Composed for saxophone quartet and foot bells, Weaving Waves immerses the listener in an organic soundscape rooted in the aesthetics of deep listening. Punctuated by the mechanical, ritualistic chiming of the bells, the four saxophones create hypnotic, undulating patterns that slowly transform the performance space.

Inspired by the stark, trance-like repetition of ancient Finnish rune-singing, the work is born from a personal compositional challenge: to discover how little material is required to construct a complete sonic universe. In turn, it challenges the musicians to fully surrender themselves to a micro-world consisting of just a few notes.

The formal architecture driving this atmosphere is governed by the Fibonacci sequence (1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13) etc . Relying on a radical economy of material, each performer is provided with only two bars of written music, a visual dynamic guide, and a precise sequence of numbers to count. This mathematical progression dictates the exact duration and evolution of the sonic material, allowing the four independent trajectories to overlap and weave together in real time.

– Kalle Vainio

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EXPLORATIONS VOL. 9: W[E]AVE

JONATHAN HULTING-COHEN, SOPRANO, ALTO AND TENOR SAXOPHONES
NOA EVEN, ALTO AND TENOR SAXOPHONES
ERIN ROGERS, ALTO AND TENOR SAXOPHONE
ZACH HERCHEN, ALTO, TENOR AND BARITONE SAXOPHONES

SATURDAY, OCT 3, 2026

UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

PROGRAM

Sam Alvarez (b. 2001): *a kind of forgetting* (2024)

LJ White (b. 1984): *Fire and Air* (2026)**#

Dror Binder (b. 1993): *Und meine begeisterten Augen Weiten sich wieder und blinken und brennen sich wund* (2026)*

~ Intermission ~

Elsie Bae Han (b. 1998): *even after all this time... I still don't know* (2022)

Eduardo Caballero (b. 1976): *Puls[o] [e]...espectral teatro de reflejos* (2023)

Kalle Vainio (b.1986): *Weaving Waves* (2026)**

*North American Premiere
**World Premiere
#composed for New Thread Quartet

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

"a kind of forgetting" is music about erosion.
I've always been someone who clings to things—memories, feelings, relationships, experiences, whatever else–I've just never been able to let go easily. I think I harbor a fear of things crumbling, of time and its erosion ruining whatever seems good. There's a thought though, an uninsightful idea I sometimes try to convince myself of, that erosion forms as much as it tears down, that things fall together as easily as they fall apart.

"a kind of forgetting" is a sort of wish, a hope for remembering that erosion builds too. The music spills from one five note gesture and is built around twelve consonant multiphonics, and the harmony that layering them can produce. The piece started with the first two lines of a poem I've never been able to finish, and was commissioned by (and is dedicated to) my favorite people: Ila Gupta, Isaac Boone, and Kurt Cox (Masso Quartet).

"The logs are a kind of forgetting,
the wood grain and their erosion..."
– Sam Alvarez

Fire and Air is a timbral meditation informed by two natural, meditative states: the appearance of a controlled fire as it flickers and dances in place, and the behavior of slow, relaxed breath as it enters and leaves our bodies.
– LJ White

Und meine begeisterten Augen Weiten sich wieder und blinken und brennen sich wund
"Every party has someone who keeps it going. Oh no, it's me again."
– Dror Binder

even after all this time, I still don't know was composed following the COVID-19 pandemic. This period in my life was marked by personal reflection, loss, grief, and mourning.

This piece is dedicated to anyone who has not been able to "let go."
– Elsie Bae Han

Puls[o][e]... espectral teatro de reflejos | ... spectral theater of reflections
For saxophone quartet

We woke up three times in a dream
Dreamer who dreams, we are one in it,
within the dream, and then we live in it;
But who is the dreamer? But...
* * *
Pulses, pulses of almost nothing, pulses of something,
pulses of something almost, almost imperceptible pulse;
Pulse polyphony, pulse homophony,
pulses, too many pulses,
strong pulses, soft pulses, shrill pulses,
pulses, too many pulses,
Endless Pulse:
pulse without exhalation, pulse without drop.
* * *
Work dedicated to the winter snow of Quebec and its dialectic...
– Eduardo Caballero