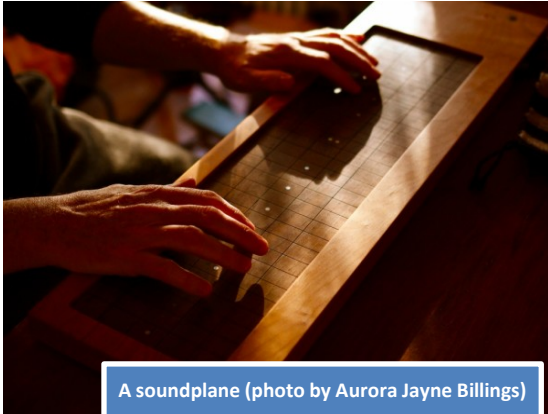


## More than a score of composers coming to SUNY symposium

Posted on January 12, 2015 | By Amy Biancolli, arts writer

Twenty-nine composers and scads of performers are set to participate in a **New Music and Culture Symposium** showcasing SUNY-wide musical innovation scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 29, through Sunday, Jan. 31, at the University at Albany.

Organized by composer, pianist and UAlbany professor **Max Lifchitz**, the symposium will feature performances and lectures by educators, composers, soloists and ensembles from across the state and the SUNY system.



A soundplane (photo by Aurora Jayne Billings)

The slate of nine public concerts will feature ensembles from Buffalo, Stony Brook and New York City and highlight such soloists as baritone Joseph Han, percussionist Tom Kolor, soprano Martha Herr, violinist Claudia Schaer and guitarists James Budinich and Zane Merritt.

Among the new electronic instruments and sonic rarities making their local debuts are the Theremin cello, a reconstruction of an early, stringless electronic instrument devised by Russian inventor Léon Theremin and performed on Jan. 31 by SUNY Buffalo professor Jonathan Golove; and the “soundplane,” a highly sensitive MIDI controller invented by

Randy Jones and performed by SUNY Plattsburgh professor William Pfaff on Jan. 30.

The rectangular wooden instrument “allows you to use the tiniest, tiniest touches (that) will activate the pitches, so you can play something like a synthesizer with a great deal of musical expression,” said Pfaff, who’ll be performing his own work, “Nahootsoii,” which is Navajo for “Twilight.” The device enables subtle variations in volume and pitch, yielding “these really, really sculpted decrescendos and crescendos” and precise, fretless intonation. As a result, “You can use all these different sounds from your synthesizer, but you can play them like you’re playing a violin,” he said.

Other composers participating in the symposium include Stony Brook’s Winnie Yang, Buffalo’s Colin Tucker, Laura Kaminsky of SUNY Purchase, David Heuser of SUNY Potsdam and University of Chicago professor Augusta Read Thomas, a former composer-in-residence with the Chiago Symphony, who is set to give the Friday keynote. The Saturday keynote will be delivered by former UAlbany faculty member Joel Chadabe.

The full lineup is listed below; all events take place at the University at Albany Performing Arts Center, and all are free. For more information, see [www.albany.edu/music](http://www.albany.edu/music)

### Thursday, Jan. 29

5:45 p.m.: Inaugural program. Music by David Heuser, Max Lifchitz, Augusta Read Thomas and Peter Winkler. Performed by soprano Martha Herr, violinist Claudia Schaer and pianist Max Lifchitz.

### Friday, Jan. 30

Noon: Vocal music from SUNY Buffalo. Works by Morton Feldman, Lejaren Hiller, Leigh Landy, Yvar Mikhashoff, Ilza Nogueira, Leo Smit and Nils Vigeland. Performed by soprano Martha Herr, guitarist Jason Holt Mitchell and pianist Max Lifchitz.

1:15 p.m.: “The A.R.T. of Composing.” Keynote address by Augusta Read Thomas, Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar, discussing her time as composer-in-residence with the Chicago Symphony.

2:30 p.m.: Music for violin by Stony Brook composers. Recent works by Tyler Capp, Claudia Schaer, Daria Semegen and Winnie Yang. Performed by violinist Claudia Schaer and Yang on piano.

3:30 p.m.: Vocal and instrumental works by James Budinich, Richard Hugunine, Kevin Truax and Brett Wery. Performed by Caitlin Gotimer and Meroë Khalia Adeë, sopranos; Karen Hosmer, oboe; Allyson Keyser, trumpet; James Budinich, guitar; and pianists Mark Evans, Richard Hugunine and Kevin Truax.

7:30 p.m.: Upstate/downstate, solos and ensembles. New music for chamber ensemble by Allyson Belink, Laura Kaminsky, Max Lifchitz, William Pfaff and Suzanne Farrin. Performed by Ray Furuta, flute; Marianne Gythfeldt, clarinet; Ann Ellsworth, French horn; Claudia Schaer, violin; Kumhee Lee, cello; Winnie Yang, piano and William Pfaff, soundplane.

### **Saturday, Jan. 31**

9 a.m.: "Writing Wrong Notes: The Aesthetics of Subversion in the Music of tUnE-yArDs. Lecture by Andrew Conklin, co-founder of the Language, Music, and Emotion Research Group, discussing the music of Merrill Garbus.

10 a.m.: "The Augmented Guitar." Lecture by Zane Merritt, composer and guitarist, discussing and playing works by SUNY Buffalo's Megan Grace Beugger, Meredith Gilna, Nathan Heidelberger and Colin Tucker.

11 a.m.: "New Frameworks for Music." Keynote by Joel Chadabe, UAlbany professor emeritus, addressing the impact of technology on music in the early 21st century.

1 p.m.: The Buffalo Ensemble performing music by University at Buffalo faculty. Works by David Felder, Jonathan Golove and Jeffrey Stadelman. Performed by violinist Yuki Numata Resnick, pianist Eric Huebner and Jonathan Golove on cello.

2 p.m.: Solo percussion works by European composers, performed by Tom Kolor.

3 p.m.: Music by SUNY Buffalo faculty. Premieres by Chris Ashbaugh, Megan Grace Beugger, Jacob Gotlib, Cort Lippe, Zane Merritt and Matt Sargent. Performed by Jonathan Golove on theremin cello, Cort Lippe on computer, Zane Merritt on electric guitar and the Crossfire Percussion Duo.

5:30 p.m.: Stony Brook Contemporary Chamber Players. Vocal and instrumental works by Andrew Conklin, Perry Goldstein, Sunny Knable, Margaret Schedel and Peter Winkler. Performed by Joseph Han, baritone; Gina Cuffari, bassoon; Amr Selim, French horn; Christopher Howard, percussion; and Seba Ali and Sunny Knable, piano.

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