

This piece was invented over the last few months through the collaborative efforts of all of these people whose love and passion can be heard oozing through it all. They came together this week to explore their artistry, each other, and their creative potential as a determined group. As with each N.E.O. team before them, they have opened windows into consciousness for us all, and uplifted our humanity through the energy of their songs.

If you are someone who would like to spend a week deepening into what your voice can do and ways that you can communicate to people through compositional approaches to the voice, consider joining us next year in a warm, welcoming, curiosity-first environment dedicated to voice exploration and performance. Thank you for being a part of the 2022 N.E.O. Voice Festival!

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### About The Resonance Collective

**The Resonance Collective** exists to inspire and nurture the collective spirit of Los Angeles and beyond by expanding our understanding of the arts as a sacred and mystical experience, through the creation and performance of innovative and adventurous music. We further this mission through three methods: creation, curation, and education.

**We create** interdisciplinary, theatrical narratives based on spiritual transformation as part of our Original Works program.

**We curate** exceptional music from traditions around the world through the Golden Thread Concert Series. Each event extends on the ritual of the traditional concert experience and offers a different perspective on the possibilities of sacred music.

**We educate** creative musicians during the annual N.E.O. Voice Festival, a week long celebration of the human voice with a focus on redefining the oratorio as a modern sacred storytelling form, holistic contemporary vocal performance, and compositional techniques.



#### Staff

Fahad Siadat, Artistic Director, Resonance Collective  
 Laurel Irene, Voice Director, N.E.O. Voice Festival  
 David Harris, Ensemble Director, N.E.O. Voice Festival  
 Abraham Ross, Organ Specialist  
 André Megerdichian, Director, Original Works  
 Kirk Averitt, Managing Director  
 TJ Scalfani, Public Relations Consultant

#### Board

Lisa Niedermeyer, Board Chair  
 Alexandra Grabarchuk, Treasurer  
 Michael Lehman, Secretary  
 Azeem Khan, Board Member  
 Marc Lowenstein, Board Member



N.E.O. Voice Festival Presents  
**The 2022 Exploratorio "The Signified"**  
 Saturday, July 2, 2022 @ 7 PM  
 First Congregational Church of Los Angeles

Fahad Siadat, Laurel Irene, David Harris  
 and Abraham Ross, Directors

### Program

#### Part 1: Rainbows

E Kuini E Kapi'olani	Thomas Goedecke
In the Beginning <i>Abigail Whitman, soloist</i>	Michael Conley
Many Ways	Max Eidinoff
Pink/Blue <i>Lydia Jane Pugh, soloist</i>	Socks Whitmore

#### Part 2: Containers

Seeing That <i>Mira Fu-En Huang, Lydia Jane Pugh and Joslyn Sarshad, soloists</i>	O-Lan Jones
The thing with feathers <i>Mira Fu-En Huang, soloist</i> <i>Travis Reynolds, piano</i>	Travis Reynolds
No Document <i>Oliver John Cameron, soloist</i>	Oliver John Cameron

#### Part 3: numbers:srebmun

the glory is fallen out of <i>Joslyn Sarshad and Kirk Averitt, soloists</i>	Ruth Hertzman-Miller
Gold and Blue .....	Lydia Jane Pugh
25-V -780 #194 .....	Haeyun Kim
Mira Fu-En Huang, soloist	

*continued*

June (On procrastination)

Joslyn Sarshad, *soloist*

Vera Lugo

### Part 4: Love

I love

Poetry translation by Mary Ann Caws

Joslyn Sarshad and Abigail Whitman, *soloists*

Skyelar Ginsberg

Lasting Sounds of Love

Poetry by William Wallis

Abigail Whitman and Kirk Averitt, *soloists*

David V. Montoya

And Still, The Birds Sing

Lydia Jane Pugh and Joslyn Sarshad, *soloists*

Judy A. Rose, *Native American flute*

Judy A. Rose

Purity

Poetry by Tiziana DellaRovere

Mira Fu-En Huang, *soloist*

Ethan Gans-Morse

*Scan the QR code for program notes and texts*



### 2022 N.E.O. Festival Chorus

Miriam Adhanom  
Kirk Averitt  
Elisha Blackburn  
Oliver Cameron  
Max Eidinoff  
Ethan Gans-Morse  
Skyelar Ginsberg  
Thomas Goedecke  
Julie Grives  
Ruth Hertzman-Miller

Mira Fu-En Huang  
O-Lan Jones  
Cathleen Josaitis  
Haeyun Kim  
Steven Lepe  
Vera Lugo  
Lachlan Miller  
David V. Montoya  
Lydia Jane Pugh

Travis Reynolds  
Jake Roman  
Luke Rosa  
Judy A. Rose  
Joslyn Sarshad  
Rachel Steinke  
Abigail Whitman  
Socks Whitmore  
Katie Wilkes  
Mary Yaeger

## N.E.O. Voice Festival

The **N.E.O. Voice Festival** is an annual new music festival that attracts an international, vibrant and diverse community of artists for a week of creativity, performance, and exploration. The eight day festival includes three public performances: our opening night Out of the (Voice) Box concert, a special collaboration between HEX and theatre dybbuk, and The Signified, N.E.O.'s latest Exploratorio. By attending one of our performances, you witness the future of choral and vocal music: composers, performers, and conductors codifying and putting into practice the cutting edge of vocal performance and composition. We hope to see you at one of our three main concerts at the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles this summer!

Join us at the **2023 N.E.O. Voice Festival June 24 - July 2, 2023** information at [www.neovoicefestival.com](http://www.neovoicefestival.com)

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### Director's Note

The concept of "The Signified" comes from the study of language and meaning known as semiotics. In one iteration, semiotics includes three categories, the sign (symbols like words and icons that hold place for things and experiences), the signifier (the meaning we give to something), and the signified (the thing itself). I still remember the first time I read about these distinctions in Marshall McLuhan's *The Medium Is The Message*. The clarity and order I found once I thought to look for the existence of the thing itself as separate from the meaning I gave to it and the symbols I used to hold place for it opened my understanding of the world. The N.E.O. composer's prompt was to explore what these distinctions might mean to them artistically, and it became the core of the festival week. In the hands of the N.E.O. composers, we have been graced with a great many creative explorations of the concept. Each piece pours water into different containers including: Thomas' choice to celebrate the meaning-making process of a Hawaiian naming ceremony; Michael's spiritual reference to the source; Max's insistence that self deception is multi-pathed; Socks' questioning of symbols and associations; O-Lan's exploration of growth as a source phenomenon, Travis' depiction of hope as complication; Oliver's investigation of separateness as a core reality; Ruth's reflections on mortality and graceful separation; Lydia's unearthing of cultural relationships through the crisis in Ukraine; Haeyun's insistence that the signified as music can maintain its essentially meaningless form and Vera's twisting of meaning through the process of writing words and music backward; Skyelar's portrayal of the strain of allowing meaning to inhabit experience; David's embracing of experience as meaning itself; Judy's reminder that we can find meaning in life regardless of hardship; and Ethan's willful determination to define love as essential human meaning. Though they wrote separately, together, miraculously, they have become a new oratorio premiere. I highly encourage you to read the composer's notes found on the N.E.O. website to hear about their new creations in their own words. *(continued)*