BOWERBIRD

Bowerbird is a Philadelphia based non-profit organization that shares music, dance, film, and related art forms with audiences at locations across the region. We love presenting interesting, beautiful, and unconventional music in beautiful, and unconventional spaces.

Our mission is to expand public understanding of Experimental music, moving away from simplistic tropes such as “cutting edge” or “contemporary,” and instead striving to engage with experimentalism as a timeless and recurrent artistic practice.

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BOWERBIRD PRESENTS

DUO TESSERAE

ALWYN TOMAS WESTBROOKE, VIOLIN
MICHIKO SAIKI, PIANO

NOA EVEN

SAXOPHONE

FRIDAY, OCT 23, 2026
UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN

PROGRAM

Betsy Jolas: *Épisode Quatrième* (1983)

Noa Even: *Herzl* (2021)

~brief intermission~

Thuon Burtevitz: *Rabba in Sard...* (2004 rev. 2015) – Mov. II & III

Rebecca Saunders: *Duo* (1996 rev. 1999)

Eric Wubbels: *the children of fire come looking for fire* (2012)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Based in Philadelphia, Noa Even is a versatile saxophonist dedicated to the creation of new music through improvisation, composition, and close collaboration with composers. She has premiered dozens of new works, most of which were composed for her and the groups with which she has performed. Noa is a member of New Thread Quartet and duos Ogni Suono and Audra. Her recordings have been released on New Focus Recordings and Innova. Noa is Assistant Teaching Professor and Head of Woodwinds at Rowan University in New Jersey. She has taught over 80 master classes around the world and regularly participates in student composer readings. From 2017-2020, Noa served as Executive Director of Cleveland Uncommon Sound Project (CUSP), a non-profit organization she co-founded that champions new and experimental music. She was Treasurer of the North American Saxophone Alliance from 2021 through 2024. Noa is a Conn-Selmer Artist-Clinician and a Vandoren Artist. For more information, visitwww.noaevenmusic.com.

Formed in 2025, Duo Tesserae (Leipzig / Dresden, Germany) brings together violinist Alwyn Tomas Westbrooke and pianist Michiko Saiki, two specialists in contemporary music whose collaboration began in 2018. Since then, they have worked together frequently in a variety of chamber ensembles before founding the present duo. Praised for their precision, clarity, and color, Westbrooke and Saiki are dedicated to exploring the sonic language of music today. They work closely with both emerging and established composers, often unearthing hitherto undiscovered voices, and creating performances that illuminate new perspectives on sound.

New Zealand-born Alwyn Tomas Westbrooke has devoted himself to innovative forms of sound and performance for many years as a violinist, composer and conductor. He is co-founder of the new-music ensemble Tema (Karlsruhe), the El Perro Andaluz ensemble (Dresden), specializing in experimental concert, media, and theater formats, and the Polytheistic Ensemble (Karlsruhe), a crossover formation mixing contemporary art music, jazz, and rock. Since 2010, he has also been the violinist in the Ensemble Phorminx (Tübingen). His concertising has taken him to Korea, Italy, Slovenia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Norway, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand and Switzerland.

Dr. Michiko Saiki is a Japanese-born pianist and multimedia artist based in Leipzig, Germany. She is deeply committed to contemporary music and living composers, and her artistic work explores the genre of the "vocalizing pianist"– where voice, body and gender become integral components of performance.

Since relocating to Leipzig in 2016, Michiko has been developing her ongoing multimedia music-theater project, Voices of Women, in which she collaborates closely with female composers to stage intimate, feminist narratives through music, video, and performance, of which the most recent performance took place in Leipzig in 2022: a multilayered, sensually immersive production combining a minimalist stage, video projections, voice, piano, and a self-designed sculpture. Her works have been presented internationally, including as part of an artist's residency at Royaumont Abbey (France, 2020), at the ZfGM Festival at HMT Leipzig (2018), and the Berlin concert series Unerhörte Musik (2018).