matter
Strife, communities are strained and shattered
Might we take the time to search for meaning
Within ourselves to find out why we're here?

[Verse 2]

Seeds, do we plant ourselves in peace or are we
Weeds, constricting those around us to a
Creed that says that we're more different than the
Things that tie us together

[Chorus]

Take a look at nature
Rising from the grave of
What we thought was dead but still breeds life
Soil transforms through rain

And growth springs forth from pain
Each day is hope
Through loss there's more
Take a look

— Gerald Law II

Four Haiku

I.

The crow has flown away:
Swaying in the evening sun,
A leafless tree

- *Natsume Sōseki*

II.

Over the wintry
Forest, winds howl in rage
With no leaves to blow

- *Natsume Sōseki*

III.

The snow of yesterday
That fell like cherry blossoms
Is water once again

- *Aida Bunnosuke*

IV.

The light of a candle
Is transferred to another candle—
Spring twilight

- *Yosa Buson*

There was always time...

There was always time,
in an angle between
needles, where

He would borrow
from many forms of life
within reach—
shard by shard,

A face looks just past
their own eyes unopened,
don't say it please...

In the garden,
just beyond the window,
seduced by the drips of dream,
blooms a new horizon—
the animals are waiting

Though a sun rises haughty,
along motifs of morning,
between leaves painting with shade,
don't say it please...

She who tastes the air
for notes of lust
to pair—
Again and again
a lemon with her tea

The mind grew to wonder—ring after ring:
Why the figments
of life's frailty,
our absurd cravings?

Yet, don't say it please...

Sinking City

Beyond rescue, Miami is a
cruise ship lost at sea with no
lifeboats, throwing an all night
dance party, music and stamping feet
drowning out the sound of taking
on water— but no, not lost,
the sea knows exactly where it is.

—Ariel Francisco, *A Sinking Ship Is Still A Ship*, @ 2020, Burrow Press. Used by permission.

Nothing Gold Can Stay

Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.

—Robert Frost



The **Art & History Museums of Maitland** (A&H) is a premier cultural destination and community gathering place in Central Florida, about 15 minutes from downtown Orlando. A&H is a group of sophisticated attractions that includes a contemporary art museum, 3 interactive history museums, and a campus recognized as Greater Orlando's only National Historic Landmark. A&H also features a community art school nestled among its beautiful gardens and unique architecture. Founded in 1937 as an artists' retreat, our space still fulfills this mission today with artist residencies serving both local and international artists. A&H provides the Central Florida community with many free, family-friendly activities every month. Learn more at <https://artandhistory.org/>



The **Central Florida Composers' Forum** (CF2) is an organization of composers and new music practitioners dedicated to the proposition that a thriving local arts scene makes a city an infinitely better place to live. CF2 strives to be part of a larger cultural conversation where the musical, visual, and other performing arts connect with audiences through innovative music programming, vital collaborations, and multidisciplinary performances that aim not just to reach audiences but to move them.

<https://cfcomposers.org/>

Howey

MUSIC SERIES

The **Howey Music Series**, which presents performances at the historic Howey Mansion in Howey-in-the-Hills in Lake County, was founded in 2018 by soprano Arisa Kusumi Sullivan as a nonprofit organization with the mission to breathe new life into musical treasures by bringing approachable and educational concerts to Central Floridians by underscoring the captivating qualities of great classical and jazz music, performed by the best artists. In addition, the series has a Mansion Music program for young listeners and additional pop-up concerts.

<https://www.howeymusicseries.org/>

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