The San Francisco Chapter of the National Association of Composers/USA presents a new music recital.

New Music for Wind Trio

Friday, October 23, 2026, 8 p.m.
Community Music Center, San Francisco

PROGRAM

Jubilation Iteration — Monica Chew
Jessie Nucho, flute
Stephen Zielinski, clarinet
Jarratt Rossini, bassoon

Two Sketches — Anthony J. Wardzinski
bassoon

Shades of Green — Carleton Macy
Apple
Chartreuse
Hunter
flute & clarinet

Kingfishers — Vance Maverick
flute, clarinet, bassoon

always quiet… and then, not so much — Douglas Ovens
flute, clarinet, bassoon

Intermission

In the Morning Twilight — Davide Verotta
flute, clarinet, bassoon

Soledad — John G. Bilotta
flute & clarinet

Agitato — Karl Schmidt
flute, clarinet, bassoon

Awards presentation

Nancy Bloomer Deussen Young & Emerging Composers Competition

Dare to Dream — Michael M. Chang
Nancy Bloomer Deussen Competition Winner
flute, clarinet, bassoon

NACUSA is a non-profit organization founded in 1933 by Henry Hadley, originally as the National Association of Composers and Conductors. It is one of the oldest organizations devoted to the promotion and performance of music by Americans. Each NACUSA chapter typically sponsors several concerts each year which feature music by its members. NACUSA has chapters in Cascadia, East Coast, Great Plains, Los Angeles, Mid-Atlantic, Mid-South, San Francisco Bay Area, the Southeast, Southern Oregon, and Texas. Started by Nancy Bloomer Deussen and John Webber more than twenty years ago, the San Francisco Bay Chapter has evolved into an active organization with a peak membership of seventy-five composers. It produces four to six concerts each year in the San Francisco Bay Area. Learn more at http://nacusasf.org

Benefactors

David Ach
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Anne Baldwin
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John Beeman
Brenda L. Bergsrud
John Bilotta
Miriam Blatt
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Joanne Carey
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Mary Fineman
Robert Fleisher
Gary Friedman
Jacob E. Goodman
Susan and Stephen Harrison
Carolyn Hawley
Corliss Kimmel
Carleton Macy
Sheli Nan
Emily Ray
Roberta Robertson
Andrew Robinson
Karl and JoAnn Schmidt
Allen Shearer
Max Simoncic
Kent Smith
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Greg Steinke
Robert Stine
Vanguard Charitable
Davide Verotta

NACUSA is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-exempt, and are gratefully accepted by the San Francisco chapter. Please visit http://nacusasf.org/Donate.html

Scan this code for the full program notes and composer biographies.

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Performers

San Francisco-based flutist **Jessie Nucho** (she/her) is passionate about sharing both traditional and contemporary music as a chamber musician, soloist, and educator. Jessie performs with the new music ensembles After Everything and Ninth Planet, where she also serves as Artistic Director. As a soloist, Jessie has performed at the National Flute Association Convention, SF's Center for New Music, the Berkeley Arts Festival, the Hot Air Music Festival, and the Legion of Honor. Jessie is a member of Stolen Time Ensemble and the band Love Can't Save You, Padmé, and she has also recently performed with the SF Contemporary Music Players, Empyrean Ensemble, Eco Ensemble, Earplay, SF Chamber Orchestra, and Opera Parallèle. Jessie holds an MM from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Tim Day. Previous instructors include Alberto Almarza and Jeanne Baxtresser at Carnegie Mellon University.

Stephen Zielinski is a San Francisco Bay Area-based clarinetist whose work spans orchestral performance, concerto appearances, and recorded collaborations. He is a member of the California Symphony, Santa Rosa Symphony, and North State Symphony.

He joined the California Symphony in 2017 and the North State Symphony and Santa Rosa Symphony in 2025. In addition to his ensemble appointments, he frequently performs with orchestras throughout Northern California, including the Oakland Symphony, Santa Cruz Symphony, Monterey Symphony, and Stockton Symphony.

Mr. Zielinski has appeared as a concerto soloist with the Ukiah Symphony, Diablo Symphony, and Bay Area Rainbow Symphony.

His recording work includes collaborations with the Twentieth Century Classics Ensemble under the direction of Robert Craft, recording chamber works by Anton Webern and Igor Stravinsky for the Naxos label. His performances can also be heard on Albany Records recordings featuring music by Thomas Pasatieri.

Mr. Zielinski studied with Charles Neidich and holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music and a Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School, where he received the Arline J. Smith Scholarship and the Otto G. Storm Scholarship.

Jarratt Rossini was born in Pasadena California. He began studying music at 19 and bassoon at 22. He attended music school for 2 years. He holds no contracts with any orchestras or ensembles.

Nancy Bloomer Deussen
Young & Emerging Composers Competition

The members of the San Francisco Bay Area chapter of the National Association of Composers, USA are excited to present the winning work from our third Young & Emerging Composers Competition, in honor of composer and NACUSAsf founder Nancy Bloomer Deussen.



New and early-career composers in the greater San Francisco Bay Area were invited to enter a work for one or more members of our ensemble. The competition was open to young composers (grades 7–12) and to emerging composers (age 18 and above).

We are pleased to announce the winner of the 2026 competition. The winning work will be performed at tonight's concert.

Dare to Dream Michael M. Chang

Nancy Bloomer Deussen Competition Winner

The Nancy Bloomer Deussen Young & Emerging Composer Competition is funded in part by a generous anonymous donation through the Vanguard Charitable Trust.

Program notes

Dare to Dream — **Michael M. Chang**

Nancy Bloomer Deussen Competition Winner

Routine, everyday tasks often allow my mind to wander in daydreams which seem random, but are driven by memories, feelings, hopes and fears. Once in a while, a daydream sparks an idea and I ask myself "What if?" Will I be bold and turn this dream into reality? Or will fear and uncertainty overcome me, with the dream quickly fading. ***Dare to Dream*** is inspired by a minimalist motif with rhythmic and melodic variations, using a trio of instruments to drive forward this internal dialogue. The piece ends with a sense of uncertainty, inviting the listener to consider bravely the outcome of their own dreams.

Michael Chang is a 17-year-old composer and percussionist from California who started writing music and performing at age 6. He studies composition at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College and composes for many forms of music, including solo instruments, chamber ensembles, concert bands, vocal works, orchestra, and film.

Michael has performed on drums, marimba, and timpani at the local, state and national levels, including notable performances at Carnegie Hall. He has performed with the California All-State Wind Symphony, the California All-State Symphonic Band, the All-Northern California Honor Band, as well as at Disneyland and Stanford University's Jazz Showcase.

Michael's compositions have received recognition from NACUSA, the CMS Young Composers Competition, the National Federation of Music Clubs, the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Awards, the Bay Area Creative Foundation, the Kris Getz Competition, and the Global Genius Music Competition, where he is a three-time "Season Top 1" winner. He was selected for a Victor Salvo Composition Scholarship by the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players and was chosen as Laureate Composer by Sound Espressivo. Michael was recently inducted into the Music Teachers' Association of California's Young Composers' Guild.

Jubilation Iteration — **Monica Chew**

This year I spent a lot of time preparing to record Fred Onovwerosuoke's *Studies inAfrican Rhythms.* As a lifelong pianist exposed to way too much Romantic-era music, it is a breath of fresh air to explore music which treats rhythm as the primary musical consideration as opposed to say, passagework. I hope that some of the joy I felt when studying this music comes through in this octet, which it inspired. This is an arrangement of an octet *Exultation/Jubilation* I wrote for Cortona New Music Sessions, which began life as a sketch for quintet for flute, oboe, violin, viola, and bass in February 2026.

Monica Chew (she/her) is an Oakland composer and pianist who celebrates presenting rarely performed music and new works from around the world. She is the founder of We Track Foibles, LLC, which is devoted to shining a light on abuse and equity issues in classical music. A "gifted player with an affinity for deeply sensitive expression" (Whole Note), she has composed since 2017. Prior to 2015, she worked nearly a decade as a principal software engineer on security and privacy at Mozilla and Google.

Two Sketches — Anthony J. Wardzinski

These two pieces for bassoon were written in the fall of 2023 and inspired by imagined scenes on the beaches of California. The first piece is from the perspective of a seagull resting on the water and drifting slowly farther and farther out from the shore into the Pacific Ocean. The music is ametric and through-composed but can be heard in three large sections. The second piece is more energetic and depicts the adventures of the seagull trying to steal food from sunbathers, wandering around on the sand. It relies on a continuous rhythmic idea in an asymmetrical meter to give a sense of the seagull's tenacity and overall exasperating character, and episodes where beachgoers manage to evade the bird, only to have it return.

A native Californian, **Tony Wardzinski** has composed music for orchestra, wind ensemble, chorus, as well as a wide variety of chamber music. Most recently his works have been performed by the Moorpark Symphony Orchestra, Peace in Concert and TEMPO. He studied composition with Roger Bourland, Paul Chihara, George Heussenstamm, Daniel Kessner, Ian Krause and David Lefkowitz. Dr. Wardzinski received his B.M. degree, cum laude, his M.M. with distinction from California State University, Northridge and a PhD in Music from the University of California, Los Angeles. Wardzinski is also an avid bassoonist, playing in several orchestras and chamber groups in the Los Angeles area. He currently teaches music at Los Angeles Pierce College and Moorpark College in Southern California.

Shades of Green — Carleton Macy

Shades of Green has three movements: Apple, Chartreuse, and Hunter. I hope you find some personal association with the shades.

Carleton Macy's compositions range from vocal and orchestral, to jazz and music for non-western instruments. His compositions have been performed throughout the US, in Europe and Asia, are recorded on Innova, Dapheno, Naxos, and Latvian Radio, and can be found on YouTube and Spotify. Macy is Professor Emeritus of Music at Macalester College where he taught from 1978 to 2014. He presently lives in Pacific Grove, CA, and performs in various local ensembles.

Macy's music can be seen, heard and downloaded at www.carletonmacy.com.

Kingfishers — **Vance Maverick**

Kingfishers is a single movement for wind trio. It's named for the bird, because kingfishers are varied and beautiful, and figure prominently in poetry (notably Hopkins); but it doesn't imitate or represent the bird directly. The instruments begin in unison, with pulsing rhythms, and their gestures expand into arabesques. A middle section is more rhythmically emphatic, and then the ending returns to the unison process again.

Vance Maverick is a composer in the Bay Area. He holds degrees in linguistics and computer science, and has worked as a programmer for many years. About ten years ago, he returned to composition, studying privately and at the San Francisco Community Music Center. His music has been played around the Bay Area and California.

always quiet… and then, not so much — **Douglas Ovens**

I have noticed that, when driving through a tunnel near where I live, other drivers will often start to honk rhythmically in the hopes of encouraging others to respond. I used to play along but have recently stopped. I have decided that the world is noisy enough. I will not add to the noise unless I think my noise might be an interesting alternative to, not silence, but quiet. Hence, this piece. Sometimes quite quiet. Sometimes, not so much.

Douglas Ovens writes music that has been described by the press as "theatrical, haunting, and whimsical." Active as a percussionist, his music is often rooted in the physicality of percussion playing and experimentation with sound. The *New York Times* described his piano piece, *Moving Image,* as "a work of special appeal… that has an almost conversational shape and pacing, and some wonderful textural detail." Recent performances include *Music for Sly* (solo version) NMSU, Las Cruces, NM and *Funk Music* for string quartet, Texas New Music Festival, Mexico City sessions.

Ovens has received commissions from the North/South Chamber Orchestra (NYC), Lehigh Valley Chamber Orchestra, Allentown and Asheville Symphonies. He has composed acoustical and electronic music scores for plays ranging from *The Oresteia* of Aeschylus to Gao Xingjian's *The Other Shore* and Alfred Jarry's *Ubu Roi,* and has been presented in festivals throughout the United States, Europe, Asia and South America. In 2023 he presented his *Why the Beatles Stopped Touring* for laptop at the Academy of Music and Theater in Tallinn, Estonia.

Info at: douglasovenscomposer.com

Soledad — **John G. Bilotta**

"Soledad," the title of this piece, comes from a work by one of Spain's artistic and political exiles: author, poet, and Nobel Laureate Juan Ramón Jiménez who, like many others during the turbulent Twentieth Century, was driven to leave their country.

> *Descubre en mi lo eterno, lo que arde, lo que ama,*
> *...y el viento del olvido se lleve lo doliente.*
>
> Uncover in me what is eternal, what burns, what loves,
> …and let the winds of oblivion bear away all grief.

(from "El viento" in *La Soledad Sonora*)

John G. Bilotta was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, but has spent most of his life in the San Francisco Bay Area where he studied composition with Frederick Saunders. His works have been performed by Rarescale, Earplay, Talea Ensemble, Washington Square Contemporary Music Society, North/South Consonance, Avenue Winds, the Ives Collective, Boston String Quartet, Trio Casals, Belfiato Quintet, the Kiev Philharmonic, San Francisco Cabaret Opera, Bluegrass Opera, Boston Metro Opera, Thompson Street Opera, New Fangled Opera, and Floating Opera. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Society of Composers, Inc., and is currently Treasurer of the San Francisco Chapter of NACUSA.

Agitato — **Karl Schmidt**

When I started to compose ***Agitato*** I was anxious and frustrated over the political and societal chaos around me and my perceived inability to significantly alter it. Musically, these feelings were translated into an energetic conversation between three friends, and as they explored ideas, harmonies and rhythms I found myself being transformed from feeling stuck to being open to the possibilities of the future. Besides which, listening to their conversation was fun.

Karl Schmidt is a musician and self-taught composer living in Palo Alto CA. He plays clarinet and saxophone(s) in local chamber ensembles, orchestras and jazz bands and composes mainly for small chamber groups. A member of NACUSA-San Francisco , Monterey County Composers Forum, and ASCAP, recordings and sheet music of many of his works can be found on his website: www.karlschmidtmusic.com.

In the Morning Twilight **Davide Verotta**

A morning, backpacking in the mountains; and there it was, a small coven of fauns…

Davide Verotta was born in Gallarate, an Italian town close to Milano, and moved to San Francisco as an eager twenty-seven-year-old. He was a professor of biomathematics and statistics at UCSF for thirty years and has been involved in San Francisco's new music scene for more than two decades. He left academia to focus exclusively on composition. He studied piano at the conservatories of Milano and San Francisco; composition at UC Davis and SFSU. Davide teaches piano and composition privately and at the Community Music Center in SF. He serves on the boards of the Friction Quartet, and the San Francisco chapter of the National Association of Composers USA, of which he is currently President. A composer of vocal, chamber, and orchestral works, he has received international competition prizes, and composition grants. His works have been commissioned and performed by distinguished musicians and ensembles, such as the Friction and Circadian string quartets, Haruka Fujii and the Haruka Fujii Trio, Serenade Choir, Ives Collective, pianists Artur Cimirro, Keisuke Nakagoshi, singers Amy Foote, Winnie Nieh, Nikola Printz, Sidney Chen, the Berkeley symphony and local orchestras. Please visit his web site davideverotta.com, and YouTube channel www.youtube.com/@Davideverotta.