

# GVSU NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE

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## ***MUSIC INSPIRED BY OUR NATIONAL PARKS***

*Concerts of remarkable music, performed in the lands that inspired it.*

video preview [HERE](#)

The **Grand Valley State University New Music Ensemble** is returning to the national stage to celebrate the National Park system. With their second funding award from the *National Endowment for the Arts*, five acclaimed composers were commissioned to create music that will be performed within the parks during the ensemble's 17-day, 5,000-mile summer tour. The music reflects the immense diversity of the parks while capturing their breathtaking and inspiring landscapes and wildlife. **Kristin Kuster's** *Wildflower Report* portrays the many flower-covered meadows throughout Mount Rainier National Park. **Alexander Miller's** *Glacier Blue* is his response to the magnificent glaciers and wildlife of North Cascades National Park. *Aerial Glacier*, composed by **Rachel Grimes**, presents an audio "flyover" of Glacier National Park, and includes quotes from members of surrounding Native American tribes. **Michael Laurello's** *Mosaic*, based on Voyageurs National Park, captures the tapestry of its vast interconnected land and waterways. Finally, **Jennifer Jolley's** *Blue Glacier Decoy* combines the ensemble with the voice of famed choreographer Trisha Brown, to convey glacier activity in Olympic National Park. In addition, a new arrangement of music by Pacific Northwest filmmaker, YouTuber, ultrarunner and composer **Ethan Newberry** will be performed, along with a fun composition from **John Jansen** that uses natural objects from the parks as instruments. Rounding out the program is music from the ensemble's two previous national park tours by composers **Ashley Stanley, David Biedenbender, Adam Cuthbert, Zoe Keating, and Niko Schroeder.**

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The ensemble presents this program over a seventeen day, five thousand mile driving tour June 26-July 12, 2018. With performances at both indoor and outdoor venues, they will present eight concerts at five national parks—**Voyageurs, Glacier, North Cascades, Olympic, and Mount Rainier**. All concerts are free and open to the public, and appropriate for ALL ages!

- **June 27**      **Voyageurs National Park**      1pm  
International Falls, Minnesota  
(Rainy Lake Visitor Center)
  
- **July 1**      **Glacier National Park**      8pm  
West Glacier, Montana  
(Apgar Amphitheater)
  
- **July 3**      **North Cascades National Park**      2pm  
Sedro-Woolley, Washington  
(North Cascades Visitor Center)  
  
(Newhalem Amphitheater)      7pm
  
- **July 5**      **Olympic National Park**      12pm  
Port Angeles, Washington  
(Lake Crescent Lodge Amphitheater)  
  
(Kalaloch Amphitheater)      7:30pm
  
- **July 7**      **Mount Rainier National Park**      12:30pm  
Ashford, Washington  
(Paradise Inn)  
  
(Ohanapecosh Amphitheater)      7pm

### **ABOUT THE GVSU NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE**

Based in Allendale, Michigan, the Grand Valley State University [\*\*NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE\*\*](#) is an undergraduate classical chamber ensemble dedicated to music of the past twenty years. The group has been profiled in numerous publications including *Newsweek* and the *New York Times*, and featured on *NPR's Weekend Edition*, *All Things Considered*, *WNYC's Radiolab*, and *Performance Today*. They have released four critically acclaimed recordings named to year-end best release lists by the *New York Times*, *NPR*, *Washington Post*, *LA Weekly*, *Time Out Chicago*, and many others. Their recordings have appeared in film and television shows on *MTV*, *Showtime*, at over 75 film festivals around the world, and most recently in movie theaters throughout the United States as part of the soundtrack to the 2015 film *As I AM: The Life and Times of DJ AM*. Their CD of Steve Reich's *Music for 18 Musicians* was named one of the top five classical recordings of the decade by *WNYC*.

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The ensemble has completed four tours and performed at major cities and venues throughout the country including New York six times, Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Colorado Springs, Detroit, Indianapolis, Philadelphia, Washington DC, and at nine national parks (soon to be 14!) With awards from *New Music U.S.A.* and the *National Endowment of the Arts*, the ensemble has commissioned 69 compositions from such notable composers as Sarah Kirkland Snider, Zoe Keating, Nico Muhly, Marc Mellits, Anna Clyne, and David Lang. Their 86 performance and music videos on *YouTube* recently passed 1.7 million views, all without the aid of a cat or Lady Gaga tune.



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## **ABOUT THE COMPOSERS**



### **RACHEL GRIMES**

Heralded “one of American independent music’s few truly inspired technicians” by *WIRE* magazine, Rachel Grimes is a pianist, composer, and arranger based in Kentucky. She has toured worldwide as a solo pianist, and her work has been performed by such artists as *A Far Cry*, *Longleash*, *Amsterdam Sinfonietta Trio*, *Dublin Guitar Quartet*, *Portland Cello Project*, *Kansas City Symphony*, and the *Louisville Orchestra*. Rachel has performed at some of the world’s most diverse music festivals including *Big Ears*, *Ecstatic Music Festival*, *Substrata*, and *CrossLinx*. She is a member of Louisville rock band *King’s Daughters & Sons (Chemikal Underground)* and a founding member of the groundbreaking indie-rock chamber ensemble *Rachel’s*, with whom she toured and released six albums. Her recordings have been licensed to numerous film and TV works internationally including *Listen to Me Marlon*, *Lost In Vagueness*, *War Machine*, *Actress*, HBO series *Witness*, *Gasland* and *Gasland II* (HBO), *Last Days Here*, and Academy Award and Golden Globe winner *La Grande Bellezza*.



### **JENNIFER JOLLEY**

Jennifer Jolley’s (b.1981) diverse catalog includes choral, orchestral, wind ensemble, chamber, and electronic works. She has been commissioned by ensembles and institutions across the United States, including the *Vermont Symphony Orchestra*, *University of Texas at Austin*, *Bowling Green State University*, *Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble*, *The Canales Project*, *Left Coast Chamber Ensemble*, and the *University of Cincinnati*. Jennifer deeply values the relationship that is created between composers and the communities with whom they collaborate. She has been composer-in-residence at *Brevard College*, *University of Toledo*, and the *Vermont Symphony*, and will be in-residence at the *Central Michigan University School of Music* and the *Alba Music Festival* in Italy in 2018. Jennifer has been a finalist for the *American Prize* (Choral & Concert Band Divisions) and the *Symphony Number One Call for Scores*. She holds degrees from the University of Southern California and the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where her principal teachers included Stephen Hartke, Frank Ticheli, Michael Fiday, Joel Hoffman, and Douglas Knehans.

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### **KRISTIN KUSTER**

Kristin Kuster (b.1973) is based in Ann Arbor, where she is an associate professor and chair of composition at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance. Upcoming and recent premieres of Kristin's music include works for the *Baltimore Symphony Orchestra*, the *Detroit Symphony Orchestra*, the *Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music*, the *Cincinnati Symphony*

*Orchestra*, the *United States Air Force Heritage Brass Ensemble*. When she is not writing or teaching you can often find Kristin fiercely advocating for the marginalized and underrepresented groups of composers in our classical music culture, hanging out with her son with special needs, or on her deck with locally-brewed Sweetwaters and/or Comet coffee. Kristin loves camping, hiking, kayaking, and riding her mountain bike around town. Kristin grew up in Boulder, Colorado. She often misses the daily-gazing at the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains of her youth; yet she loves that Ann Arbor is blanketed in deciduous trees.



### **MICHAEL LAURELLO**

Michael Laurello (b. 1981) is a composer, recording/mixing engineer, and pianist whose music reflects his fascination with temporal dissonance and emotional immediacy. His music has been presented at *Carnegie Hall*, *Lincoln Center*, *MATA*, *PASIC*, *Bang on a Can Summer Festival*, *Norfolk Chamber Music Festival*, and the *Carlsbad Music Festival*. Recent commissions include a solo piano work for Brianna Matzke/The Response Project, and an SATB choral work celebrating the birth of architect Theodate Pope Riddle. Recent honors include a residency at *Avaloch Farm Music Institute* (with Triplepoint Trio), a commission from the *American Composers Forum*, selection for the SCI 50th Anniversary National Conference, participation in the

*Nashville Symphony* Composer Lab and Workshop, participation in the *EarShot Berkeley Symphony Readings*, and an Emerging Artist Award from Boston's St. Botolph Club Foundation. Laurello works as a freelance composer, and as Manager of Recording Services and Technical Engineer for the MidAmerican Center for Contemporary Music at Bowling Green State University.

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## ALEXANDER MILLER

Alexander L. Miller's (b.1968) imaginative music draws upon his years of experience as assistant principal oboist with the *Grand Rapids Symphony* and the *Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music*. His "Let Freedom Ring" (1998) for orchestra and narrator was selected for performance at the opening of the *William J. Clinton Presidential Center* in Little Rock, Arkansas in 2003, with President Clinton narrating. Other narrators of this

frequently-performed work have included James Earl Jones, Danny Glover, Harry Belafonte and William Warfield. In late 2009 Miller was diagnosed with a rare brain tumor called a craniopharyngioma. He underwent two brain surgeries followed by a year of rehabilitation. Returning to his life as a performing musician and composer is what he considers his greatest achievement. He is married to *Grand Rapids Symphony* violist Mary Jane Miller, and his other interests include puzzles, aviation, modern art, wine collecting and mushroom hunting.

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For more information, including requests for additional photos, audio, or press interviews with the ensemble or participating composers, please contact the ensemble director Bill Ryan at [ryanwi@gvsu.edu](mailto:ryanwi@gvsu.edu) or 616-460-4339.