



Works by American melodist

*Stephanie Ann Boyd*

*Featuring*

Music by Stephanie Ann Boyd

Artwork by Sasha Parfenova

Photography of Adam Solsburg

Poetry by Paul Laurence Dunbar and Jessica Lynn Suchon

PERFORMED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC • DAVID H. NUTT AUDITORIUM  
FEBRUARY 26, 2021

Christine Kralik, *cello*

Adrienne Park, *piano*

Projected Artwork: *Fortuna and Animal Instincts*, by Sasha Parfenova

“The Lily of the Valley”  
from *Lyrics of Sunshine and Shadow*

Paul Laurence Dunbar  
(1872-1906)

Sweetest of the flowers a-blooming  
In the fragrant vernal days  
Is the Lily of the Valley  
With its soft, retiring ways.

Well, you chose this humble blossom  
As the nurse's emblem flower,  
Who grows more like her ideal  
Every day and every hour.

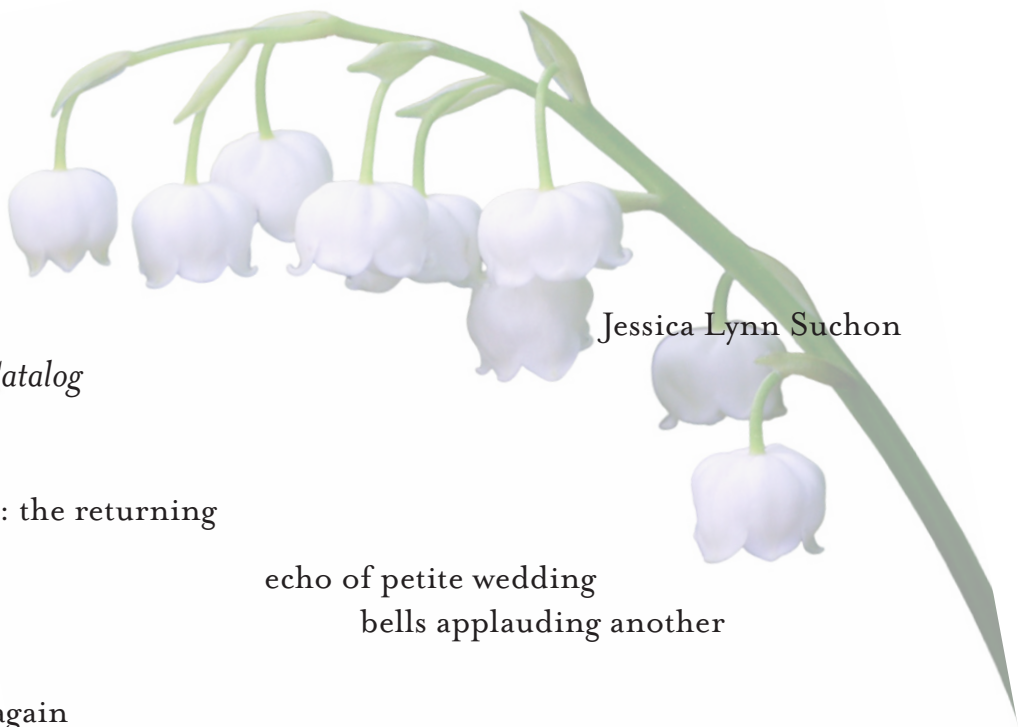
Like the Lily of the Valley  
In her honesty and worth,  
Ah, she blooms in truth and virtue  
In the quiet nooks of earth.

Tho' she stands erect in honor  
When the heart of mankind bleeds,  
Still she hides her own deserving  
In the beauty of her deeds.

In the silence of the darkness  
Where no eye may see and know,  
There her footsteps shod with mercy,  
And fleet kindness come and go.

Not amid the sounds of plaudits,  
Nor before the garish day,  
Does she shed her soul's sweet perfume,  
Does she take her gentle way.

But alike her ideal flower,  
With its honey-laden breath,  
Still her heart blooms forth its beauty  
In the valley shades of death.



“Lily of the Valley”

written for Boyd’s *Flower Catalog*

Jessica Lynn Suchon

Bubbling to life,  
an anniversary: the returning

echo of petite wedding  
bells applauding another

year. The lawn once again  
sprinkled with verdant

perfumed envelopes.  
Open them. Gifts:

Tiny bulbs of glass  
twinkling, tulle

hoop skirts twirling  
and freckling the yard

with splashes of cream.  
Our most wonderful

moments tend to be  
the most delicate, green

tendrils unspooling tall  
and dripping with crystalline

mirrors. We have chalked  
their coordinates

like small constellations  
orbiting our home.

To truly be seen by someone  
is a magic of its own.

Look, darling—another  
spring sugared in white.

Lily of the Valley (2020)  
from *Flower Catalog: 12 Preludes for Piano, Opus 39*

Stephanie Ann Boyd

Adrienne Park, *piano*  
~ *this performance is a world première* ~

*Imogen* for Flute and Piano, Opus 14 (2015)

Stephanie Ann Boyd

I. Artemis  
II. Ilii  
III. Imogen

Nave Graham, *flute*  
Adrienne Park, *piano*

Projected Artwork by Sasha Parfenova:  
*Orchidelirium, Bird's Kiss, and Botanica*

Closing Artwork: *Wild Flower*

Sasha Parfenova

## *Biographies*

### **STEPHANIE ANN BOYD, COMPOSER**

Michigan-born, Manhattan-based American composer Stephanie Ann Boyd (b. 1990) writes melodic music about women's memoirs and the natural world for symphonic and chamber ensembles. Her work has been performed in nearly all 50 states and has been commissioned by musicians and organizations in 37 countries. Boyd's five ballets include works choreographed by New York City Ballet principal dancers Lauren Lovette and Ashley Bouder, NYCB soloist Peter Walker, and XAOC Contemporary Ballet's Eryn Renee Young. *Eero*, a ballet commissioned by Access Contemporary Music and Open House New York, was written for the grand opening of the TWA Hotel at JFK Airport. She holds degrees from Roosevelt University and New England Conservatory. Boyd was one of the last violin students of renowned pedagogue John Kendall, and her music has been praised as "attractive lyricism" (*Gramophone*), "[with] ethereal dissonances" (*Boston Globe*), "[music that] didn't let itself be eclipsed" (*Texas Classical Review*), "arrestingly poetic" (BMOP), and "wide ranging, imaginative" (*Portland Press Herald*).

### **CHRISTINE KRALIK, CELLO**

Dr. Christine Renée Kralik is the Cello Professor at the University of Mississippi. She serves as principal cellist of the North Mississippi Symphony in Tupelo Mississippi and for the Lubbock Chamber Orchestra in Lubbock Texas. She holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts from Texas Tech University, a Masters in Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music, and a Bachelor of Music from the University of Utah. Along with playing in numerous performances and recitals Dr. Kralik loves teaching. She teaches and performs as summer faculty for the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts. Dr. Kralik recently recorded an album of Romantic era cello sonatas, to be released later this year 2021.

Dr. Kralik performs on a German Wilhelm Hammig cello dated 1907 and an unnamed French cello bow thought to be from the Pierre Simon School circa 1880.

### **NAVE GRAHAM, FLUTE**

Dr. Nave Graham leads a versatile career as a performer and educator. She is Instructor of Flute at the University of Mississippi and the flutist for contemporary music sextet, All of the Above. All of the Above has held residencies at Xavier University and the Cortona Sessions for New Music in Italy. The ensemble made their Carnegie Hall debut in 2017 and released their first album on Ablaze Records in 2020. Dr. Graham has been awarded first prize in numerous national solo competitions including the Flute Society of Greater Philadelphia Young Artist Competition, the Flute Society of Kentucky Young Artist Competition, and the Central Ohio Flute Association Young Artist Competition. She has also been a prizewinner in the Byron Hester Solo Flute Competition hosted by the Houston Flute Club, the South Carolina Flute Society Young Artist Competition, and the National Flute Association Masterclass Performers Competition. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music with a cognate in Ethnomusicology. Her research includes Music Performance Anxiety as it relates to Eastern philosophy.

### **ADRIENNE PARK, PIANO**

#### **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, SONIC EXPLORATIONS CHAMBER SERIES**

Adrienne Park has a wide breadth of experience performing as a collaborative pianist. She was the faculty pianist at the renowned Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada, and she performs regularly for the Memphis Chamber Music Society. Adrienne is Principal Piano with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, a position she has held since 2004. She will be featured as a guest artist with the MSO in April performing Doreen Carwithen's Concerto for Piano and Strings. She has also been invited to perform with violinist Nancy Zhou for the IRIS Orchestra Chamber Series at the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art in May.

Adrienne has been on faculty at the University of Mississippi as a collaborative pianist since 2001. She is honored to be one of twelve concert pianists chosen to commission and premiere a prelude of Stephanie Ann Boyd's *Flower Catalog: 12 Preludes for Piano*. She plans to present the entire work for a Sonic Explorations concert next season.



**SASHA PARFENOVA, MIXED MEDIA ARTIST**

Sasha Parfenova is a Boston based mixed media artist working primarily in collage. She received her MFA from Tufts University and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in 2015. Her work is inspired by the beauty and fragility of the natural world. Using intricately cut images of flora and fauna, hand-drawn or painted elements, found materials, she creates eclectic collages and installations.

**ADAM SOLSBURG, PHOTOGRAPHER**

Adam Solsburg is a NYC-based photographer capturing the movement, memories, and moods of music making. With a background in graphic design and classical music, the focus of his lens turns the gritty, sweating moments in rehearsal and the ethereal, transcendent moments in performance from fleeting to forever. Solsburg's photography is included in some images projected during the performance.

**JESSICA LYNN SUCHON, WRITER**

Jessica is a widely-published writer who has received fellowships and honors from the Aspen Institute, the Academy of American Poets, and the Tennessee Playwrights Studio. Her book *scavenger* is forthcoming in 2020 from yesyes books. Jessica's full-length play *shopgirls* made its debut at the Darkhorse Theater in Nashville, Tennessee in December 2019.

**PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR, POET**

Born in Dayton, Ohio, in 1872, Paul Laurence Dunbar was one of the first African American literary figures to garner critical acclaim on a national scale. Dunbar's contributions in a variety of genres left a legacy that endures today. His parents were both slaves prior to the Civil War and many of their experiences of slave and plantation life influenced his later writings. During the final ten years of his life, he wrote prolifically, turning out poetry, short stories, novels, lyrics, and a variety of narrative works. Dunbar's extensive body of work provides a significant representation of African American life at the turn of the twentieth century. Dr. Maya Angelou titled her 1969 autobiography after the final line in Dunbar's poem, "Sympathy" – "I know why the caged bird sings!"

Photo courtesy of the Ohio History Connection.

# Program Notes

Courtesy of Stephanie Ann Boyd

*Fantasia Oloro* is a piece that I wrote at age 17 for a cellist friend over the course of three days in early February. It was my first piece of chamber music. I wrote it in the dark contemplation of winter, and I hope it speaks to the ideas that drove its creation: longing, frustration, joy.

*Flower Catalog* is a book of twelve preludes for piano, inspired by Debussy's Preludes in terms of scope and structure. The idea for this project started with a short work, *Lilac*, commissioned by Jenny Lin in 2018. The other eleven preludes have been commissioned by other piano soloists, each about her own favorite flower, and are all between 2.5-5 minutes in length so that the entire collection can live and breath as a full concert set but each prelude can also be utilized as a uniquely personal encore.

*Lily of the Valley* is all about the delicate and tiny cream-colored flowers known as "Lily of the Valley" or "White Choral Bells," and it is also all about Adrienne's grandparents: a husband who planted flowers in the yard nearly at random so that his wife would be surprised every spring as flowers came up out of the ground, all over the place. A constant and reliable springtime visitor, however, was a tuffet of Lily of the Valley flowers that he planted outside her kitchen window...decades after they were planted, they still come up every year. This work is written in honor of Adrienne's grandparents, and speaks to the magic and perfume that these little flowers give off with such abundance, and a long, long romance out of which blossomed flowers and a family. Commissioned for Cincinnati Soundbox's inaugural concert,

*Imogen* for flute and piano weaves together several made-up folk songs to tell the stories of three very different Innogen or Ingen, the Old Irish words for maiden. In this piece I return to my Gaelic heritage to find ways to help the piano and flute evoke the bagpipes, bodhrán, celtic harp, and penny whistle. Two of the melodies used in this piece were developed from fragments I've had kicking around in my brain since I made them up when I was twelve.

## **SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS FROM ADRIENNE PARK**

To the University of Mississippi for the beautiful venue, a place where my mother graced the halls as a University High School student, to the Chair of the Department, Nancy Maria Balach, for her support of this series, to my colleagues Nave Graham and Christine Kralik for sharing the stage with their beautiful artistry, to Stephanie Ann Boyd for creating “Lily of the Valley” and for our inspiring conversations, to Sasha Parfenova for her stunning artwork, to Jessica Lynn Suchon for the creation of her poem, to Adam Solsburg for his photography, and to Amanda Fliflet and Lynn Wilkins for their partnership and creative insight for this project. Thank you!

## **DEDICATION**

The performance of “Lily of the Valley” is dedicated to my steadfast and caring grandfather, Joseph Cerny II, the son of Czechoslovakian immigrants who farmed land in Kansas, a Bronze Star recipient and WW2 veteran better known to locals as “Doc Cerny” or “Papa Joe” and to my beloved and brilliant grandmother, Olaette Gennett Jury, the daughter of a nurse serving during the pandemic over a 100 years ago, an English and Latin teacher who earned a Master’s Degree as a young woman and who inspired countless students throughout her teaching career. I am forever grateful. - AP

## **FROM “LILIES OF THE VALLEY”**

**A POEM WRITTEN BY P. I. TCHAIKOVSKY (1840-1893)**

...your balmy fragrance,  
Like flowing wine, warms and intoxicates me,  
Like music, it takes my breath away,  
And like a flame of love, it suffuses my burning cheeks.  
And I am happy while you bloom, modest lily of the valley...

