

# The Low Flutes Project

Lisa Cella, flutes



March 27, 2021 5:00 p.m.  
Earl and Darielle Linehan Concert Hall  
[music.umbc.edu](http://music.umbc.edu)  
410-455-2942

## Biography

A champion of contemporary music, Lisa Cella has performed throughout the United States and abroad. She is Artistic Director of San Diego New Music and a founding member of its resident ensemble NOISE. With NOISE she has performed the works of young composers all around the world. Lisa is co-artistic director of NOISE's annual festival of modern music entitled soundON. Lisa co-founded the flute collective inHALE, a group dedicated to developing challenging and experimental repertoire for two and three flutes. inHALE was an invited ensemble at the National Flute Association Convention in San Diego in August of 2005. She, along with Franklin Cox, is a founding member of C2, a touring flute and cello duo. As a soloist, she has performed both nationally and internationally and is a faculty member of the Soundscape Festival of Contemporary Music in Maccagno, Italy and Nief Norf based in Knoxville, Tennessee. Her undergraduate work was completed at Syracuse University and she received a Master of Music degree and a Graduate Performance Diploma from Peabody Conservatory. She received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in contemporary flute performance at the University of California, San Diego. Her main teachers include John Oberbrunner, Robert Willoughby, and John Fonville. She is a professor of music at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and a founding member of its faculty contemporary music ensemble, Ruckus.

### About the Low Flutes Project

*My Low Flutes Project* seeks to find, create, record, and present new works that shatter boundaries in sound and technique for alto and bass flute. Through commissioning, performing, and recording, I will add my voice to a body of repertoire, helping to inspire the new generation of composers to explore deeply these two instruments that have captured my passion. Part 1 of *The Low Flutes Project* introduces works old and new for the alto and bass flutes. This concert includes the premieres of the winners of the *15 Minutes of Fame* composition competition and pieces from a call for scores.

## The Program

Nocturno for alto flute (1982)

Mario Lavista

*The sun takes back its shadows  
the air contains its breath  
the dream brings out the green pupils of the cat  
with its nocturnal gold. (poem by Sia Ching, trans. Dana Fry)*

Desert Places for bass flute (2020)

Florence Anna Maunder

15 Minutes of Fame Competition Winners (2020)\*

Solo - per flauto basso

Francesco Celeste

Rainy Day

Sheng Song

Forgotten Dreams

Blair Whittington

Catch me if you can!

Jonathan Domingo

Speedrun

Luciano Williamson

lux aeterna

Philip Czaplowski

B. Fl. Micrography

Manos Panayiotakis

Short whisper

by Soheil Shirangi

Wind

Barbara Kaszuba

Ariel - the spirit of the wind

Ugo Raimondi

Fedora

Anna Vienna Ho

Irmos II

Richard Pressley

Micropraxis

Stephen de Filippo

Reverie

David Bohn

An Oasis in the Moment

Neda Nadim

a escada estreita for alto flute and electronics (1999)

João Pedro Oliveira

\*world premieres

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*Welcome to the UMBC Performing Arts and Humanities building. Please take a moment to observe your nearest emergency exits. In the event of an evacuation, please calmly proceed to one of these exits. Flash photography is prohibited. Food and beverage, other than bottled water, are not allowed in the performance venue. Enjoy the performance.*  
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## Program Notes

### Nocturno for alto flute (1982)

Mario Lavista

Mario Lavista was born in Mexico City in 1943. He presently teaches composition, análisis and twentieth century music at the National Conservatory of Music in Mexico City and also serves as a director of “Pauta”, one of Latin America’s best journals of music. He has been Professor and Guest Composer at Indiana University, University of Chicago, Universidad Nacional de Cuyo (Argentina), Wesleyan University (Illinois), North Texas University and Atlantic Center for the Arts (Florida), among others. He has collaborated closely with a number of noted instrumentalists, writing a series of works in which he explores new technical and expressive possibilities in traditional instruments. In 1988 he was elected life member of the prestigious Colegio Nacional de México. He currently lives in Mexico City.

*I wrote Nocturno for alto flute in 1982 for the Mexican flutist Marielena Arizpe who showed me some of the extended techniques; multiphonics, whistle sounds, microtones by using non-traditional fingerings, singing and playing simultaneously, and so on. In composing the piece, I wanted to establish a close relationship, deeply emotional – loving I would say – between the performer and his or her instrument. I also wanted the piece itself to build a space in which an intimate dialogue between the instrument and the player may take place. The score bears as an epigraph a poem by Sia Ching, a contemporary Chinese poet:*

The sun takes back its shadows  
the air contains its breath  
the dream brings out the green pupils of the cat  
with its nocturnal gold. (trans. Dana Fry)

### Desert Places for bass flute (2020)

Florence Anna Maunders

Florence Anna Maunders (b.1978) is a multi-international-award- winning composer. She studied at the RNCM, with further studies in Darmstadt & Reading. She has composed for and performed with leading ensembles across the UK, Europe & the USA and after an extended break from composition is currently experiencing a significant interest in her compositions, with at least 15 premières of her works planned across the world for the first half of 2020 alone. Her compositional style reflects the influence of her former work as an electronic dance music producer, jazz pianist and her deep love for Arabic, Balkan & Persian music.

*This piece was written for Carla Rees. It explores two of my great compositional obsessions – jazz harmony and the traditional music of the Middle East – particularly Persian*

music. The two main types of musical material in this piece are the meditative aalap sections in unmeasured time, which form a series of "musical breaths", which alternate with some more rhythmical (perhaps even slightly percussive) passages which develop the 10/8 rhythm of the janaman – probably the least common of the traditional Persian dance rhythms. In the slower sections much of the melodic material borrows from the closely related Arabic tradition, in particular the tuning of the maqam hijaz, but also explores the versatility of the Kingma bass flute in creating multi-phonics which match closely the idiosyncratic tuning of this scale. The more groove-based sections sound distinctly funky in places, with 9th-based harmonic patterns and semiquaver syncopations abounding.

### **15 Minutes of Fame Competition Winners (2020)**

#### **Solo - per flauto basso**

#### **Francesco Celeste**

"Francesco Celeste was born in Bollate, near Milano, in 1966. He studied composition at the Conservatory of Milan where He attended the master of Music in composition with honors. His works have been awarded in numerous competitions and performed in various contemporary music events."

*"In this work of only 60 seconds there are mainly 2 instrumental signs: the mechanical ""soundless"" gesture of the key noise and a tremolo performed with different timbres. Between these two gestures a musical phrase slowly emerges, note after note, until its completeness in accelerando."*

#### **Rainy Day**

#### **Sheng Song**

Sheng song is studying for a doctor's degree at the Central Conservatory of music in Beijing, China. He composed a lot of academic musical works with many different kinds of types. In his works, he concentrates on instrumental extended techniques and orchestration.

*This work is based on a traditional children's song of Guangdong Province, China. The author used the special technique of flute to show the scene of rainy day. The voice made the whole scene more colorful and interesting.*

#### **Forgotten Dreams**

#### **Blair Whittington**

Blair Whittington is a Los Angeles based composer who has had his music performed across the United States and Europe. His music has been performed by pianist Yumi Suehiro, the UK Guitar Quartet, the Bateira Trio (flute/viola/bass), and Nautilus Brass and the Wild Prairie Winds.

*I had never written for the bass flute before so I saw this as a chance to learn about this beautiful instrument. The piece is most often in the characteristic low range and is fragmentary - like a dream that cannot be remembered*

### ***Catch me if you can!***

**Jonathan Domingo**

"Composer-conductor Jonathan Domingo graduated from the University of the Philippines College of Music with a degree in composition. He studied under composer-ethnomusicologist Dr. Jonas Baes. Winner of four international accolades including the Asian Composers' League Young Composers Prize in 2016."

*This new work was conceived thru a dream with wrestling clarity and uncertainty. Then a mysteriously cracking of dawn appears- birds chirping, winds gently howling and life unearthing. But it seems like someone's not yet ready for a sunrise...panic!*

### ***Speedrun***

**Luciano Williamson**

"Luciano Williamson is a composer of bold, uncompromising and experimental music, creating experiences that are thrilling, highly engaging, often challenging, and unconventional. Luciano studied at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, where he studied composition with Mark David Boden and Joseph Davies, and conducting with Tianyi Lu."

*Speedrun is inspired by the concept of video game speed running; players will learn incredibly complex and challenging manoeuvres to finish a game in a marginally faster time. Even the slightest mistake could spell the end of an otherwise perfect run, which in some games can mean several hours wasted.*

### ***lux aeterna***

**Philip Czaplowski**

Philip Czaplowski was born in London, UK but now lives in Australia. He studied music at Melbourne and La Trobe Universities, before completing a PhD in music composition at Monash University in 2007. His compositions have been performed in many countries around the world.

*This piece is dedicated to Lisa Cella, who gave the premiere performance of my solo flute piece Lavender Mist in 2006. The title "lux aeterna" refers to one of the sections of the Catholic Requiem Mass, which includes the words "May light eternal shine upon thee".*

### ***B. Fl. Micrography***

**Manos Panayiotakis**

Manos Panayiotakis is a composer and musicologist based in Greece. His works are performed in Europe and internationally, in collaboration with orchestras and renowned artists. His papers on contemporary music are published in peer-reviewed journals and he has co-authored the Music Theory series 'Learning Music' published in Greece.

*B. Fl. Micrography was composed in August 2020, dedicated to Dr Lisa Cella, for the "Vox Novus" call for scores. This miniature illustrates a functional shrinking of the classic A-B-*

*A1 form into a one minute-structure, employing much of the Bass-Flute timbral potential.*

**Short whisper**

**Soheil Shirangi**

Soheil Shirangi:1987 Iran Graduate Tehran Conservatory Second Person Tehran International Electronic Music Festival Award,Candidate best composers Thirty-third Fajr festival,Earning a diploma of the third person of the Orginsky International Composing Competition (for orchestra) in Belarus, His works performed in countries such as Iran, Greece, Italy, Brazil, Germany, Romania and United States

*In this short work I tried to emphasize the sense of narration of the bass flute with simple techniques and the question that becomes less and less."*

**Wind**

**Barbara Kaszuba**

Barbara Kaszuba; alumna of Academy of Music in Poznań - composition and of the Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz - violin ; study composition in Dresden; artistic scholarship in California, USA; she works at the Academy of Music in Poznań. She recorded 2 CD's My Music, Not only from Iceland.

*Wind for alto flute to Lisa Cella; bluster of wind, downwind, against the wind. Energy hidden in sounds. The techniques used reflect the constant movement, intensity and speed of natural phenomena. The accumulation of various structures, whistle tones, slap tongues, and fast sound structures, makes the piece becomes a gale.*

**Ariel - the spirit of the wind**

**Ugo Raimondi**

Ugo Raimondi is a composer awarded in several competitions such as: 1st prize and honorable mention at "Città di Albenga" 1st composition contest; 1st prize at Franz Schubert Konservatorium composition competition 2020, 1st prize at V "A. Falconio" composition competition. His music is played in Italy, Germany, Norway, Iran.

*"Ariel-the spirit of the wind" describes the mythological figure of Ariel, a Nature's spirit. The work is a simple melody made through air effects of the like the sound with the air, the pizzicato etc... The "voice of Ariel" appears in short musical fragments during the piece.*

**Fedora**

**Anna Vienna Ho**

Anna is a pianist, soprano, composer who received an Advanced Postgraduate Diploma and Master of Music from Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Anna's compositions were selected and performed in different festivals. Including New Generation 2014, Tête à Tête Opera Festival, Rugby Festival of Culture, London Oriana Choir Five15

project and more.

*A fedora is a hat with a soft brim and an indented crown. The name "Fedora" comes from a character named Fédora, who likes to dress as a man and often wears this kind of hat, in a script written by Victorien Sardou. It is also a symbol of feminism.*

### **Irmos II**

**Richard Pressley**

Richard Pressley has had performances in the US, Europe, Brazil, Australia. He attended Butler University, Cambridge, University of Minnesota (Ph D), Karlsruhe Musikhochschule, and Darmstadt in Germany, studying with Wolfgang Rihm, Sandeep Bhagwati, Dominick Argento, Judith Lang Zaimont, Alex Lubet, Daniel Chua, Michael Schelle.

*Fleeting gestures dialogue in a single unfolding melody in an ever-changing sound world of timbral variation, percussive iteration, and tonal nuance -- each tiny gesture appearing and evanescing in the same moment.*

### **Micropraxis**

**Stephen de Filippo**

Stephen de Filippo is a composer from regional Western Australia. His music can be characterised by an emphasis on contemporary performance techniques – creating works that feature unusual combinations of sounds. Stephen is currently a PhD candidate at University of California, San Diego.

*Micropraxis explores swift transitions between flute sound, percussive sounds, and vocal sounds — creating these dense and hurried gestures as the performer attempts to navigate through these gestures in preset time durations.*

### **Reverie**

**David Bohn**

David Bohn studied composition at the University of Wisconsin, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is president of the Wisconsin Alliance for composers, and music director at St. John's Lutheran Church in West Milwaukee

### **An Oasis in the Moment**

**Neda Nadim**

Neda Nadim has obtained a bachelor's degree in Music Composition. Her piece "A Piece for Solo Oboe" achieved emerging composer merit mark during 4th Tehran International Contemporary Music Festival, held on June 2019, also the piece "garden in the sound" for solo flute was among the winners in Petrichor records competition.

*The idea of the piece "An Oasis in the moment" is to use a variety of sound resources throughout the piece, which is intermittent change between full tone to half air-half*

tone to totally air sound. In addition, the combination of sound resources, dynamic and fast rhythms create a different atmosphere.

### **a escada estreita for alto flute and electronics (1999)**

**João Pedro Oliveira**

João Pedro Oliveira began his music studies at the Gregorian Institute of Lisbon where he studied organ performance. From 1985 to 1990 he moved to the US as a Fulbright student, with a fellowship from Gulbenkian Foundations, where he completed a PhD in Music at the University of New York at Stony Brook. His music includes one chamber opera, several orchestral compositions, a Requiem, 3 string quartets, chamber music, solo instrumental music, electroacoustic music and experimental video. Recently he has been exploring the possibilities of interaction between instrumental and electroacoustic sounds, and most of his recent works use both media. He has received over 50 international prizes and awards for his works, including, among others, the Giga-Hertz Award and the Magisterium Prize from the IMEB (Bourges). His music is played all over the world, and most of his works have been commissioned by Portuguese and foreign groups and foundations. He is Professor at Federal University of Minas Gerais (Brazil) and Aveiro University (Portugal) where he teaches composition, electroacoustic music and analysis. He published several articles in journals, and has written a book in analysis and 20th century music theory.

A sonnet of Portuguese poet Antero de Quental inspired this work:

*A Escada Estreita (The Narrow Ladder) - (Translation of poem)*

*In the hand of God, in His right hand*

*My heart at last rests.*

*From the enchanted palace of illusion*

*I have descended step by step the narrow ladder.*

*Like the mortal flowers, which adorn*

*Childhood's ignorance, vain remains*

*I have ousted from the ideal and the Passion*

*Their transitory and imperfect shape.*

*Like a child on a dismal journey,*

*Who clings to the mother's bosom*

*And crosses, vaguely smiling,*

*Jungles, oceans, deserts sands...*

*Sleep thy rest, freed heart,*

*Sleep in God's hand eternally*

*The title itself relates not to the piece in its essence, but to a certain moment in the life of the composer. Sometimes it is necessary to let go some of our desires, wishes and ambitions, in order to become a happy person. This difficult process is described in some poetry and literature as a step-by-step descending of a narrow ladder, in order to leave the palace of illusions, and discover more pure and perfect reasons for life.*

*This work was commissioned by IARTES (Ministry of Culture of Portugal), and received the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in Musica Nova Competition (Prague) 2005.*