

//ENSEMBLE '23
//DECIPHER

BIOGRAPHY:

Ensemble Decipher is a modular, experimental music group that performs with vintage, contemporary, and emerging technologies. Founded in 2017 by Niloufar Nourbakhsh, the ensemble strives to redefine performer virtuosity by drawing on the technological advancements of our time to highlight new voices and ways of listening. Ensemble Decipher seeks to reflect on and challenge the power structures that lace the field of electronic music by reexamining technology's role in their performance practice. Recent works commissioned by the group have mobilized network technologies, amplified gardening, machine learning, kinetic sculptures, acoustic instruments, and laptops.

Ensemble Decipher has collaborated with notable composers and technologists including Mari Kimura, Margaret Schedel, Daria Semegen, Kamala Sankaram, Erin Rogers, Jose Tomás Henriques, Mara Helmuth, Yaz Lancaster, Paul Leary, Lyn Goeringer, and Lainie Fefferman and premiered 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, New Music Gathering, Earth Day Art Model, and an ensemble residency at the New Music for Strings Festival in Denmark. Current members include Joseph Bohigian, Robert Cosgrove, Eric Lemmon, Chelsea Loew, Taylor Long, and Niloufar Nourbakhsh.

Decipher will open its 2023–2024 season with a performance at Roulette in Brooklyn, New York, including the premiere of a new work by Bora Yoon, a collaboration with Iranian–American choreographer Hiva Sedaghat, and New York premieres of music by Erin Rogers and Lyn Goeringer.

FIND US:

<https://ensembledecipher.com>

decipherists@ensembledecipher.com

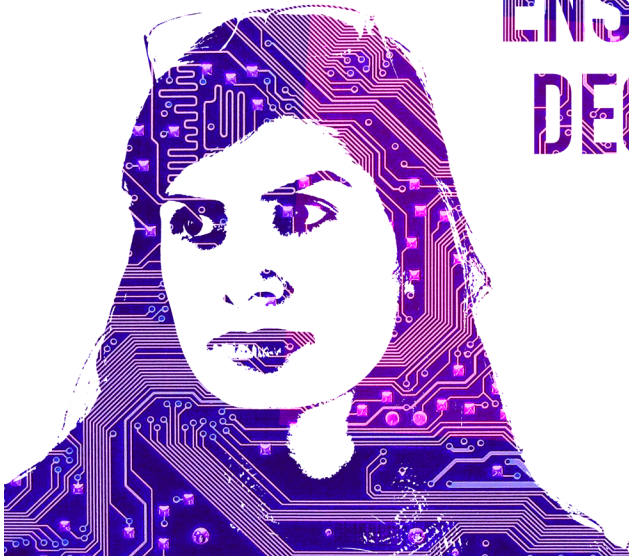
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// ARTIST BIOS



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// Niloufar Nourbakhsh

Described as “stark” by WNPR and “darkly lyrical” by the New York Times, a winner of 2022 Beth Morrison Projects Next Generation competition, an awardee of National Sawdust’s Second International Hildegard Commission, and a 2019 recipient of Opera America’s Discovery Grant, Niloufar Nourbakhsh’s music has been performed at numerous festivals and venues including Ojai Festival, Mostly Mozart at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and Direct Current Festival at the Kennedy Center. A founding member and co-artistic director of Iranian Female Composers Association, Nourbakhsh is a strong advocate of music education and equal opportunities. She currently teaches composition at Longy School of Music of Bard College. Niloufar holds a doctorate degree from Stony Brook University.

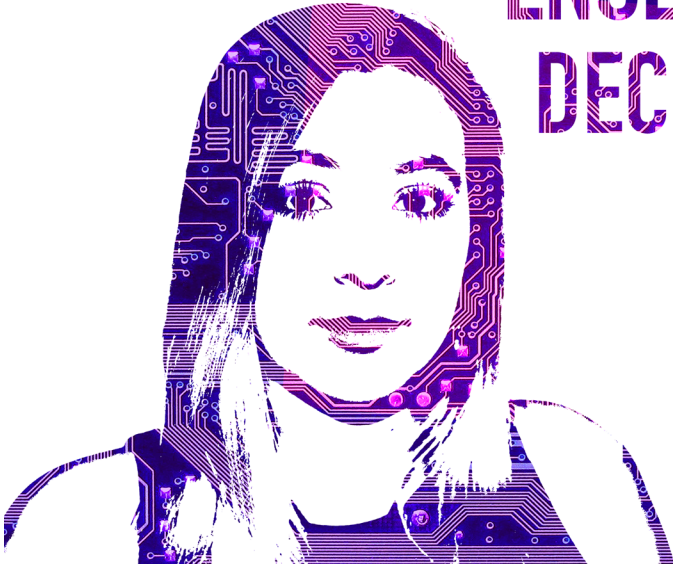


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// Joseph Bohigian

Joseph Bohigian is a composer and performer of acoustic and electronic music. His work focuses on issues of memory, cultural reunification, and diaspora, drawing on his experiences as an Armenian-American raised in the Armenian exile community of Fresno, California. With a strong interest in reestablishing a relationship with lost elements of our past to better envision our future, he makes use of archival materials in his music, such as sound recordings, interviews, and written texts, synthesizing fragments of song lyrics and reviving ancient musical notations. Bohigian’s music has been performed at the International Computer Music Conference (Limerick, Ireland), June in Buffalo, Walt Disney Concert Hall, Suoni Per Il Popolo (Montreal), New Music on the Point Festival, TENOR Conference (Melbourne), and Aram Khachaturian Museum Hall (Yerevan)

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// Chelsea Loew

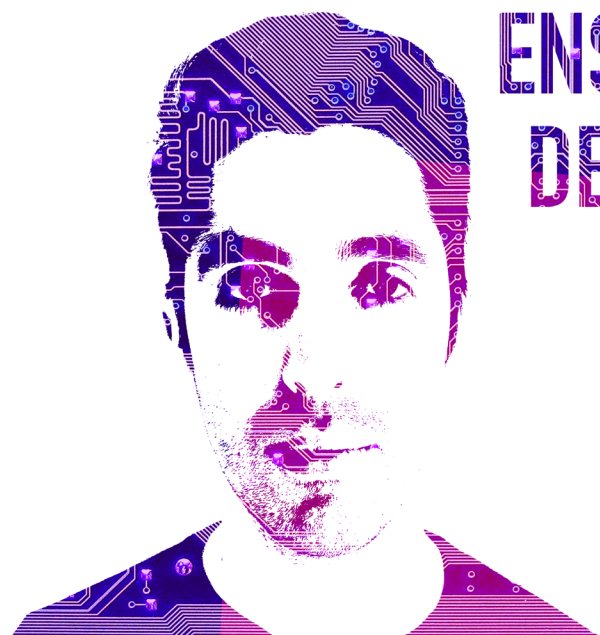
Chelsea Loew is a composer and performer whose interests are rooted in emotion, vulnerability, humanity, and interaction. Her work often explores the relationships (both constructive and damaging) between language, communication, and intended expression. She is the recipient of two Fulbright research grants in composition and is the composer-in-residence for the Taylor Festival Choir. She has worked with groups and performers including Chór Narodowy Forum Muzyki, Yarn/Wire, Latitude 49, Charleston Symphony Orchestra, members of Talea Ensemble, Popebama, and Tony Arnold. Festivals featuring her music include Musica Polonica Nova, Sacrum Profanum at Play Kraków, the Composer's Conference at Brandeis, the National SCI Composers Conference, the Ball State New Music Festival, New Music on the Point, the Oregon Bach Festival, Southern Division ACDA, and Piccolo Spoleto. She has received degrees from Stony Brook University (Ph.D.), Eastman School of Music (M.A.), and College of Charleston (B.A.). Currently, she is an Assistant Professor of Music Theory and Composition at University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

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// Robert Cosgrove

Rob Cosgrove is a percussionist, composer, and artist interested in creating embodied sounding through intermedia installations and performances. 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 exhibited/performed at Pioneer Works (Brooklyn), Harvestworks (Manhattan), Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (Troy), Chicago Design Museum (Chicago), National Gallery of Art (Washington D.C.), Practice Gallery (Philadelphia), Coaxial (Los Angeles), Eastern Bloc (Montréal), DOX Centre for Contemporary Art (Prague), and KM28 (Berlin).



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// Eric Lemmon

Eric Lemmon's artistic practice and academic research is preoccupied with the politics that circumscribe and are woven into our musical technologies and institutions. His music has been reviewed by the New York Times, and he has been awarded numerous fellowships, residencies, and grants for his artistic research and profile as a composer, including from the Fulbright Program and the Tofte Lake Center. Eric's scholarly writing has been published in the Journal for Network Music and Arts and Organised Sound. He received his Ph.D. in Music Composition from Stony Brook University.



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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

*CLICK IMAGE OR TITLE TO OPEN LINK



JEROD SOMMERFELDT // PLANTRONICA



MARI KIMURA // KISMET

SOUND // VIDEO

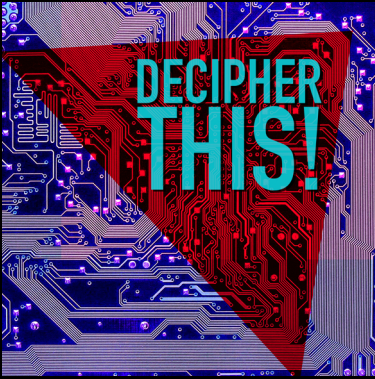


PAUL LEARY // MONOLITH



DARIA SEMEGEN // VIGNETTE TRANSFIGURATIONS

// INITIATIVES

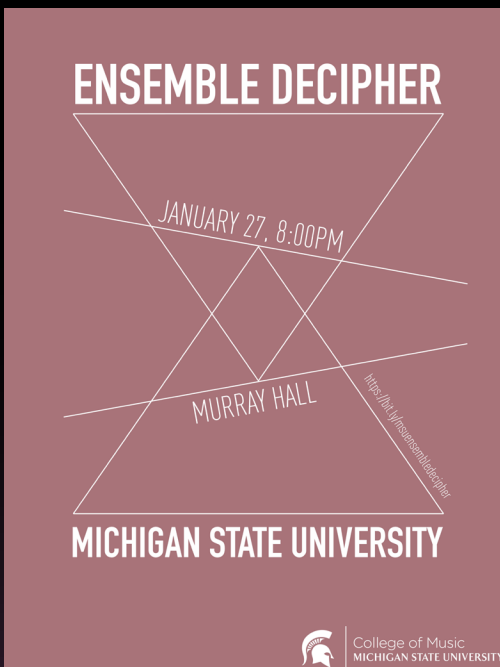
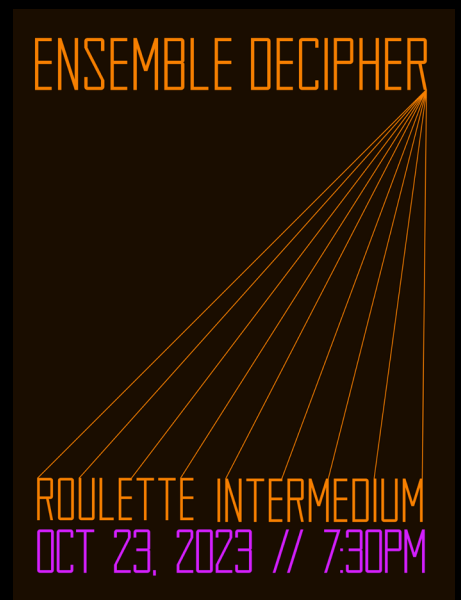


DECIPHER THIS!

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 five years, we have commissioned 40 composers to write new electronic works. World premieres in 2023 include works by Bora Yoon, Erin Rogers, and Lyn Goeringer.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH

We at Ensemble Decipher believe that supporting access, equity, and justice in the arts is integral to our mission. One of the greatest barriers to entering the field of electronic music is access to opportunities for experimentation with unfamiliar technologies. To redress this issue, we hold workshops with students to demystify the technical aspects of the field and perform their compositions, most recently at Michigan State University, SUNY Oswego, and Buffalo State University.