



# Women Are...

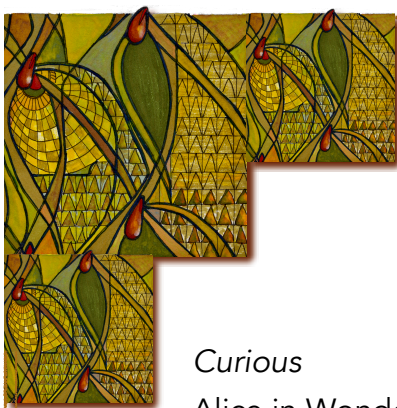
A Reflection and Celebration of Women's  
Challenges, Persistence and Growth

July 19, 2020  
4pm EDT

A Virtual concert by  
**HATS + HEELS**



# Women are...



## *Curious*

Alice in Wonderland Suite\*

Esther Swift (b. 1988)

i Drink Me

ii Drowning in My Tears

iii I'm Mad, You're Mad

iv Everything Has a Moral

*Featuring artwork by Kaitlin Aitken*

## *Inventive*

com-po-si\*

Amy Nam (b. 1994)

## *Strong*

Hold Fast to Dreams

Florence B. Price (1887-1953)

My Little Son

(arr. Hats+Heels)

## *Complicated*

My Doll Janie\*

Ellie Cherry (b. 1997)

## *Fearless*

Nevertheless

Megan Bledsoe Ward (b. 1985)

*\* denotes World Premiere*





## Meet the artists



**Kaitlin Aitken**

Kaitlin Aitken is a multi-disciplined artist based in Orlando, Florida. Exposure to a vast assortment of art while growing up in the Philadelphia area helped to influence the artist she would become. Kaitlin's interest was initially sparked by classic animated features, which led to her exploration and training from the age of 5. A solid foundation of traditional techniques such as illustration, painting, sculpting, and design would all translate to the digital medium she commonly uses today. Other areas of Kaitlin's interest and inspiration include music, theater, and her love of animals.

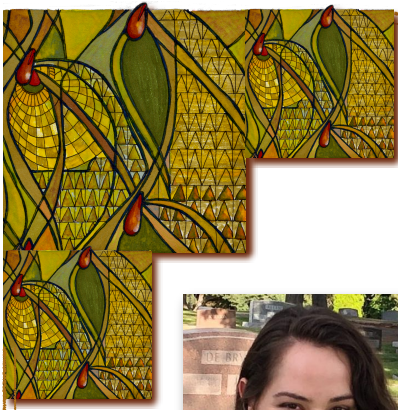


**Megan Bledsoe  
Ward**

Composer and harpist Megan Bledsoe Ward has been hailed by Downbeat Magazine for her "sharp musical intelligence" and "scintillating plays of light and subtle colors." Her debut album, Pacific Harp Project, was awarded the 2016 Na Hoku Hanohano Award for Instrumental Album of the Year by the Hawaii Academy of Recording Arts. Ward holds B.M., M.M, M.A. degrees and a Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music, and earned her D.M.A. at the University of Washington. Ward currently composes for chamber and orchestral ensembles, and performs as a soloist, orchestral harpist, and chamber musician, throughout the United States, serves as adjunct music professor with various universities in Hawaii, and teaches private harp and composition lessons.

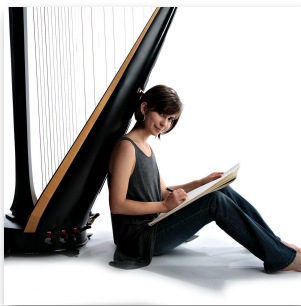
[www.meganbledsoeward.com](http://www.meganbledsoeward.com)





**Ellie Cherry**

Ellie Cherry recently graduated from Cornell University magna cum laude with a BA in Music, composing an opera based on Book 4 of The Aeneid of Vergil for her honors thesis. She will be heading to Glasgow in the fall to pursue a Masters of Music Composition at Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She knew she wanted to dedicate her life to music when she began teaching herself piano at age 12, and she has since been an advocate for making the benefits of music education more accessible to a broader public. As both a performer and composer, Ellie sees music as a powerful medium for social change, a philosophy which has been instrumental in shaping her artistic voice. When she's not sitting in windowless practice rooms gnawing on pencils, spilling coffee on staff paper, and shouting profanity at Finale, you'll probably find her fishing in a stream or climbing trees.

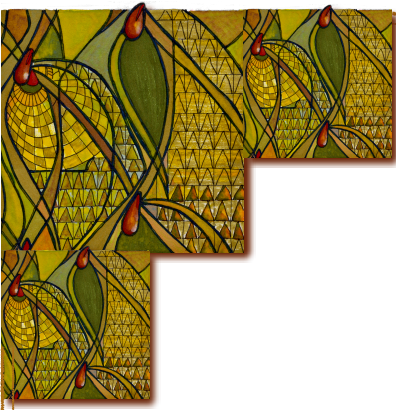


**Amy Nam**

Minneapolis-based composer and harpist Amy Nam writes and performs music characterized by her sense of optimism and interest in unconventional timbres and structures. In 2018 her work Somewhere to Elsewhere, for harp and ensemble, won a BMI Student Composer Award. She holds degrees from Vanderbilt University, where she graduated with first honors as the Blair School of Music's Founder's Medalist,

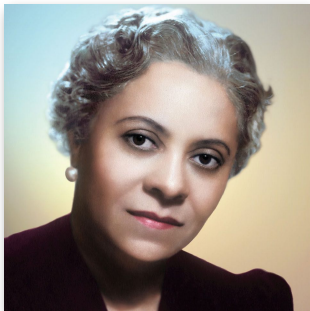






McGill University, where she studied with John Rea, and the Eastman School of Music, where she studied with David Liptak, Robert Morris, and Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon.

[www.amynam.com](http://www.amynam.com)

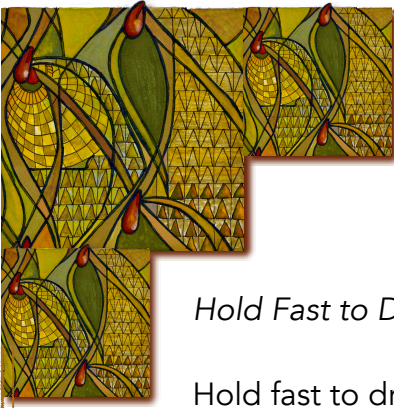


**Florence Price**

Florence Beatrice (Smith) Price became the first black female composer to have a symphony performed by a major American orchestra when the Chicago Symphony Orchestra played the world premiere of her Symphony No. 1 in E minor on June 15, 1933. Florence Price's symphony had come to the attention of Stock when it won first prize in the prestigious Wanamaker Competition held the previous year.

Although this premiere brought instant recognition and fame to Florence Beatrice Price, she would "continue to wage an uphill battle – a battle much larger than any war that pure talent and musical skill could win. It was a battle in which the nation was embroiled – a dangerous mélange of segregation, Jim Crow laws, entrenched racism, and sexism." (Women's Voices for Change, March 8, 2013). From <http://www.florenceprice.org/new-page-1>





## LYRICS

*Hold Fast to Dreams* by Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams  
For if dreams die  
Life is a broken winged bird  
That cannot fly

Hold fast to dreams  
For when dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow

*To My Little Son* by Julia Johnson Davis

In your face I sometimes see  
Shadowings of the man to be,  
And, eager,  
Dream of what my son shall be,  
Dream of what my son will be,  
In twenty years and one.

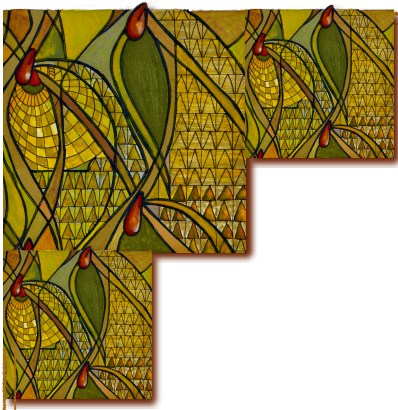
When you are to manhood grown,  
And all your manhood ways are known,  
Then shall I, blissful, try to trace  
The child you once were in your face.



**Esther Swift**

Harpist, composer and singer Esther Swift is internationally recognized for her contribution to the pedal harp and her distinct compositions and songwriting style. She is a leader in creative collaboration in Scotland, having worked with The Unthanks, Jimmy Goodwin, Aidan O'Rourke, and Siobhan Wilson. She has been commissioned to write compositions for many organizations, ensembles and individuals, including Manchester Jazz Festival, The Scottish Forestry Commission and Chamber Music Scotland. She has appeared on Radio 3, Radio 4, and Radio 6 with her own music as well as performing in festivals including WOMAD, The Dutch Harp Festival, Etno Krakow, The





Edinburgh International Book Festival and the Malaysian Book Festival. A fierce and open minded work ethic, alongside a desire to create and celebrate new music keeps Esther in constant demand, both locally and internationally, as she embraces her diverse and unique career.

[www.estherswift.co.uk](http://www.estherswift.co.uk)



**Rosanna Moore**



**Blaire Koerner**

### **Hats+Heels:**

Hats + Heels is a quirky duo of bassoon, Dr. Blaire Koerner, and harp, Dr. Rosanna Moore, that focuses on storytelling. Our innovative performances are infused with a variety of art forms and technology that help us weave colorful tales ranging from comedic to heart-wrenching, educational to ludicrous, and exploratory to enlightening. Some pieces are original works for bassoon, harp, and narration/theatrics, while others we have arranged and thoughtfully paired with words, images, fashion, or movement. We aim to engage our audiences through the universal intrigue of an entertaining story, while allowing space for individual interpretation and emotional expression.

<https://www.blairebassoonist.com/hats-heels>

