

ENSEMBLE '21 DECIPHER



BIOGRAPHY:

Ensemble Decipher is a modular, experimental music group that performs with vintage, contemporary, and emerging technologies. Founded in 2017 by Niloufar Nourbakhsh, Ensemble Decipher strives to redefine performer virtuosity by drawing on the technological advancements of our time in order to highlight new voices and ways of listening. By reexamining new music and integrating technology into their performance practice, Ensemble Decipher seeks to reflect on and challenge the power structures that lace the field of electroacoustic music. Recent works commissioned by the group have mobilized network technologies, accelerometers attached to rocks, boxes trained via machine learning to respond to touch, acoustic instruments, and laptops. This has led Ensemble Decipher to collaborate with notable composers and technologists including Mara Helmuth, Margaret Schedel, Hannah Davis, Yaz Lancaster, and Lainie Fefferman and premiere works by many others. Recent feature performances include concerts at the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States, International Computer Music Conference, New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival, Network Music Festival, and an ensemble residency at EarFest. Current members include Joseph Bohigian, Robert Cosgrove, Eric Lemmon, Chelsea Loew, Taylor Long, and Niloufar Nourbakhsh.

For the upcoming season Ensemble Decipher has been awarded a SUNY PACC Prize and a USArtists International Grant from the Mid-Atlantic Arts Council to commission composers Kamala Sankaram, Paul Leary, Jose Tomás Henriques, Jamie Leigh Sampson, and Mari Kimura for performances in Denmark and across New York State.

FIND US:

<https://ensembledecipher.com>

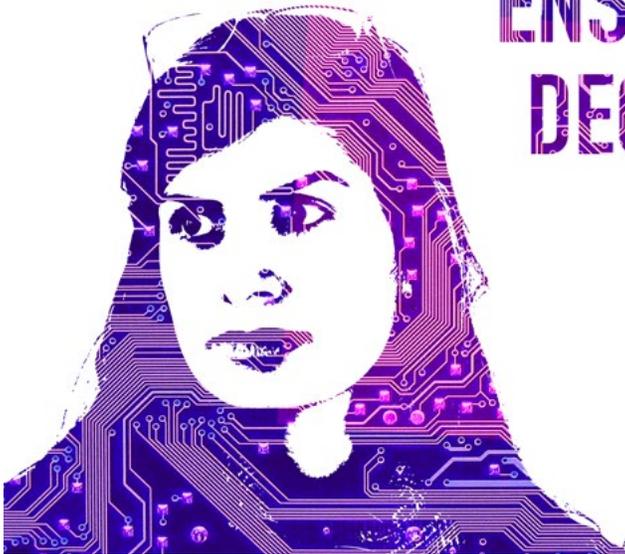
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// ARTIST BIOS



ENSEMBLE DECIPHER

// Niloufar Nourbakhsh

Described as “stark” by WNPR and “darkly lyrical” by the New York Times, a winner of the Second International Hildegard commission award and a 2019 recipient of Opera America’s Discovery Grant, Niloufar Nourbakhsh’s music has been performed at numerous festivals and venues including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Kennedy Center. A founding member and co-director of Iranian Female Composers Association, Nourbakhsh is a strong advocate of music education and equal opportunities. She is currently a Teaching Artist at Brooklyn Music School, an adjunct faculty at Molloy College, and a co-director of Peabody Conservatory Laptop Ensemble, while finishing her doctorate at Stony Brook University



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// Joseph Bohigian

Joseph Bohigian is a composer and performer whose cross-cultural experience as an Armenian-American is a defining message in his music. His work explores the expression of exile, cultural reunification, and identity maintenance in diaspora. Joseph’s works have been heard at the Oregon Bach Festival, June in Buffalo, Walt Disney Concert Hall, New Music on the Point Festival, TENOR Conference (Melbourne), and Aram Khachaturian Museum Hall performed by the Mivos Quartet, Decibel New Music, Great Noise Ensemble, Argus Quartet, Fresno Summer Orchestra Academy, and Playground Ensemble and featured on NPR’s Here and Now and The California Report. Bohigian has studied at Stony Brook University, California State University Fresno, and in Yerevan, Armenia with Artur Avanesov.

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// Chelsea Loew

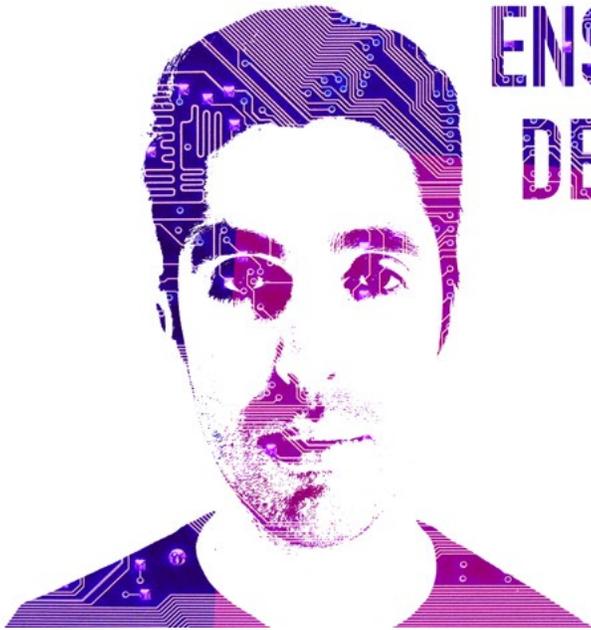
Chelsea Loew is a composer and performer whose work emphasizes the emotional and personal, and it often explores the relationship, both constructive and damaging, between language and intended expression. She is the recipient of two Fulbright research grants in composition and is the composer-in-residence for the Taylor Festival Choir. Her works have been performed by Chór NFM, Yarn|Wire, Charleston Symphony Orchestra, members of Talea Ensemble, and others. She has been featured on festivals including Sacrum Profanum at Play Krakow, Composers Conference at Brandeis, National SCI Composers Conference, Ball State New Music Festival, New Music on the Point, Southern Division ACDA, and Piccolo Spoleto. She is a Ph.D. candidate in Composition at Stony Brook University with previous degrees from Eastman School of Music (M.A.) and College of Charleston (B.A.).

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// Robert Cosgrove

Rob Cosgrove is a percussionist, composer, and technologist interested in creating situations for embodied sounding. His works explore the feeling of a sound as a tactile, visual, and visceral entity by investigating the peripheries of sonic experience and the ways these contexts affect our perception. Rob has performed/exhibited at Fridman Gallery (New York), Eastern Bloc (Montreal), National Gallery of Art (Washington, D.C.), DOX Center for Contemporary Art (Prague), KM28 (Berlin), and OZ Arts (Nashville). Rob is the current Artist-In-Residence at Practice Gallery in Philadelphia, PA.



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// Eric Lemmon

Technologist and Composer Eric Lemmon's artistic practice is preoccupied with the politics that lace our musical technologies and institutions. His music has been reviewed by the New York Times and featured on WQXR's Q2, and have appeared in venues ranging from underground bars (Le Poisson Rouge and SubCulture) to the DiMenna Center for Classical Music and FIGMENT arts festival. He has been awarded a MetLife's Creative Connections Grant, multiple LMCC Arts Engagement Grants, multiple Puffin Foundation Grants, a Tofte Lake Center Emerging Artist Residency, a Can Serrat International Artist Residency, ConEd's Exploring the Metropolis Residency, a Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, and a Fulbright Award. Eric has written works for Yarn|Wire, Cadillac Moon Ensemble, Jacqueline LeClaire, and The Chelsea Symphony.



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// Taylor Long

Taylor Long is a percussionist, performer, and sound artist interested in experimental, technological, avant-garde and theatrical mediums. He has appeared at the Darmstädter Ferienkurse (Germany), Oh My Ears Festival (Phoenix), NYC Electroacoustic Music Festival, NowNet Arts Conference (New York), Avaloch Farm (New Hampshire), and Portland Design Week (Oregon). Important activities include the European premiere of Liza Lim's 75-minute staged "part opera, part-collective ritual" *Atlas of the Sky*; the American premiere Xu Yi's *La Divine* for ten performers, 8-channel electronics, and film; and close collaboration with John Colpitts (AKA Kid Millions) for the score to the experimental theater work *Hoaxers* by playwright Dan O'Brien. Taylor is currently completing a DMA in music performance at Stony Brook University.

SOUND // VIDEO

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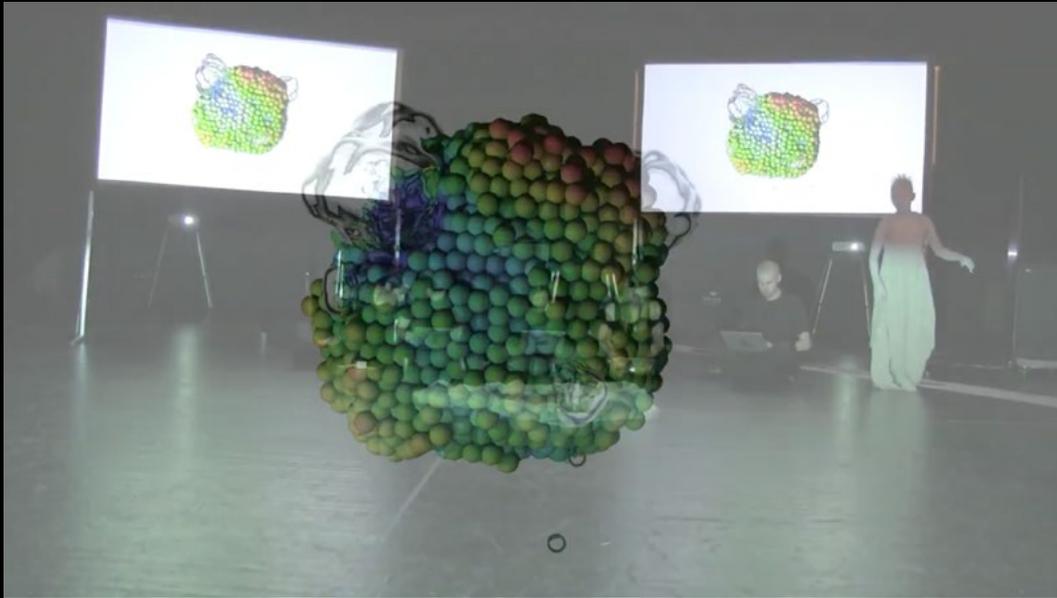


NILOUFAR NOURBAKHSH // REMEMBER ME

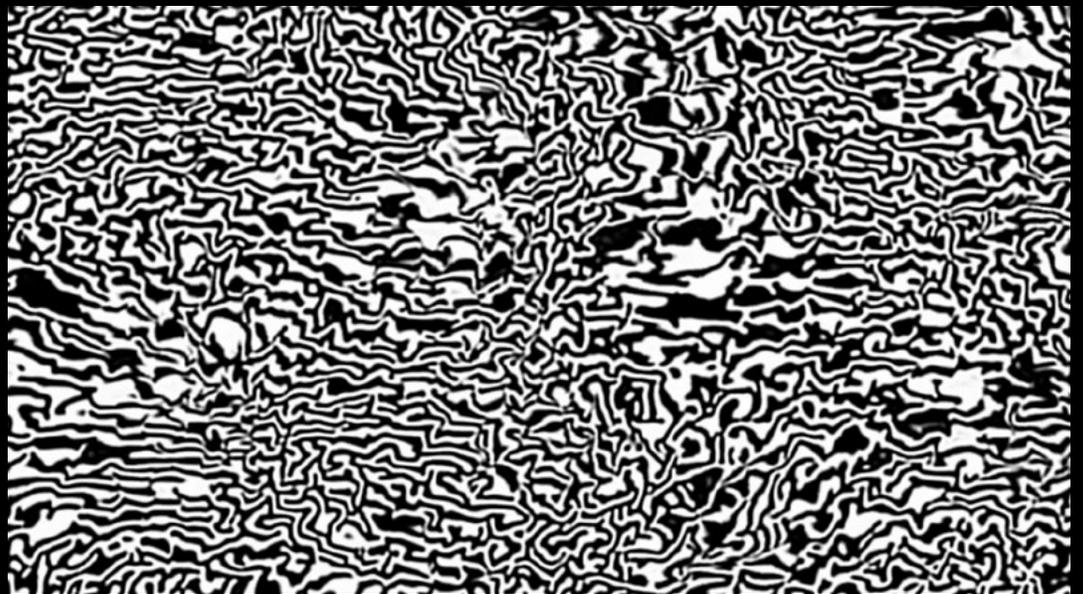


JOSEPH BOHIGIAN // STONE DREAMS

SOUND // VIDEO

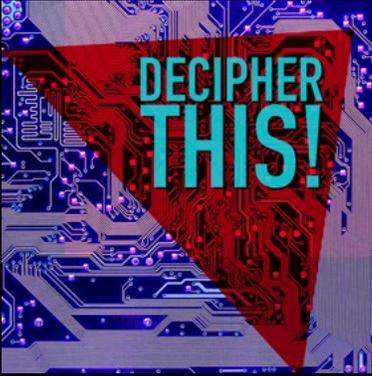


ERIC LEMMON // toy_3



YAZ LANCASTER // HOLDING_SPACE

// RECENT INITIATIVES

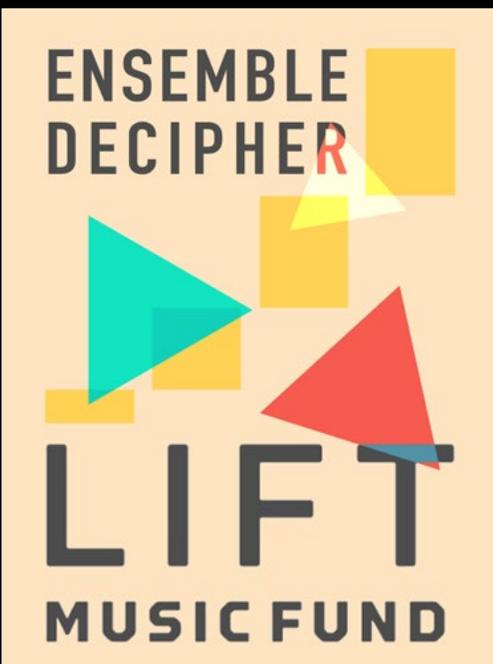


DECIPHER THIS!

Decipher This! is a podcast about music and technology. On the podcast, members of Ensemble Decipher interview their collaborators on composing and performing music with vintage, contemporary, and emerging technologies.

COMMISSIONING

Ensemble Decipher is dedicated to performing and commissioning works by emerging and established composers alike. Over the past two years we have commissioned 34 composers for new electronic and electroacoustic works. World premieres in 2021 include works by Mari Kimura, Darian Donovan Thomas, Kamala Sankaram, Paul Leary, Jose Tomás Henriques, and Jamie Leigh Sampson.



LIFT MUSIC FUND

We at Ensemble Decipher believe that supporting access, equity, and justice in the arts are integral to our mission as a performance group. One of the greatest barriers to historically marginalized groups in music technology and concert music more generally is access to quality music education, and the tools to pursue that education. To redress these persistent issues, Ensemble Decipher raised money for the Lift Music Fund in a benefit concert on 4.11.21.