



Concert & Conversation

.....
WOMEN IN THE ARTS
.....

Friday, November 16



ROCO presents an evening of music and thoughtful dialogue about the role women play and the importance of diverse female voices in the arts and cultural industry. The evening will consist of selections from ROCO's *In Concert* program titled *Queen of Hearts*, featuring works all composed by women, including part of the world premiere of a commission from **Heather Schmidt**, and will be led by conductor **Mei-Ann Chen**. There will also be a panel discussion about the current state and future of the representation of women in the arts.

Concert & Conversation: Women in the Arts is made possible in part through the City of Houston.



This program is part of the *Tales of Houston Women* programming series

Tales of Houston Women

Underwritten in part by a gift from

Marj Helmer



The full *Queen of Hearts* concert will be performed on
Saturday, November 17 at 5pm
at **St. John the Divine**.



Concert & Conversation
WOMEN IN THE ARTS

Fridgy, November 16 • 8:00pm

MATCH – Midtown Arts and Theatre Center Houston

Pia Agrawal

Curator of Performing Arts, The Momentary at Crystal Bridges

Lauren Anderson

Program Manager Education & Community Engagement, Houston Ballet

Mei-Ann Chen

Conductor

Fleurette Fernando

Director, MA in Arts Leadership Program, University of Houston

Heather Schmidt

Composer

Christine West

Cultural Programs Manager, Houston First Corporation

Louise Farrenc (Fah-RENCK)

Symphony No. 3 in G minor, op. 36

IV. Finale. Allegro

---12 minutes---

Heather Schmidt

Solitaire for violin solo

ROCO WORLD PREMIERE COMMISSION

---15 minutes---

Special thanks to Main St. Theater for generously sharing equipment for this program.

roco.org



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WOMEN IN THE ARTS

Guest Panelists

Pia Agrawal

**Curator of Performing Arts,
The Momentary at Crystal Bridges**

Pia Agrawal joined the University of Houston Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts as Program Director in August 2014 where she produced the Center's public programming including the Mitchell Artist Lecture, the annual CounterCurrent festival, and activities relating to the Mitchell Center Artists-in-Residence program. Prior to her work at the Mitchell Center, she served as the Managing Director of the Rude Mechs (Austin, TX) and as Programming Director of FringeArts (Philadelphia, PA). Beginning in December 2018, Pia will relocate to Bentonville, AR, to serve as the Curator of Performing Arts for The Momentary, a new site opening in 2020 dedicated to contemporary art and performance, as part of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.



Fleurette Fernando

**Director, MA in Arts Leadership Program,
University of Houston**

Fleurette is the founding Director of the MA Program in Arts Leadership at University of Houston. She is a graduate of Claude Watson School for the Arts, the National Theatre School of Canada's Directing Program and holds an MFA degree in Directing from York University. Fleurette has worked as a director, choreographer, educator and arts administrator in arts organizations across Canada and the

US including San Francisco's Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, Richmond's East Bay Center for the Performing Arts and Brooklyn Academy of Music. She is a former Executive Director of Katy Visual and Performing Arts Center where she also served as Performing Arts Director and Development Director. She also served as the Artistic Director of Montreal's Black Theatre Workshop, and was the recipient of the Canada Council for the Arts' first John Hirsch Prize for Young Directors as well as a Fellowship of the Americas from the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts in Washington, DC. Most recently, she served as the Director of Grants for Houston Arts Alliance and as an Adjunct Professor of Theatre Studies at University of Houston, Downtown. Fleurette was the recipient of a UH Teaching Excellence Award in 2018 for her work in community engagement.



Lauren Anderson

**Program Manager Education &
Community Engagement, Houston Ballet**

Native Houstonian Lauren Anderson danced with Houston Ballet from 1983 to 2006, performing leading roles in all the great classical ballets, appearing around the world to critical acclaim, and in the process, becoming one of Houston Ballet's most beloved stars.

She trained exclusively at Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy from the age of seven. She joined Houston Ballet in 1983 as a Corps de Ballet, 1987 was promoted to Soloist and in 1990 became the first African-American to be promoted to principal dancer at Houston Ballet – and one of the few African-American ballerinas at the head of a major ballet company anywhere in the world.

Ms. Anderson danced leading roles in all the classics. She has performed across the globe as a guest artist. She created the title role in Ben Stevenson's Cleopatra, and her performance as Cleopatra received accolades from international critics. Anna Kisselgoff, dance critic for The New York Times compared her to the great Italian actress Eleanora Duse, and Christine Temin of The Boston Globe pronounced her "a powerhouse in interpreting the role that Stevenson created on her."

She has been honored by numerous organizations including the Texas Legislature.

In January 2007, Ms. Anderson assumed her new role in Houston Ballet's education department where she conducts master classes at area schools, and lectures to students on dance and her historic career as one of America's most distinguished African-American ballerinas. She also teaches Master classes across the globe! Her pointe shoes are on display in the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Her greatest production to date is her son Lawrence Turner, who is not a dancer but a musician!

Christine West

**Cultural Programs Manager,
Houston First Corporation**

Christine Jelson West joined Houston First Corporation as their first Cultural Programs Manager in 2015. There she the curator and manager of the permanent and temporary public art programs in all HFC assets. She also programs free public events for Avenida Houston District.

She previously served as the Executive Director of Lawndale Art Center where she began a successful artist residency and established the annual rotating mural program. She was the Executive Director of the Galveston Arts Center from 2004 to 2007, securing a National Treasures grant for the restoration of their historic building. A native Houstonian, West has over 18 years' experience in non-profit and public arts administration having also worked for the Orange Show Center for Visionary Art, Fresh Arts Coalition and *Glasstire, Texas Visual Art Online*. She is active in the Texas art community and has served on several boards including the Houston Museum District Association and Glasstire and is currently the Vice President for Special Programs for the Texas Association of Museums. She has curated and juried numerous regional art exhibitions, has participated in grant review panels for local, state and national granting organizations and currently serves on the Grants Committee for the Houston Arts Alliance.





Mei-Ann Chen

Conductor

Innovation, imagination, passion and dynamism are the hallmarks of Taiwanese-American conductor Mei-Ann Chen. Music Director of the MacArthur Award-winning Chicago Sinfonietta since 2011, and Artistic Director & Conductor for the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra Summer Festival since 2016, Ms. Chen is acclaimed for infusing orchestras with energy, enthusiasm, high-level music-making, and galvanizing audiences and communities alike. A sought-after guest conductor, Ms. Chen's reputation as a compelling communicator has resulted in growing popularity with orchestras globally.

North American guesting credits include appearances with the Symphony Orchestras of Atlanta, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Chicago, Detroit, Fort Worth, Houston, Indianapolis, Oregon, River Oaks Chamber, San Diego, San Francisco,

Seattle, Toronto, and Vancouver. Overseas engagements include the symphonies of BBC Scottish, Denmark's National, Aalborg, Aarhus, and Odense, Sweden's Gävle, Gothenburg, Helsingborg, Malmö, and Norrköping, Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra at the Concertgebouw, Norwegian Radio and Trondheim, Finland's Tampere Philharmonic, Austria's Grosses Orchester Graz, Germany's Badische Staatskapelle Karlsruhe, Brazil's São Paulo (OSESP), and National Taiwan.

Summer 2018 highlights included Switzerland's Sinfonieorchester Basel, Vienna's Tonkünstler-Orchester at Grafenegg Festival, and National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra's debut US Tour, including its debut as the first Taiwanese orchestra at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. 2018-19 season engagements include debuts and return engagements with Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (Gala program with Lang Lang), San Francisco Symphony, multiple programs with Austria's Recreation Grosses Orchester Graz and Sweden's Malmö Symphony Orchestra, Denmark's Copenhagen Philharmonic 7-city tour, Norway's Oslo Philharmonic, Turkey's Bilkent Senfoni Orkestrasi, Canada's Symphony Nova Scotia & Orchestre Symphonique de Québec, River Oaks Chamber, Asheville and Knoxville symphonies.

Honors and awards include being named one of Musical America's 2015 Top 30 Influencers, 2012 Helen M. Thompson Award from the League of American Orchestras, and First Prize Winner of Copenhagen's 2005 Malko Competition. Ms. Chen also holds the title of Conductor Laureate of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra.



Heather Schmidt

Pianist and Composer

Composer and pianist Heather Schmidt has inspired audiences around the world with performances, broadcasts and premieres in numerous countries, including Canada, the USA, Russia, France, Germany, Switzerland, Poland, the Czech Republic, England, Finland, Iceland, Cyprus, Mexico, Brazil, and the British West Indies.

Heather began piano studies at the age of four and started composing at age 5. She gave her first public performance at age 6, performed on TV at age 8 and had her first published composition at age 9. After private studies in Calgary, she went on to study both composition and piano performance at Juilliard in New York City, and at Indiana University, where at 21 she became the youngest student to ever receive a Doctor of Music degree.

Her numerous awards include two Juno nominations for "Best Classical Composition", two SOCAN awards, three consecutive BMI Awards, the Juilliard Composers Competition, the Robert Fleming Prize from Canada Council and many others.

Alongside her classical career, Heather has become increasingly active as a composer for film and television. Her most recent film scores include: Lifetime TV movie *Break-Up Nightmare*, AXS TV movie *Elvis Lives*, the Netflix family film *Jurassic School*, SyFy movie *Empire of the Sharks* and the independent comedy feature film *How to Get Rid of A Body and Still Stay Friends*.

Born and raised in Calgary, Alberta, Heather currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband Corey Field. She's a devoted animal lover and has four dogs, three cats, two pigeons and a horse. She recently founded a non-profit dog rescue called *Hollywood Huskies* that in its first two years saved and rehomed over 150 dogs.

For more information on Heather's career, please visit her website

www.heatherschmidt.com

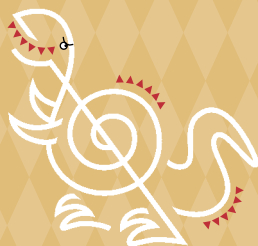


GAMES People 2018-2019 Play

- ♥ **In Concert** Full 40-piece chamber orchestra
- ♠ **Unchambered** Intimate chamber ensemble series featuring individual ROCO musicians at The MATCH
- ♣ **Connections** Unique collaborations with dynamic partners throughout the community

Calendar

- ♥ **Queen of Hearts**
Saturday, November 17 • 5:00pm*
St. John the Divine • 2450 River Oaks Blvd
- ♣ **Vintage Game Night**
Thursday, November 29 • Game 5:30pm • Concert 7:00pm
Rienzi House Museum • 1406 Kirby Dr
- ♠ **Force of Nature**
Saturday, December 8 • 5:00pm • MATCH • 3400 Main St
- ♣ **Beer & Brass**
Thursday, January 10 • 6:00pm
St. Arnold's Brewery • 2000 Lyons Ave
- ♣ **Peter and the Bear**
Sunday, January 27 • 2:00, 3:00, 4:00pm
Houston Zoo • 6200 Herman Park Dr
- ♠ **Terzetto**
Saturday, February 9 • 5:00pm • MATCH • 3400 Main St
- ♥ **Ticket to Ride**
Saturday, February 23 • 5:00pm*
St. John the Divine • 2450 River Oaks Blvd
- ♣ **Musical Chairs**
Thursday, March 7 • 5:30pm Reception
6:00pm Concert • The Heritage Society • 1100 Bagby St
- ♠ **Chase Sequence**
Saturday, April 6 • 5:00pm • MATCH • 3400 Main St
Tuesday, April 9 • 3:00pm • Cypress Creek FACE
5830 Bermuda Dunes Dr
- ♥ **The Wrestler**
Saturday, May 4 • 5:00pm*
St. John the Divine • 2450 River Oaks Blvd



rocorooters

* **ROCORooters** = *Date Night!*

Music Education & Childcare Program available during and after the performance

The program operates from **4:30pm – 10:30pm** for our **In Concert** performances on **Saturdays at St. John the Divine**

For more details visit roco.org/rocorooters