



MEDIA ADVISORY

The Palladium Theater Announces Twelve Tampa Bay Artists Receiving 2022-23 Creative Class Grants

December 13, 2022 (St. Petersburg, FL) - The Palladium Theater announces twelve Tampa Bay artists receiving the theater's 2022-23 Creative Class grants. The Palladium Creative Class supports and fosters artistically and culturally diverse performing artists provides them with a full-service theater to perform their work and showcases the range of talent that lives and works in Tampa Bay. To learn more about the Creative Class and all of The Palladium Theater's shows and events visit palladium.org.

All of the Creative Class recipients live and work in Tampa Bay. In addition to financial support of up to \$2,500 to create a new project in collaboration with The Palladium, those selected to the 2022-23 Creative Class will be offered a date during The Palladium's 22-23 season to present their work. **The 2022-23 Creative Class grant recipients are:**

- **Contemporary Art Music Project (CAMP)** - Founded in 2021 by pianist Eunmi Ko and composers Benjamin D. Whiting and Alex Shanafelt, the Contemporary Art Music Project (CAMP) is an emerging organization that aims to promote innovative art music through collaboration with living composers and performing artists from around the world. CAMP presents an expansive range of programs, including commissioning projects, educational institutes, podcasts, concerts, and CAMPGround, CAMP's annual international festival of new music and flagship event. In 2023, CAMP will partner with Palladium Theatre, Tempus Projects, and Tampa City Ballet for CAMPGround23, presenting two world premieres of work by Sangbin Rhie and Niloufar Shiri, installation music, solo and ensemble works, and electroacoustic works with videos.
- **Jeremy Carter** - Jeremy Carter (saxophonist) is a true study of Jazz music, Nebraska native, and understudy of the Southeast's best professors and musicians. Jazzy funk riffs, screaming over the sounds of the BSP is truly a spectacle, for the ears and the eyes. If you find yourself stop dancing in a dropped draw fashion, it is probably because of Carter's riffs, his soul pouring over the speakers like sand. Carter has recorded with numerous national acts and has performed, recorded and produced solo albums and cameo appearances too many too list. Carter has been with the Bird Street Players for 6 years, joining just months after Green and Curtis started the group.

- **Synia Carroll** - Empowering. Entertaining. Effervescent.... These words only begin to describe the breath of fresh air Synia Carroll brings to the music scene. A jazz vocalist with smooth and soulful vocals, Synia is a storyteller that captivates audiences with every inspiring performance. Her listeners are taken on a journey spiced with nuances of Nina Simone, Natalie Cole, Sara Vaughan, Dee Dee Bridgewater, and Diane Reeves, all blending beautifully into a unique and refreshing style. Synia was recently invited to perform at the 2023 JEN (Jazz Education Network) conference, where she will present excerpts from her show, *Nina On My Mind And I'm Feeling Good*. She is currently working on her next recording project, which will feature original and reimagined compositions in collaboration with some of the finest musicians on the Suncoast and beyond.
- **Helen Hansen French** - Helen Hansen French received her BFA from The Juilliard School and her MFA from Hollins University. In 2001 she was invited to join Buglisi Dance Theatre (NYC) where she rose to principal dancer and served as rehearsal director. Tobi Tobias of the NYC Village Voice hailed her as “altogether luminous,” and Nancy Wozny of ArtsHouston says her, “generous and radiant performance stands out.” She has toured nationally and internationally and has been instrumental in staging BDT’s works at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Pieve International School in Italy, North Carolina Dance Theater, and numerous colleges and universities throughout the United States. In 2021 Helen was selected to be the Artist Laureate for Creative Pinellas. Her highly collaborative work has been shown in theaters, museums, and galleries as well as non-traditional performance spaces. Helen is an artist in residence at the Palladium Theater where she co-produces *Beacon: a performance series for St. Pete*, and was a member of the 2021 Palladium Creative Class. In her work as an educator and arts advocate, she has served on numerous dance faculties, including George Mason University and The Juilliard School. Helen is currently on faculty at the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School. She is a founding member of the St. Petersburg Dance Alliance and serves in the board of the St. Petersburg Arts Alliance.
- **Ona Kirei** - Vocalist, composer, and multi-instrumentalist Ona Kirei has an exceptional ability to move the listener's soul with her expressiveness and virtuosity. Her music pushes stylistic boundaries that showcase remarkable compositional and arranging skills while displaying a profound emotional connection that makes it readily accessible to any audience. Her life experience, diverse cultural influences, as well as her determined and deep personality are reflected in her unique voice. She has performed to critical acclaim in venues and festivals across Europe and the United States, winning several national and international awards along the way. She performs regularly with La Lucha, with Alejandro Arenas (Orilla), among



others, and has collaborated with many outstanding international and local artists and groups like the Venice Orchestra, with whom she not only sang but also composed music for a series of concerts last year.

- **Mackie Shaw Duo** - The Mackle Shaw Duo is comprised of harpist Anna Kate Mackle and percussionist John Shaw. Principal players and soloists with The Florida Orchestra for over two decades, Mackle and Shaw founded the Mackle Shaw Duo in order to pursue their passion for commissioning and performing chamber music for harp and percussion. Since 2018 they have commissioned and premiered four new works: Labyrinth of Light for harp and marimba by Nathan Daughtrey, Virgo Waves for toy piano and electronics by The Honourable Elizabeth A. Baker, Humoresque Hurricane - Concerto for Harp and Percussion by Daniel Black, and Wand'ring Fire for percussion and harp by Tampa Bay native Michael Ippolito. In addition to performing with The Florida Orchestra, Mackle and Shaw also teach at St. Petersburg College and are principal players and faculty members at Eastern Music Festival, a national summer music festival for high school and college students in Greensboro, North Carolina.
- **Mark Moultrup** - Keyboardist, composer, arranger, vocalist, and educator, Mark Moultrup is a Detroit native now residing in St Petersburg, FL. He has performed throughout the United States and abroad and has appeared at the Detroit International Jazz Festival 11 times. He has performed extensively throughout Florida at venues like the Sarasota Jazz Club, Sarasota Jazz Fest, The Palladium, the Mahaffey, the Sunday Jazz Project at the Independent, and more. Mark has shared the stage and/or recorded with a diverse array of internationally known artists from jazz, pop, funk, and musical theater genres. Mark has produced and released six albums with extensive airplay on NPR and was reviewed by Jazz Times, All About Jazz, Chicago Jazz Magazine, and many others.
- **Nate Najar & Daniela Soledade** - Daniela Soledade is a rising star among legends in the Brazilian music scene. An heir to the throne of bossa nova, Soledade is highly acclaimed for her poignantly expressive vocal style and hyper-intimate aesthetic. Drawing from an amalgamation of authentic bossa nova, samba, MPB, and American Popular Song, Soledade is the new sound of Bossa Nova. An accomplished guitarist-composer and Charlie Byrd devotee, nylon string fingerstyle player Nate Najar has distinguished himself as a talent worthy of recognition with his impressive output over the past ten years.

- LaRue Nickelson** - LaRue Nickelson is a jazz guitarist and composer from the Tampa Bay area. He has had a varied and diverse music career with many different groups. LaRue has played in New York, Italy, South Africa, New Orleans, Indianapolis, Russia, Montreux, and California and has been very busy doing festivals and clubs in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Orlando, and Sarasota, Florida areas. LaRue has performed with Rich Perry, Peter Erskine, Jeff Berlin, Ira Sullivan, Ingrid Jensen, Don Braden, Rufus Reid, Sheila Jordan, Hank Marr, David Leibman, Chuck Owen, and the Jazz Surge, Chick Corea, Conrad Herwig, Robbie Ameen, Giovanni Hidalgo, Gary Versace, Walt Weiskopf, Frank Foster, Mike Mainieri, Adam Nussbaum, Steve Davis, Marcos Cavalcante, Bobby Floyd, Paquito D'rivera and Tony Monaco. He has also recorded with Chuck Owen and the Jazz Surge, The Michael Ross Quartet, and Cory Christiansen. As well as recording and performing, LaRue is a composer with more than 100 compositions to his credit. He has released three solo projects, titled Dark Water, Labyrinthitis, and Down...and Out. Recently, he has completed recording projects with Tom Brantley, Chuck Owen's tribute to Michael Brecker, and 2 duo albums with Jeremy Powell. He also has written two Mel Bay anthologies. He is the jazz guitar instructor at the University of South Florida. Currently, he resides in Tampa, FL, with his beautiful wife, Joy, and his slightly less attractive cats, Kilgore Trout and Hodor.
- John O'Leary** - With a rich and complex cultural background, John C. O'Leary III—the son of an American father and a Mexican mother—writes music that harbors an idiosyncratic and poetic dichotomy. John was born in the Yucatan peninsula and raised in Cholula and Merida where he started piano lessons at age three. He left everything behind to come to America at twelve years old, where he's built an impressive resume, including a PhD in Neuroscience from the University of South Florida College of Medicine. John's latest solo album and debut for Arbors Records, *The Sundering*, opens listeners up to all that makes humans vulnerable. *The Sundering* features stellar collaborations with pianist Shaun Martin, of Snarky Puppy, and jazz legend Dick Hyman on four of the tracks, which celebrate friendship and human connection. The choice of piano duets is fresh and pays homage to the early years of John's life in America when he listened to Marian McPartland's famous radio program Piano Jazz falling in love with the sound of improvisation. John is a Yamaha Artist and plays Yamaha pianos exclusively.
- James Suggs** - Originally from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, James Suggs began playing the trumpet at nine years of age. At fifteen, he started playing professionally with jazz groups in the Northeast Ohio area. After graduating high school, James

attended Youngstown State University in Ohio with a scholarship, receiving a Bachelor's Degree in music performance with a jazz emphasis. James formed a Miles Davis tribute band in 2012 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Now, after returning to the U.S., he continues to perform with an American version of this quintet. Another project that he has created is a homage to the vast and captivating music of New Orleans, in which he pays his creative respects to musical greats ranging from Louis Armstrong to Wynton Marsalis. This sextet maintains the original format of those great bands, utilizing both a clarinet and a tuba. He has played to various sold-out audiences at the Palladium Theater's Side Door, in St. Petersburg, FL. There with his group, he covered the music of such artists as Lee Morgan, Chet Baker, Dizzy Gillespie, Louis Armstrong, and Miles Davis. In 2015 he was awarded the Best of the Bay's "Best Jazz Transplant." In May 2018, James received a Master's Degree in music- jazz performance from the University of South Florida. There, he studied trumpet with Dr. Jay Coble and jazz improvisation with Jack Wilkins and performed in the top big band and jazz combo.

- St. Pete Baroque** - St Pete Baroque is dedicated to giving new life to old masterpieces, giving a voice to recently discovered works, and bringing audiences the eccentric and improvisatory nature of baroque music. The ensemble was founded in 2020 with this vision by artistic director Dan Urbanowicz. St Pete Baroque performs on historical instruments of the baroque period or on historical recreations. Since its inception, concerts have been offered for free to the community. Currently in its second season, St Pete Baroque has enjoyed a lively reception from local audiences and critics alike. Nationally acclaimed music critic Betsy Schwarm remarked: "[Of St Pete Baroque's debut performance] The requisite Italian Baroque characteristics were there: sunniness, serenity, and effusion in turn. Gallo's work demands close interaction and response between players, and the ensemble – Yuan Yuan Wang, violin; Scott Kluksdahl, cello; and Urbanowicz, not on standard viola, but on the more richly voiced viola d'amore – offered a seamless performance." Audiences have enjoyed wildly varied programming from J.S. Bach to Dietrich Buxtehude, Italian nuns Isabella Leonarda and Lucretia Vizzana, and finally Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, composer and harpsichord prodigy in the court of King Louis XIV. Additionally, director Urbanowicz has offered his own arrangements of La Folia, Diego Ortiz's Recercada Segunda, and Ancor Che Co'l Partire by Cipriano de Rore/Rogniono. St Pete Baroque's members include local and nationally acclaimed musicians: Sarah Shellman, violin; Dan Urbanowicz, viola d'amore/violin; Scott Kluksdahl, cello; Brent Douglas, harpsichord/organ.
- Sarah Walston** - Sarah Walston is a professional dancer and choreographer currently based out of Tampa, FL. Sarah is the Artistic Director and Founder of



ATLAS Modern Ballet, a new professional performance company serving the Tampa community. She also performs and creates works in the Tampa Bay area as a freelance artist. Sarah graduated with a BFA in Dance Performance from the University of South Florida in 2015. At the University of South Florida, she had the privilege of working with and performing works by choreographers such as Alonzo King, Maurice Causey, Robert Moses, and Jennifer Archibald among many other guests and faculty members. After graduating from USF, she spent five seasons as a company member at Florida Dance Theatre where she performed and created new repertory presented by the company in Lakeland and on tour. Over the past few years, her choreography has been presented in multiple festivals and showcases both across the United States and internationally. She has choreographed for Florida Southern College's Dance Department, where she is Adjunct Ballet and Modern Faculty. Sarah graduated Summa Cum Laude this past Spring from Jacksonville University with her MFA in Choreography.

The Palladium aims to support performers in our community as they create new works, advance existing works, implement new media, and/or develop new ideas. Through the Creative Class grants, the theater aims to spark creativity in Tampa Bay artists to create new works of jazz, blues, dance, opera, and classical/chamber music.

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[The Palladium](#) is proud to operate as a department of St. Petersburg College. With its two venues, the 815-seat main concert hall Hough Hall, as well as its intimate award-winning 175-seat candlelit listening room The Side Door, and now event streaming, [The Palladium](#) fosters artistically and culturally diverse performing arts, educational and film programs that bring artists and audiences together in a first-class professional, affordable setting.