

UC **SANTA BARBARA**
Department of Music

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UC SANTA BARBARA DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC PRESENTS FIFTH ANNUAL UCSB SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

Student-run festival to feature performances by HOCKET, Miguelito León, Marc Evanstein, Nesta Steel Drum Band, University Carillonist Wesley Arai, Gamelan Sinar Surya, and Matthew Owensby

Santa Barbara, CA (July 24, 2020)—The UC Santa Barbara Department of Music will present the fifth annual UCSB Summer Music Festival on Saturday, August 22 and Sunday, August 23, 2020 as a virtual event. Sponsored by the UC Santa Barbara Office of Summer Sessions, the virtual festival will feature performances by the Los Angeles-based new music piano duo HOCKET, multi-percussionist and vocalist Miguelito León, UC Santa Barbara Composition alumnus and pianist Marc Evanstein, the Nesta Steel Drum Band, University Carillonist Wesley Arai, and Gamelan Sinar Surya, under the direction of UC Santa Barbara faculty member Richard North. The festival will also feature a children's concert led by Miguelito León and a demonstration of a variety of Medieval and Renaissance instruments by UC Santa Barbara graduate Composition student Matthew Owensby. All events will be presented virtually and free of charge via the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music's YouTube channel.

Founded in 2016 by UC Santa Barbara Composition alumnus Federico Llach '17, the UCSB Summer Music Festival continues to thrive as a student-curated and managed event. This year's event has been coordinated by UC Santa Barbara graduate composition student Raphael Radna, who is serving as Artistic Director. "I am consistently impressed by the variety and quality of music at UCSB and in the Santa Barbara region," said Radna. "Throughout its short history, the UCSB Summer Music Festival has been foremost a celebration of local artists, and an opportunity for our community to come together to appreciate live music in many forms. Online for the first time, this year's program is as eclectic as ever, representing styles spanning several musical traditions and centuries of development. It has been an undeniably difficult year for the world and for music, but it is my hope that the 2020 UCSB Summer Music Festival will bring some light to the height of a summer when so much feels uncertain."

As with previous years' programs, the 2020 UCSB Summer Music Festival boasts a diverse collection of artists from Santa Barbara and Los Angeles, offering audience members the opportunity to experience music of various genres, cultures, and time periods in one weekend.

Saturday's lineup will open with multi-percussionist and vocalist Miguel "Miguelito" León, who is also known for his work as a producer and educator, including his role as Director of Cuba cultural exchange CALI2CUBA. Born and raised in Santa Barbara, CA, León grew up playing a diverse range of world music such as Latin, Afro-Cuban, West-African, Brazilian "MPB," Balkan, Flamenco, and Jazz. León has performed and recorded with world-renowned artists such as Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Band, Michael McDonald, Ozomatli, and Los Hermanos Herrera, and has also recorded for FOX Network's *Glee*. León's Summer Music Festival program will feature a special live-looping solo performance, and he will also host a Children's Concert on Sunday morning, with performances alongside an introduction to the instruments and rhythms he uses in his music.

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Composer and pianist Marc Evanstein will present a program of original compositions for solo piano and electronics, titled “The Computer as Wild Collaborator.” Evanstein, who graduated from UC Santa Barbara in 2019 with a PhD in Composition, will perform a range of compositions featuring the computer as a creative partner. From acoustic music composed with the aid of custom computer programs, to interactive piano pieces in which the computer responds live to the actions of the performer, Evanstein’s program will feature a variety of pieces in which the computer, and computer programming, play a central role in the compositional process. Evanstein will also offer a brief introduction to his new Python-based computer-assisted composition framework, *SCAMP*, and some of the exciting new music that has been composed using it.

Composition graduate student composer and violinist Matthew Owensby will present a program titled “Rediscovering Medieval/Renaissance Instruments,” during which he will give an introductory sample from a variety of medieval and renaissance instruments with a brief description and performance of each. After discovering the instruments in UC Santa Barbara’s collection in the fall of 2019, Owensby was inspired to spend eight months of self-instruction on these and other instruments and historical repertoire in an effort to revive community interest in this unique set of instruments. Owensby’s UCSB Summer Music Festival demonstration will include recorders, viols, crumhorns, cornetti, cornamuse, kortholt, dulcian, rebec, harp, and hurdy-gurdy.

Saturday’s program will close with a performance by Los Angeles-based new music piano duo HOCKET, featuring UC Santa Barbara faculty member Dr. Sarah Gibson and fellow composer/pianist Thomas Kotcheff. “HOCKET is thrilled to be a part of this festival and to share our new project, #What2020SoundsLike,” said Gibson. “We look forward to performing 50+ composers’ varying and moving musical responses to the year 2020.” Noted as “brilliant” by Mark Swed in the *Los Angeles Times* and as an “adventurous young ensemble” by *The New Yorker*, HOCKET has performed at some of the most exciting festivals across the country including The Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival and the L.A. Philharmonic’s “Noon to Midnight.” The duo’s UCSB Summer Music Festival program will feature performances of works written by Vicki Ray, Veronika Krausas, Ted Moore, Ian Dicke, Linda Dallimore, Derek Tywoniuk, Richard An, Noah Meites, and UC Santa Barbara Composition alumnus Nick Norton, among others.

Following Miguelito León’s Children’s Concert on Sunday morning, University Carillonneur Wesley Arai will perform arrangements of well-known classical music by Johann Sebastian Bach and Dmitri Shostakovich, as well as arrangements of popular songs from *Beauty and the Beast* and Scott Joplin’s famous *Sunflower Slow Drag*. The program will also include works composed specifically for the carillon by 18th-Century composer Matthias van den Gheyn and contemporary composer Roy Hamlin Johnson. Arai’s program will feature two pieces by Aaron David Miller and UC Santa Barbara Professor Emeritus Emma Lou Diemer, both written in celebration of the Storke Tower carillon’s 50th anniversary, which was observed in 2019.

The Los Angeles-based Nesta Steel Drum Band, made up of husband and wife team Abby and Dan Savell, will present a concert featuring the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago, steelpan (or steel drums, as they are known in the U.S.). In their performance demonstration, the Savells will explore the history and cultural significance of this family of instruments, as well as various Caribbean music styles, improvisation, and the basic principles and nuances of playing the instruments.

The fifth annual UCSB Summer Music Festival will close with a performance of traditional Indonesian music and dance by Santa Barbara-based Gamelan Sinar Surya, led by UC Santa Barbara faculty member Richard North, who has also directed the UC Santa Barbara Gamelan Ensemble since 2015. Founded in 2002, Gamelan Sinar Surya is dedicated to the preservation, teaching, and performance of traditional Indonesian music and dance, specializing in rare music from the ancient kingdom of Cirebon,

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West Java. The members typically perform in a traditional gamelan orchestra setup, which includes gongs, xylophones, drums, and bamboo flutes from Indonesia.

SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 22, 2020

1:15 pm | Miguelito León

2:30 pm | Marc Evanstein

3:45 pm | Matthew Owensby

5:00 pm | HOCKET

Sunday, August 23, 2020

10:45 am | Children's Concert featuring Miguelito León

12:00 pm | Wesley Arai

1:15 pm | Nesta Steel Drum Band

2:30 pm | Gamelan Sinar Surya

Links to watch each performance will be available the week of the UCSB Summer Music Festival at music.ucsb.edu/summerfestival.

All events can also be viewed on the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music's YouTube Channel at youtube.com/channel/UC81mtdcwD9GkXUzEUfX6rxA.

Admission to all events is free.

ABOUT THE UC SANTA BARBARA DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

From an institution that began life dedicated to training the next generation of music educators, to what is now a multi-faceted department with a fully established research and professional graduate program with degrees in composition, ethnomusicology, musicology, music theory, and performance, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music has produced many hundreds of graduates who have distinguished themselves both nationally and internationally. Alumni have gone on to teach on faculties of major colleges and universities in the United States and abroad, or in outstanding secondary school positions. Many graduates of the program have published extensively and become widely renowned, prize-winning scholars, while others are award-winning and frequently performed composers writing for television and film. Alumni are also establishing fine reputations as conductors of orchestras, opera, and choruses. Graduates of the instrumental programs have gone on to solo and orchestral careers with leading orchestras, and graduates of the voice program can be heard in opera companies around the world.

With over 150 events presented annually, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music offers something for every music lover. The department boasts 26 unique performing ensembles, many with a quarterly concert calendar. Chamber music, large ensembles, opera, contemporary groups, world music, and jazz

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ensembles make up the department’s rich performance calendar, along with lectures, master classes, and presentations from the ethnomusicology, musicology, theory, and composition programs. For a complete listing of performances and lectures for the quarter, please visit the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music website at music.ucsb.edu.

For additional information, photos, or to request an interview with an artist, please contact Adriane Hill at adrianehill@ucsb.edu or by phone (*please email to request remote work number*). To sign up for the Department of Music’s newsletter, please visit eepurl.com/dcrvRr. Follow the Department of Music on Facebook ([@UCSBDepartmentofMusic](https://www.facebook.com/UCSBDepartmentofMusic)), Twitter ([@UCSBMusicDept](https://twitter.com/UCSBMusicDept)), and Instagram ([@ucsbmusicdept](https://www.instagram.com/ucsbmusicdept)).

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