



ART  
*of*  
ELAN

COMMUNITY THROUGH MUSIC

# COLLECTIVE IMPACT REPORT 2021-2022



Commission for  
Arts and Culture

THE CONRAD PREBYS  
FOUNDATION



CALIFORNIA  
ARTS COUNCIL  
A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY



Art of Elan at San Diego Museum of Art (SDMA)  
All concert photography by Gary Payne

# DEAR FRIENDS,

That's a wrap! Our 15th Anniversary Season successfully came to a close a few weeks ago with a grand total of 17 performances since last July. We hope you've joined us for some of these "Regeneration" events—it's been quite a ride!

In addition to our art-inspired 3-concert series at The San Diego Museum of Art, Art of Elan was proud to partner with many of our region's finest artists and institutions, including the newly renovated Mingei International Museum, the reimagined Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA), the Front Gallery in San Ysidro and the Carlsbad Music Festival, among others. We were grateful to have brought the superb artistry of violinist Johnny Gandelsman, the Kontras Quartet and the incredibly innovative American Modern Opera Company (AMOC) to our San Diego audiences, as well as present the San Diego debut of multi-instrumentalist and composer Nathalie Joachim.

Our community engagement initiatives expanded greatly to include free daytime concerts around the region, weekly musical workshops at the Preuss School, which serves first-generation college seekers, as well as an apprenticeship component for our Young Artists in Harmony composition program at A Reason To Survive (ARTS).

At Art of Elan, we recognize the power of the arts to be a tool for both healing and liberation and are proud to have committed this 15th season to uplifting and amplifying artists' voices. In the coming weeks we will announce plans for our upcoming season, "Landscapes," which reflects on the ever-shifting nature of the earth and the world around us, while also exploring the cultural landscapes that shape our lives. With a renewed commitment to thoughtful, relevant programming and intentional community relationships, this 16th season reminds us of the power of creative expression to be an agent of change.

We thank you for all that you do to make San Diego a vibrant, cultural destination and we look forward to seeing you for Sweet (Season) 16!

Warmly,



Kate Hatmaker  
Co-founder, Executive Director & Artistic Director





Johnny Gandelsman, violin



## **ABOUT**

Known for its collaborative spirit, Art of Elan has been pioneering unique events and bringing exciting classical music to diverse audiences for over 15 years through innovative partnerships and bi-national initiatives that have cultivated curious audiences on both sides of the border. Its consistent track record of sold-out performances stems from its commitment to commissioning new work, collaborating with world class artists and composers, programming engaging and thought-provoking concerts, and expanding its impact in the region through thoughtful community engagement programs. By drawing inspiration from the word *élan*, which represents vigor, style, and spirit, Art of Elan continues to engage and energize audiences in new ways.

## **MISSION**

The mission of Art of Elan is to build community through music and enrich the cultural life of San Diego by presenting exciting and exceptional chamber music concerts, simultaneously educating and exposing diverse audiences to classical music through innovative programming, the commissioning of new works, unique performance venues and personal connections with concertgoers.

# OUR TEAM



**KATE HATMAKER**  
CO-FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR & ARTISTIC  
DIRECTOR



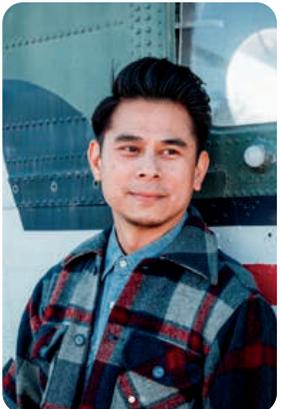
**FIONA DIGNEY**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR &  
ARTISTIC PRODUCER



**EMILY PERSINKO**  
PERSONNEL MANAGER &  
MARKETING ASSOCIATE



**ELIZABETH BROWN**  
ACCOUNTING &  
DONOR RELATIONS  
COORDINATOR



**VINCE MARTINEZ**  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
CONSULTANT



**TONI ROBIN**  
TR|PR  
PUBLIC RELATIONS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Claude Benchimol, James Chute,  
Kate Hatmaker, Barbara Katz,  
Jennifer Luce, Greg Markow,  
Cynthia Obadia, Peter Otto,  
Diego Rodriguez

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Kathleen Charla, Donna Conaty,  
James Dawe, Colleen Finnegan,  
Harold Fuson, Pam Fuson,  
Jory Herman, Demarre McGill,  
Deborah Pate, Tommy Phillips,  
James Robbins, Thomas Schumacher,  
Jeanette Stevens, Debra Thomas,  
Alan Ziter

RENEW  
REBIRTH  
REVITALIZE  
REENERGEIZE  
**REGENERATION**

2021-2022 SEASON

Art of Elan's 2021-22 season was dedicated to the revitalization of San Diego's creative community and the artists and cultural institutions it encompasses. Entitled Regeneration, the organization known for its collaborative spirit and for introducing audiences to the "edges" of classical music celebrated its 15th season with a renewed commitment to thoughtful programming and intentional community relationships.

According to co-founder and Artistic Director, Kate Hatmaker, "This special 15th season reminds us of the restorative and unifying power of the arts. It's an opportunity to re-energize our souls, revitalize our neighborhoods, and renew our commitment to lifting people up through music."

"This past Season marked the 15th Anniversary of our amazing organization, which has become a landmark in the San Diego performing arts landscape. After a two-year forced pause due to the pandemic, music lovers and concertgoers were hungry for live performances. Thanks to the talent and unbounded energy of Kate and her team, we delivered 17 unique performances in one season, most of them sold out! We enjoyed music at its best – and were proud to make our 'return' as an innovative partner to so many of the region's artists and cultural institutions."

—Claude Benchimol, 2021-2022 Board Chair

# BY THE NUMBERS

**7** year collaboration with  
A Reason to Survive (ARTS)

**26** world premieres of commissioned works

**105** unique, cross-disciplinary, and collaborative productions

**80** Young Artists in Harmony student compositions

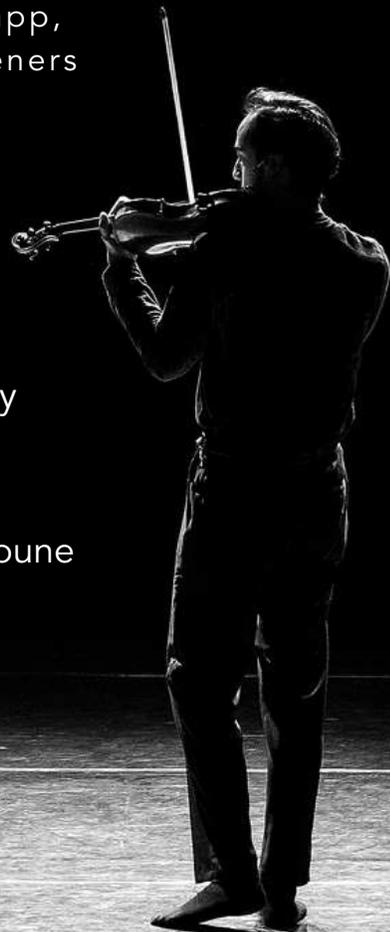
**122** public concerts

**365** musicians showcased

**62K** streams on Art of Elan's free music app,  
Instant Encore, thanks to online listeners  
in 28 countries

"'With Care' is one of the most exciting contemporary  
dance concerts presented on a San Diego stage."

—Marcia Luttrell, San Diego Union-Tribune





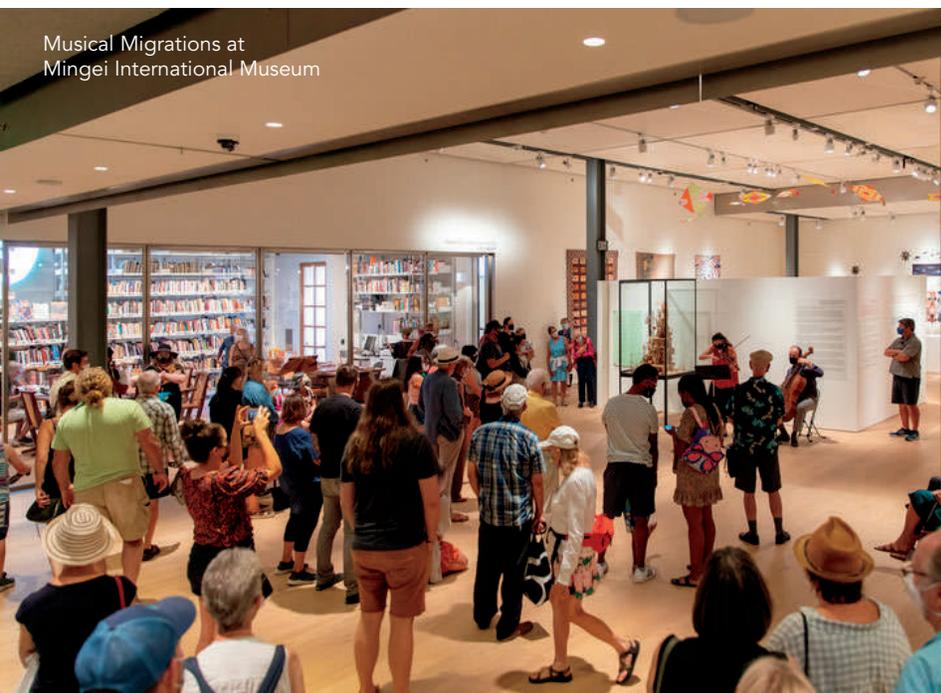
Kontras Quartet at ICA North



Myriad Trio at Mingei International Museum

## SEASON 15 HIGHLIGHTS

- Carlsbad Music Festival
- Musical Migrations at Mingei International Museum
- Young Artists in Harmony Spotlight Concert: Jacob Hererra and Fernanda Baltodano
- Guillermo Galindo Exhibit Activation at Lux Art Institute
- CROSSFIRE featuring Nathalie Joachim
- Art of Elan at SDMA "Evolution"
- Myriad Trio @ Mingei International Museum
- "This is America" with Johnny Gandelsman
- BaCH @ The JAI
- Art of Elan @ SDMA "Evolution"
- AMOC "With Care"
- Kontras Quartet & Friends @ ICA North
- Art of Elan @ SDMA "For the Earth"
- Two Young Artists in Harmony culminating concerts



Musical Migrations at  
Mingei International Museum

This Season:

**2,000+**  
PLUS LISTENERS

**67**  
PIECES OF MUSIC  
PERFORMED

**46**  
FEATURED ARTISTS  
including professional musicians and dancers



## ART OF ELAN @ SDMA

### **"NOSTALGIA" ON NOVEMBER 9, 2021**

In response to the "Paintings of Confinement" exhibit by San Diego-based artist Marianela de la Hoz, this concert used "nostalgia" as a lens through which to explore the musical art of modern-day composers Nico Muhly and Kaija Saariaho alongside that of war-torn Europe from the 1940s (with works by Grazyna Bacewicz and Viktor Ullmann). This program also featured the world premiere of a new work written by Art of Elan's former Director of Community Engagement Jory Herman.

### **"EVOLUTION" ON MARCH 10, 2022**

Inspired by an exhibit by Chinese photographer Wang Qingsong, this special musical program included folk music from around the world, taking listeners on a kaleidoscopic journey through time and space with music by American composer Lou Harrison, Turkish composer Erberk Eryilmaz, and Iranian composer Aftab Darvishi, among others.

### **"FOR THE EARTH" ON MAY 17, 2022**

As a complement to the immersive exhibit by Fernando Casasempere which pays homage to the earth and the many shifts it continues to undergo, this unique musical program brought awareness to that which is all around us, featuring the environmentally-minded music of John Luther Adams alongside more culturally focused music by Angelica Negron and Paul Wiancko. Caroline Shaw's "Plan and Elevation" closes the concert and features the ever-dynamic Hausmann Quartet.



## IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Generously Underwritten by:

Elaine Baldwin, Christine Baltuth, Gordon Brodfuehrer, C. Peter and Maureen Brown, Kathee Christensen\*, Mary and James\* Dawe, Harold and Pam Fuson, Barbara Katz, Webster Burke (Buzz) and Helen Kinnaird, Carol Lazier, Julianne and Greg Markow, Sarah B. Marsh-Rebelo and John Rebelo, Pamela McCormick, Rena Minisi, Jeanette Stevens, and Jack Thomas\*

\*in memoriam

Contributions to this partnership in any amount are appreciated.  
Support Art of Elan concerts at the Museum with a donation to:

The San Diego Museum of Art,  
Attn. Art of Elan concert series  
PO Box 122107, San Diego, CA 92112-2107

1450 El Prado, Balboa Park  
[www.sdmart.org](http://www.sdmart.org)



CROSSFIRE: Featuring composer, flutist, and vocalist, Nathalie Joachim



# CROSSFIRE WITH NATHALIE JOACHIM

Art of Elan launched this downtown series in 2011 as a "crossfire" of musical and creative ideas. On October 13, 2021, Grammy-nominated flutist, composer, and vocalist Nathalie Joachim presented the live West Coast premiere of her evening-length work for voice, flute, string quartet and electronics, titled "Fanm d'Ayiti" (Women of Haiti). The program is a celebration of some of Haiti's most iconic yet under-recognized female artists, as well as an exploration of Joachim's Haitian heritage, featuring original songs that incorporate recorded voices and recorded interviews with some of the greatest known female voices in Haitian history. This was a rare opportunity to see this rising star perform her Grammy-nominated program in collaboration with Art of Elan musicians in the stunning new Little Italy venue, Luce on Kettner.



Johnny Gandelsman at ICA Central

# "THIS IS AMERICA" WITH JOHNNY GANDELSMAN

In response to the pandemic and societal turbulence of the last two years, Grammy Award-winning violinist and producer Johnny Gandelsman created "This Is America," a new commissioning and recording project featuring over twenty new works for solo violin, written by American and U.S.-based artists. Commissioned by twenty different arts organizations spread throughout the U.S., including Art of Elan, "This is America" celebrates America's rich cultural tapestry and its myriad perspectives, thoughts and ideas, offering a vivid counterpoint to the idea that this land can be understood through a singular, dominant point of view. In partnership with the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music, Art of Elan is delighted to have commissioned Adele Faizullina to compose a new piece for the project. Each composition in the anthology reflects on the current state of American society in a personal and intimate way, looking through an unflinching lens at universal topics like separation, loneliness, hope and love.



Johnny Gandelsman performs BaCH @ The JAI

## BaCH @ THE JAI

Art of Elan returned to the JAI cabaret space at The Conrad Prebys Performing Arts Center in La Jolla on February 14, 2022 to present Johnny Gandelsman in an epic 2-hour performance of the complete cello suites by J. S. Bach, remarkably performed on violin. This opportunity to “fall in love with Bach,” rescheduled twice due to Covid, was part of Art of Elan’s BaCH (Beyond a Concert Hall) Initiative and included a pre-concert talk given by cellist and Baroque specialist Alex Greenbaum in the Wu Tsai Courtyard.

“To write clinically of Gandelsman’s phraseology, his cadenza-like approach to tempos, or even to mention that he played the Sixth Suite, remarkably, on a five-string violin, would not relay the spell this performance cast. Weight turned into weightlessness. The music re-discovered its own origins in dance. And it seemed to speak with the naturalness of a folk song. This was an exquisitely personal vision of Bach, all radical sincerity and glinting light. The audience sat rapt for nearly two hours, until it rose as one.”

—Boston Globe

# AMOC "WITH CARE"

On April 13, 2022, Art of Elan presented the American Modern Opera Company (AMOC) production "With Care," a visceral, moving work for two dancers (Bobbi Jene Smith and Or Schraiber, both former stars of the Batsheva Dance Company) and two violinists (Keir GoGwilt and Miranda Cuckson). The hour-long work investigates the dynamics of caregiving, carelessness, and loss through a theatrical fusion of dance and music. "With Care" builds on Smith's previous collaboration with GoGwilt, "A Study on Effort," the duet version of which was premiered at the Luminato Festival in 2016. The production additionally includes original music by composer and 2018 MacArthur Fellow Matthew Aucoin, a fast rising star in the music world with strong ties to San Diego. He collaborated with the San Diego Symphony and Art of Elan in January 2019 as part of their "Hearing the Future" festival and worked with Art of Elan's Young Artists in Harmony students on their musical compositions to present a multi-disciplinary performance of all new music.

Founded by Artistic Directors Zack Winokur and Matthew Aucoin, American Modern Opera Company is a multidisciplinary collective of some of the most adventurous singers, dancers, and instrumentalists at work today in the fields of contemporary and classical music and dance. "With Care" was partially funded by the City of San Diego through Horton Plaza Theatres Foundation, with additional underwriting from Gordon Brodfuehrer.



Bobbi Jean Smith (dance), Or Schraiber (dancer), Keir GoGwilt (violin), and Miranda Cuckson (violin) perform "With Care" at Lyceum Theatre

# KONTRAS QUARTET & FRIENDS

On April 21, 2022 Art of Elan's former ensemble-in-residence, the Chicago-based Kontras Quartet, returned to San Diego for an evening of dynamic music-making and multimedia collaboration at ICA North. The program featured colorful music by some of today's most innovative composers, including Caroline Shaw, Jessie Montgomery, Javier Alvarez and Nathalie Joachim, as well as the world premiere of the string quartet "Hidden Mothers." Written by Boston-based composer Steven Snowden and commissioned by Art of Elan in 2019, this powerful piece reflects on the invisible sacrifices that mothers make on a regular basis. It was initially inspired by the Hidden Mother Photography trends of the 19th Century, where mothers were frequently disguised as furniture or other items in portraits in order to keep young children calm during the long exposure time. The evening also included the unveiling of a new "Sounds & Swells" project (a gorgeous pairing of classical music with high-quality surfing films) which featured the music of Felix Mendelssohn and local footage from McCracken Films and Joey Taylor Photography, dramatically captured during the bioluminescence phenomenon of March 2020. Concertgoers additionally experienced the powerful exhibit by Greg Ito: All You Can Carry.



The Kontras Quartet performing at ICA North

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## FREE DAYTIME CONCERTS

This past season, Art of Elan led a series of free daytime concerts at Mingei International Museum, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego State University and the Preuss School. The performances featured affiliated artists and community engagement partners, such as the Kontras Quartet and Hausmann Quartet, as well as a special pop-up performance of students from the SDSU School of Music & Dance Tuba Ensemble.

## 2021-2022 SEASON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM SUPPORTERS:

**THE SCHOENITH  
FOUNDATION**



CLARE ROSE  
FOUNDATION



THE CONRAD PREBYS  
FOUNDATION



YAH Spring 2022 Concert featuring students and Art of Elan affiliated musicians



For the past seven years, Art of Elan has offered its Young Artists in Harmony program in partnership with the nationally recognized A Reason To Survive (ARTS), an organization that believes in the power of the arts and creativity to literally transform lives – especially those of kids facing adversity. Consisting of weekly workshops where students have the opportunity to be mentored by Art of Elan musicians through unique apprenticeships, the residency culminates with a collaborative concert that showcases original compositions the students create over the 10-week residency, performed by Art of Elan musicians. Each concert is professionally recorded and is available for free streaming and download on Instant Encore. This past season saw an expansion of this empowerment program to include advanced music students from The Preuss School, which serves first-generation college seekers.

## SINCE 2014:

84

### ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS

have been created by  
Young Artists in Harmony participants

31

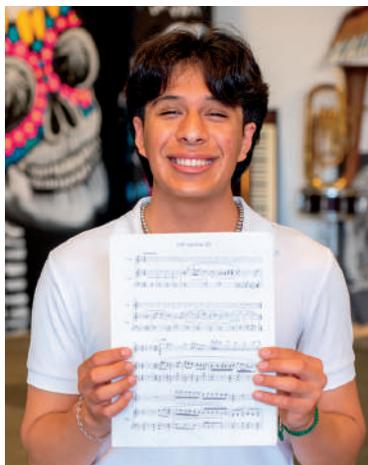
### PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS

have participated as mentors and performed  
works for YAH

15

### SHOWCASE PERFORMANCES

served over 3,000 listeners



YAH Spring 2022 Participants (left to right): Gillian Celis, Hernán Martínez Osnaya, Liam Rodríguez, Cristian Contreas

# COMMISSIONS: LUMINARY CIRCLE

As part of its mission to keep classical music exciting and relevant, Art of Elan has made a commitment since inception to commission at least one new work a year. As a result, numerous relationships have developed with both emerging and established composers, including David Bruce, Shih-Hui Chen, Lei Liang, Geoffrey Keezer, Jonathan Holland, Joseph Hallman, Kurt Stallmann, Lev “Ljova” Zhurbin, and Chris Brubeck among others. The Luminaria Circle supports these commissioning projects with membership at \$1000 that goes directly towards the creation of new works. As a Luminary, members receive unique behind-the-scenes access to rehearsals of commissioned works, as well as private events with the composer, Artistic Director and performing musicians.

## **Four new Art of Elan commissioned works performed during the 2021-22 season**

*Hidden Mothers* by Steven Snowden (2020)

Commissioned by Art of Elan for the Kontras Quartet

*Dew, Time, Linger* by Adele Faizullina (2020)

Commissioned by Art of Elan and the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music for Johnny Gandelsmann's *This Is America* project

*Precise Sentiments* by Timo Andres (2020)

Commissioned by Art of Elan for the Myriad Trio

*Wistfully Yours* by Jory Herman (2021)

Commissioned by Art of Elan

## **OTHER RECENT ART OF ELAN COMMISSIONED WORKS**

*Two Roads* by LJOVA, commissioned in 2021

*Jabberwocky* by Andrea González, commissioned in 2021

*Starlighter* by Colin Jacobsen, commissioned in 2019

*Beg, Borrow, or Steal* by Dan Visconti, commissioned in 2018

*Bruja* by Andrés Martín, commissioned in 2018

*Tree Suite* by Hannah Lash, commissioned in 2017

*First Light* by Joel P. West, commissioned in 2017

*Variations on a Simple Theme* by Avner Dorman, commissioned in 2017

*Petal by Petal, Leaf by Leaf* by Lei Liang, commissioned in 2017

*Beat Suite #2* by AJ Nilles, commissioned in 2017

CLARICE ASSAD · KINAN AZMEH · LAYALE CHAKER · CHRISTINA COURTIN  
OLIVIA DAVIS · NICK DUNSTON · ADELIJA FAIZULLINA · RHEA FOWLER & MIKAELA TOBIN  
RHIANNON GIDDENS · MARIKA HUCHES · MAYA MIRO JOHNSON · BOJAN LOUIS  
DANA LYN · ANGÉLICA NECRÓN · EBUN OGUNTOLA · TOMEKA REID  
TERRY RILEY · MATANA ROBERTS · AERYN SANTILLAN · TYSHAWN SOBRY  
ANJNA SWAMINATHAN · CONRAD TAO · AKSHAYA TUCKER · KOJIRO UMEZAKI

THIS IS AMERICA  
AN ANTHOLOGY  
2020-2021

COMMISSIONED AND  
PERFORMED BY  
JOHNNY GANDELSMAN

25

ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS

commissioned by Art of Elan  
between 2009 and 2022

LUMINARIA CIRCLE  
2021-2022 MEMBERS

Claude Benchimol,  
Gordon Bodfuehrer,  
James Chute,  
Deborah Pate and John Forrest,  
Hal and Pam Fuson,  
Barbara Katz, Jennifer Luce  
Greg Markow, Cynthia Obadia  
Peter Otto,  
James Robbins and Jill Esterbrooks,  
Jeanette Stevens

Dew, Time, Linger by Adele Faizullina  
was co-commissioned by Art of Elan



Timo Andres works with the Myriad Trio  
during rehearsal for the San Diego premiere  
of "Precise Sentiments"



Steven Snowden talks about his new work  
"Hidden Mothers" at ICA North



Jory Herman, bassist and composer

# HELP US BROADEN OUR IMPACT

Even a small donation will help Art of Elan fulfill its mission of building community through music.

Art of Elan is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and, as such, all contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Tax ID: 20-8136710

Donations can be made online at [www.artofelan.org](http://www.artofelan.org), and are also gratefully accepted at:

Art of Elan  
6165 Radcliffe Dr  
San Diego, CA 92122

Scan the QR Code to  
make a Donation Today



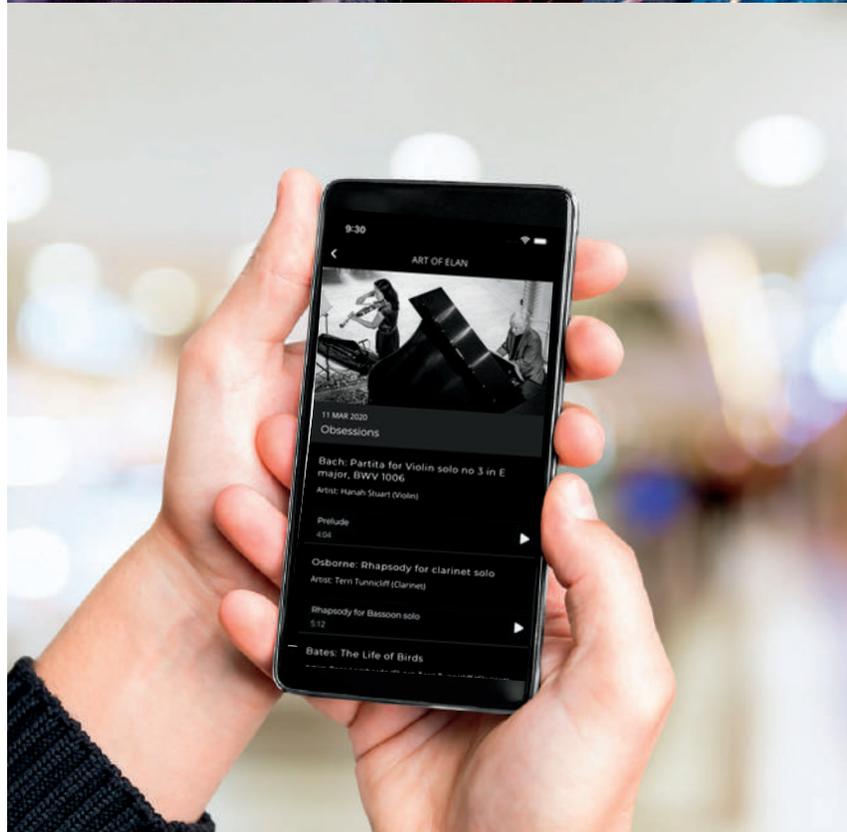
## INSTANTENCORE

Art of Elan records and shares audio from concerts for FREE on InstantEncore so you never have to miss the music. Download our free Art of Elan app to listen the fast, easy way.

Find the music at:  
[www.instantencore.com/artofelan](http://www.instantencore.com/artofelan)

All recordings by  
Rumley Music and Audio Production

Scan the QR Code to  
start listening



# ART OF ELAN AFFILIATED ARTISTS

## 2021-2022 SEASON

Abraham Martin, viola  
Alex Greenbaum, cello  
Andrew Hayhurst, cello  
Andrew Watkins, percussion  
Angela Choong, viola  
Baty MacAdam-Somer, violin  
Ben Weber, viola  
Bobbi Jean Smith, dance  
Che-Yen Chen, viola  
Chia-Ling Chien, cello  
David Rich, teaching artist  
Demarre McGill, flute  
Diego Rodriguez, teaching artist  
Eleanor Bartsch, violin  
Erin Douglas Dowrey, percussion  
Ethan Pernela, viola  
Fiona Digney, percussion  
Francois Henkins, violin  
Frank Renk, clarinet  
Hanah Stuart, viola  
Isaac Allen, violin  
Jason Karlyn, viola  
Jean Hatmaker, cello  
Jeremy Kurtz-Harris, double bass

Jing Yan Bowcott, violin  
Joanna Morrison, cello  
Johnny Gandelsman, violin  
Joshua Rubin, clarinet  
Julia Pautz, violin  
Julie Smith Phililps, harp  
Kate Hatmaker, violin  
Keir GoGwilt, violin  
Kenneth Liao, violin  
Kyle Adam Blair, piano  
Michael Jones, percussion  
Miranda Cuckson, violin  
Nathalie Joachim, flute/vocals/electronics  
Nathan Walhout, cello  
Or Schraiber, dance  
Pei-Chun Tsai, violin  
P.J. Cinque, double bass  
Rose Lombardo, flute  
Stephanie Richards, trumpet  
Terri Tunnicliff, clarinet  
Tina Chong, piano  
Travis Maril, viola  
Wesley Precourt, violin  
Yumi Cho, violin



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