

**PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY
MUSIC DEPARTMENT**



**MELISSA
MIELENS**

**WITH
MOLLY PETRIK,
PIANO**

**“Women of
Now”**

*a celebration
repertoire by
women composers*

FACULTY RECITAL

MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2023

7:00 PM “the BOWLD”

Program

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| Feathers and Wax for flute and piano | Amanda Harberg
(b. 1973) |
| Homeland for solo flute | Allison Loggins-Hull
(b. 1982) |
| I Will Not Be Sad In This World
<i>For flute and pre-recorded voice</i> | Eve Beglarian
(b. 1958) |
| Tilt for <i>glissando</i> flute | Melissa Keeling
(b. 1977) |
| <i>Sonate</i> for flute and piano | Yuko Uebayashi
(b. 1958) |
| <i>I. Lento-Allegro-Tranquillo</i> | |
| <i>II. Presto</i> | |
| <i>III. Calmato</i> | |
| <i>IV. Allegro</i> | |

*A special thanks to Dr. Eric Schultz for his assistance with
technology expertise and support.*

Program Notes

Feathers and Wax

Feathers and Wax is a soaring and playful showpiece for flute and piano that was inspired by the Greek myth of Icarus. Through virtuosic and jazz-influenced writing, the piece depicts the brash, young Icarus reveling in the thrill of flight, before he meets with his tragic demise. Feathers and Wax was commissioned by flutist Julietta Curenton in 2013, and was premiered at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in 2014.

Homeland

Homeland (2018) was written shortly after Hurricane Maria stormed through Puerto Rico in 2017. Maria represented the increasing strength of natural disasters and the intense, sometimes deadly, repercussions of climate change. While this was going on, there was also a rise of political and social turmoil in the United States, and global unrest throughout the world, including the Civil War crisis in Syria. For weeks, the news was flooded with these stories. With so many people throughout the world dealing with tragic domestic issues, I began to think about the meaning of home during a crisis. What does home mean when the land has been destroyed? What does it mean when there's been a political disaster, or a human disaster? How does a person feel patriotic when they feel unwelcomed at the same time? *Homeland* is a musical interpretation and exploration of those questions. The flute opens with timbral trills representing troubled waters, then transitions into passages that are anxious and distorted. There is a moment of hope and optimism, a remembrance of past struggles that have been overcome, followed by an off-putting play on the Star Spangled Banner, representing an unraveling of patriotism. In the end we come full circle, still with unanswered and unresolved questions.

I will not be sad in this world

Originally written for alto (or bass) flute, I will not be sad in this world is based on the Armenian troubadour Sayat Nova's song Ashkharnumes Akh Chim Kashil.

Tilt

The Glissando Headjoint is a sliding, telescoping tube that extends the overall length of the flute to create a glissando to and from every note. The headjoint offers access to an entirely new sonic vocabulary of glissandi, bends, multiphonics, timbres, microtones, and scales which dramatically increases the expressive potential available to flutists and composers.

Sonate for flute and piano

Uebayashi has a distinct compositional style that combines two unexpected styles: French impressionist music and Japanese film music. In particular, Uebayashi is inspired by landscapes, light and paintings.

The Sonate consists of four movements: starting with a tender and sentimental slow introduction, the first movement, Allegro Moderato, alternates between two themes; the

Presto, second movement, is reminiscent of a scherzo, featuring the contrast of playful staccato and virtuosic legato: the third movement, which evokes the feelings of a song, is graceful and calm; and the vibrant fourth movements is an energetic rondo.

About the Artist



Melissa Mielens, hailed in reviews for her “eloquence” and “ethereal flute lines,” is the principal flutist for the Vermont Symphony and Vista Philharmonic. She has additionally played principal flute with many regional orchestras, including the Rhode Island Philharmonic, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, Portland Symphony, and Springfield Symphony. She has toured abroad with

various orchestras, including Japan with the Pacific Music Festival Orchestra, the United Kingdom with the New World Symphony, and Europe and South America with the Jeunesses Musicales World Orchestra. Ms. Mielens has been a prizewinner in several national and regional competitions, including the National Flute Association Young Artist Competition and the Pappoutsakis Flute Competition. Her playing has been featured on numerous radio stations, with live performances on WGBH and WVPR.

As one of the youngest recipients of a Fulbright Grant, Ms. Mielens studied in Paris with Alain Marion. She received her B.M. and M.M. both with distinction in performance from New England Conservatory. She is dedicated to music education and in addition to teaching at Phillips Exeter Academy, she has a thriving flute studio at University of New Hampshire.

Private Lesson Concert Attendance

Students who need to complete the attendance requirement for MUS*010, please sign below and have your program stamped at the conclusion of the concert.

Bring your stamped program to your lesson teacher.

Student Name (please print) _____