

KATHERINE BALCH



Composer Brochure

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This catalogue was created in March 2024. All durations are approximate.

CHRONOLOGY

1991	Born on August 17, 1991 in San Diego
2013	"Epiphyte" for piano and orchestra was premiered by the New York Youth Symphony
2014	"Epiphyte" for piano and orchestra won the ASCAP Morton Gould Award and was a finalist for the BMI Student Composer Awards
2014	Won the Albany Symphony Orchestra's "Composer to Center Stage" competition
2014	Won the American Conservatory at Fontainebleau's prix du composition
2014	Won the New England Conservatory's Donald Martino composition prize
2014	"Triple Point" won American Modern Ensemble 8th Annual Composition Competition's first prize (Tier I)
2015	"New Geometry" premiered by Ensemble Intercontemporain
2015	"New Geometry" wins Honorable Mention at the American Modern Ensemble's 10th Annual Competition
2016	"Vidi l'Angelo nel marmo" won the International Society of Double Bassists composition competition's Grand Prize
2016	Won the Yale School of Music's Alumni Association Prize for outstanding community contribution
2017	"Leaf Fabric" for orchestra premiered by the Tokyo Symphony at Suntory Hall
2017	The Albany Symphony Orchestra premieres "drift" at EMPAC
2017	"Vidi l'Angelo nel marmo" won the Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI) student composer award
2017	Named the 2017-2019 Young Concert Artists Composer In Residence
2017	Won the Academy of Arts and Letters Charles Ives Scholarship
2017	"Responding to the Waves" won the Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra's call for scores
2018	"Chamber Music" for orchestra premiered by the Oregon Symphony
2018	"like a broken clock" premiered by the California Symphony
2018	"Leaf Fabric" won the Broadcast Music Inc. (BMI) student composer award
2019	"Artifacts" for violin and orchestra premiered by Robyn Bollinger and the California Symphony
2019	"Prelude" won second prize at the Salvatore Martirano Memorial Composition Award
2019	"drip music" selected for ISCM 2020 World Music Days
2020	"impromptu" premiered by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

- 2020 Awarded the Elliot Carter Rome Prize in Music Fellowship
- 2020 Awarded the Dallas Symphony Orchestra's Women in Classical Music
Symposium Career Advancement Award

Orchestra

Orchestra

Chamber Music

for orchestra (2018)

Commissioned by the Oregon Symphony Orchestra

2.2.2.2-4.2.2.1-timp.3perc(I: vib, 3 wdbl, sizzle cym, slapstick, bng, capiz shell windchime; II: xylo, crot, bass flexitone, 3 sus. cym [sm, med, lg], bng, louis conti shakers (red, black); III. crash cym, lg tam-t, s.d, 3 tom-t, 4 graduated flower pots)-hp.pno-str

12' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: September 29, 2018 · Oregon (USA)

Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall

Conductor: Jun Märkl · Oregon Symphony Orchestra

Drift

for orchestra (2017)

Commissioned by the Albany Symphony Orchestra American Music Festival

3.3.3.2-4.2.2.1-timp.3perc(I: vib, crot [with water bowl], louis conti shakers [black], 2 sus cym (med, lg], sandpaper blocks, bamboo wind chimes, guiro, tri; II: crot [with water bowl], louis conti shakers [black], 2 sus cym [med, lg], guiro, b.d; III: mar, crot [mounted], wdbl [2 sizes], louis conti shakers [black], capiz shell windchimes, slaptick, lg tam-t)-hp-str

11' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: June 3, 2017 · Troy, NY (USA)

EMPAC Center

Conductor: David Alan Miller · Albany Symphony Orchestra

impromptu

for orchestra (2019)

Commissioned by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

3.3.3.3-4.3.2.1-timp.2perc(crot + water bowls, 2 sm flower pots, resonant glass bottles (2), clav (2), sm wdbl, hi-hat, sus. cymbal, tam-t, b.d, vib, s.d, guiro, capiz shell chimes)-hp-str

5' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: January 24, 2020 · Indianapolis, IN (USA)

Hilbert Circle Theater

Conductor: Krzysztof Urbanski · Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

Leaf Catalogue

for orchestra (2015)

Commissioned by the Yale Philharmonia

2.2.2.2-4.2.2.1-timp.2perc(I: crot, glsp, xyl, vib, temp-bl, tri, tamb, slapstick, wooden wind-chimes; II: 2 sus cym [lg, med], tam-t [lg], 3 roto-t, b.d, 3 tub bells (Bb4, D4, F#4)-hp.pno-str

10' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: December 10, 2015 · New Haven, CT (USA)

Woolsey Hall

Conductor: Heejung Park · Yale Philharmonia

Leaf Fabric

for orchestra (2017)

Commissioned by Georg Haas and the Suntory Summer Arts Festival (Tokyo, Japan)

2.2.2.2-4.2.2.1-timp.2perc(crot, vib, mar, tri, sandpaper blocks, temp-bl, wdbl [med, sm] bamboo windchimes, capiz shell windchimes, brake drum, slapstick, 3 sus cym [sm, med, lg], sizzle cym, 2 tom-t, bng, s.d, lg tam-t, b.d)-hp.pno-str

15' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: September 7, 2017 (J)

Suntory Hall

Conductor: Ilan Volkov · Tokyo Symphony Orchestra

like a broken clock

for orchestra (2018)

Commissioned by the California Symphony Orchestra

2.2.2.2-4.2.2.1-timp-str

9' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: October 2, 2019 (USA)

Conductor: David Loebel · New England Conservatory Philharmonia

musica pyralis

for orchestra (2023)

Commissioned by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra through Amplifying Voices, a New Music USA initiative with funding in part from the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, and by the New York Philharmonic, Santa Rosa Symphony, Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra and Erie Philharmonic

Most of my music tries to filter the sights and sounds of my surrounding environment through the instruments I'm writing for, rather like a musical sieve. In musica pyralis, [Music of the Firefly], the orchestra sings the summer soundscape of my home in rural Connecticut, where, thanks to little light pollution, fireflies bashfully illuminate the nightly cacophony of frogs and crickets and many other little creatures. Nature is the best orchestrator – despite the saturated soundscape, each noise-maker

can hear and be heard as they occupy distinct registral and timbral niches. I try to capture a glimpse of this miraculously transparent density in this (mostly) brisk concert opener, and set to song the gently omnipresent twinkle of the phontinus pyralis – the Common Eastern Firefly. – Katherine Balch

2(2.pic).2.2.1.cbsn-4.2.2.1-timp.3perc(I. vib, lg sus cym, med tri, lg tri, capiz shell (or glass) wind chimes; II. vib crot, s.d, bng, coarse ceramic tile, guiro; III. tub bells (2 oct), b.d, hi-hat, med sus cym, sm tri, guiro-hp(detuned).pno-str Woodwinds double on harmonicas of various tunings; see performance notes in score for details.

11' "

Material on hire

Premiere: February 16, 2024 · Pittsburgh, PA (USA)

Heinz Hall

Conductor: Manfred Honeck · Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

Chamber Orchestra - Ensemble

all around the sea blazed gold

for large ensemble (2022)

Commissioned by the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association; Gustavo Dudamel, Music & Artistic Director

1(pic).1.1(bcl).1(cbsn)-1.1.1.btn.0-2perc(I: vib, rainstick, lg tom-t [16"-18"], lg sus cym, ocean drum [shared]; II: xylo, glsp, 4 crot, med sus cym, ocean drum [shared], s.d, b.d, tam-t, assorted coins, med/lg glass, mason jar, guiro, small tri)-pno-2vn.va.vc.db

Material on hire

Premiere: February 7, 2023 · Los Angeles (USA)

Walt Disney Concert Hall

Conductor: Paolo Bortolameolli · LA Phil New Music Group

Chamber Music

version for chamber orchestra (2018 - 2021)

Commissioned by the Oregon Symphony Orchestra, arranged for David Dzubay and the Indiana University New Music Ensemble

1(pic, afl).1(ca).1(bcl).asax.1-1.1.1.1-2perc(I: vib, xylo, wdbl, capiz shell chimes, tri, sizzle cym, med sus cym, bng, tam-t; II: crot, louis conti shaker [black], 2 resonant glass bottles [sm, med], 3 graduated flower pots [i.e., 2", 4", 5"], coarse ceramic tile, bass flexitone, lg sus cym, s.d, med floor tom, lg floor tom, b.d-hp.pno(prepared)-str(1.1.1.1.1)

11' "

Material on hire

Premiere: April 14, 2022 · Bloomington (USA)

Indiana University

Indiana University New Music Ensemble

New Geometry

Version for 13 players (2015)

Arrangement commissioned by Contemporaneous

1(pic, afl).0.1(bcl).tsax.0-1.0.1.0-1perc(lg tam-t, 3 sus cym, 5 wdbl, bng, 2 sm gong, 2 cowbells, tri, tamb, s.d, wooden wind chimes, vib, crot)-hp.pno-str

9' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: April 11, 2017 · New York, NY (USA)

Roulette Intermedium

Conductor: David Bloom · Contemporaneous

New Geometry

for mixed ensemble (2015)

8-player version

Commissioned by IRCAM Manifeste (Paris, France)

1(pic.afl).0.2(bcl).0-0.0.1.0-1perc(lg tam-t, 3 sus cym, 5 wdbl, bng, 2 sm gongs, 2 cowbells, tri, tamb, s.d, wooden wind chimes, vib, crot)-pno-vn.vc.db

10' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30365 (Score and parts)

Premiere: June 27, 2015 · Paris (F)

IRCAM Manifeste, Centquatre Salle 400

Ensemble Intercontemporaine

Una Corda

for prepared piano and ensemble (2016)

Commissioned by LA Philharmonic National Composer's Intensive

1.0.1.1-0.1.1.0-1perc(crot, vib, sus cym, sizzle cym, glass wind chimes, assorted coins, lg mason jar, lg can or metallic bowl, 5 flower pots, b.d, knitting needle, bow)-pno-str(1.1.1.1.1)

8' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: October 1, 2016 · Los Angeles, CA (USA)

Walt Disney Concert Hall

Conductor: Christopher Rountree · wildUp

String Orchestra - String Ensemble

music for young water that danced beneath my feet

for percussion, harp, celeste, and string orchestra (2021)

Co-Commissioned by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Music Director Favio Luisi with generous support of the Norma and Don Stone New Music Fund and by the Bravo! Vail Music Festival

2 perc (I: tub bells, vib, lg sus cym, small frog guiro, 2 resonant small/medium-sized rocks; II: xylo prepared with pic wdbl, guiro, 2 glass bottles [see performance notes], lg and med sus cym, b.d, capiz shell chimes, sm tri, 2 resonant small/medium-sized rocks)-hp.cel-str(min. 12/10/8/8/6)

8' "

Material on hire

Premiere: June 30, 2022 · Vail, Co (USA)
Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater
Bravo! Vail Music Festival
Conductor: Fabio Luisi · Dallas Symphony Orchestra

Solo Instruments with Orchestra or Ensemble

Violin

Artifacts

Concerto for violin and orchestra (2019)

Commissioned by the California Symphony Orchestra

I Prelude - II Aria - III Intermezzo - IV Dance

2.2.2.2-4.2.2.1-timp.2perc(crot, mar, 2 clav, 3 graduated flowerpots, sm wdbl, tri, 2 egg shakers, guiro, frog guiro, sandpaper blocks, slapstick, brakedrum, s.d, hi-hat, lg sus. cymbal, vib, capiz shell chimes, bamboo chimes, castanets, bng, lg tom-t, lg tam-t, b.d)-str

25' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: May 5, 2019 · Walnut Creek, CA (USA)
Leshner Center for the Arts
Robyn Bollinger, violin · Conductor: Donato Cabrera · California Symphony Orchestra

Violoncello

whisper concerto

for solo cello and orchestra (2022)

Commissioned by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Staatstheater Darmstadt, and BBC Radio 3

2(2.pic).2.2(2.bcl).2(2.cbsn)-4.2.1.bbtn.0-timp.2perc(I: mar, tub bells, glsp, lg and sm tri, guiro, slapstick [or whip], md sus cym, lg sheet of bubble wrap; II: vib, crot, tam-t, lg and md sus cym, s.d, 2 sm glass bottles, capiz shell or glass wind chimes)-pno(with preparations)-str(min 12.10.8.8.6)

25' "

Material on hire

Premiere: April 20, 2023 · Dallas, TX (USA)
Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center
Zlatomir Fung, cello · Conductor: Gemma New · Dallas Symphony Orchestra

2 and more Solo Instruments

music for young water that danced beneath my feet

for percussion, harp, celeste, and string orchestra (2021)

Co-Commissioned by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Music Director Fabio Luisi with generous support of the Norma and Don Stone New Music Fund and by the Bravo! Vail Music Festival

2 perc (I: tub bells, vib, lg sus cym, small frog guiro, 2 resonant small/medium-sized rocks; II: xylo

prepared with pic wdbl, guiro, 2 glass bottles [see performance notes], lg and med sus cym, b.d,
capiz shell chimes, sm tri, 2 resonant small/medium-sized rocks)-hp.cel-str(min. 12/10/8/8/6)

8' "

Material on hire

Premiere: June 30, 2022 · Vail, Co (USA)

Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater

Bravo! Vail Music Festival

Conductor: Fabio Luisi · Dallas Symphony Orchestra

Chamber Music

different gravities

for piano trio (2023)

Commissioned by Longleash Trio and the Library of Congress Serge Koussevitzky Music Foundation

18' "

Ordernumber: ED 30451 (Score and parts)

Premiere: November 7, 2023 · Louisville, Kentucky (USA)

Comstock Concert Hall

Longleash

drip / spin

for flute and piano

Commissioned by Young Concert Artists, Inc.

10' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30360 (Score and parts)

Premiere: March 18, 2018 · Washington, DC (USA)

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Anthony Trionfo, flute; Albert Cano-Smit, piano

drip music

for string quartet (2019)

Commissioned for the Argus Quartet by Concert Artists Guild, with support from the Adele and John Gray Endowment Fund

9' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30358 (Score and parts)

Premiere: May 6, 2019 · New York, NY (USA)

Alice Tully Hall

Argus Quartet

Kalesa Ed Kaluca

for double bass septet (2019)

Commissioned by Tanglewood Music Center

10' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30357 (Score and parts)

Premiere: July 7, 2019 · Lenox, MA (USA)

Seiji Ozawa Hall

Fellows of the Tanglewood Music Center

Musica Spolia

version for flute, viola, and piano (2021)

Co-commissioned by L'Instant Donné and Young Concert Artists, Inc.

6' "

Ordernumber: ED 30420 (Score and parts)

Premiere: April 14, 2022 · New York (USA)

The Morgan Library

Young Concert Artists

Musica Spolia

version for flute, violin, percussion, and piano (2021)

Co-commissioned by L'Instant Donné and Young Concert Artists, Inc.

6' "

Ordernumber: ED 30421 (Score and parts)

Premiere: Mar 2022 · Bagnolet (F)

Le Podcast de L'Instant Donné

L'Instant Donné

(Premiered via Podcast Stream)

New Geometry

for mixed ensemble (2015)

8-player version

Commissioned by IRCAM Manifeste (Paris, France)

1(pic.af1).0.2(bcl).0-0.0.1.0-1perc(lg tam-t, 3 sus cym, 5 wdbl, bng, 2 sm gongs, 2 cowbells, tri, tamb, s.d, wooden wind chimes, vib, crot)-pno-vn.vc.db

10' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30365 (Score and parts)

Premiere: June 27, 2015 · Paris (F)

IRCAM Manifeste, Centquatre Salle 400

Ensemble Intercontemporaine

Prelude

for cello and piano (2018)

Commissioned by Young Concert Artists, Inc.

11' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30359 (Performance material)

Premiere: February 19, 2019 · New York, NY (USA)

Merkin Hall

Zlatomir Fung (cello) and Tengku Irfan (piano)

Thread, unfurled

for flute and piano (2016)

Mov. I of Music About Glowworms (2016-2017)

Commissioned by Duo Axis with support from NewMusicUSA

9' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30363 (Score and part)

Premiere: March 15, 2016 · Rochester, NY (USA)

Ciminelli Formal Lounge, Eastman School of Music

Duo Axis

Trio

for double bass, percussion, and piano (2018 (2021))

This commission has been made possible by the Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Program, with generous funding provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Chamber Music America Endowment Fund

9' "

Ordernumber: ED 30419 (Score and parts)

Premiere: February 26, 2018 · West Chester, PA (USA)

West Chester University

Bearthoven

With Each Breathing

for string quartet (2015)

Commissioned by the Sante Fe Chamber Music Festival

10' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30366 (Score and parts)

Premiere: August 7, 2015 · Santa Fe, NM (USA)

St. Francis Auditorium at the New Mexico Museum of Art

FLUX Quartet

Keyboard Instruments

Piano

Piano solo

Two Memories

for solo piano (2020)

Commissioned by Young Concert Artists, Inc.

4' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30369 (Score)

Premiere: April 28, 2021 · New York, NY (USA)

Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center

Albert Cano Smit, piano

Vocal Music

Choral music

Women's / Children's Choir

aeiou

for SSAA unaccompanied choir (2014)

Commissioned by the Yale Camerata

4' "

Ordernumber: ED 30415 (Choral score)

Premiere: December 11, 2014 · New Haven, CT (USA)

Woolsey Hall, Yale University

Yale Camerata

Symphonic vocal works

Solo Voice with Orchestra or Instruments

waste knot

for soprano, ensemble and tape cassettes (2021)

Text by Alexandra Kleeman

(English)

written for Ensemble Modern, Sara Caneva, and Nina Guo

1(pic).0.1(bcl).1-0.1.1.0-2perc(I. crot, wdbl, 2 resonant glass bottles, industrial chain, 2 sm terra cotta flower pots, deck of cards, sheet of bubble wrap, s.d, b.d, super ball mallet; II. cor, wdbl, 2 resonant glass bottles, industrial chain, 2 sm terra cotta flower pots, deck of cards, sheet of bubble wrap, s.d, b.d, super ball mallet)-pno-str(1.1.1.1.1)

13' "

Material on hire

Premiere: February 19, 2023 · Frankfurt/Main (D)

Frankfurt LAB, Halle 1

Nina Guo, Sopran · Conductor: Sara Caneva · Ensemble Modern

Several Solo Voices with Orchestra or Instruments

Illuminate

for 3 vocal soloists (SSMez) and orchestra (2020)

Texts by Arthur Rimbaud, Adrienne Rich, Anne Carson, Alejandra Pizarnik, and Sharon Olds

(English)

Commissioned by the California Symphony

2.2.2.2-2.2.2.0-timp.2perc (I. glsp, crot [with water bowl], bamboo wind chime, 2 tri[lg, sm], 2 clav, 2 wdbl [sm, piccolo], 2 glass bottles, course ceramic plate/tile, egg shaker, 2 rocks, slapstick, brake drum, s.d, med. sus cym, b.d; II. vib, tub bells, 4 Thai gongs, 2 flower pots, bongos, course ceramic plate/tile, egg shaker, 2 rocks, 2 sus cym [lg, sm], tam-t)-hp-str Vocal soloists: 2 sopranos, mezzo-soprano

35' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: March 26, 2022 · Walnut Creek, CA (USA)

The Leshner Center for the Arts

Kelly Guerra, mezzo-soprano

Molly Netter, soprano

Alexandra Smither, soprano · Conductor: Donato Cabrera · California Symphony

One or More Voices a cappella

these intervals matter

for soprano, crystal glasses, and gravel (2020)

Text by E.M. Forster

Written for Nola Richardson

6' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30368 (Score)

Voice and Keyboard Instrument

estrangement

for soprano and piano (2020)

(English)

Commissioned by the Brooklyn Art Song Society with support from the National Endowment for the Arts and dedicated to Lucy Fitz Gibbon and Michael Brofman

24' "

Ordernumber: ED 30424 (Score (also performing score))

Premiere: April 10, 2021

Online

Lucy Fitz Gibbon, soprano; Michael Brofman, piano

Voice(s) and one other Instrument

Phrases

for soprano and double bass (2017)

Text by Rimbaud (from "Illuminations")

Written for Departure Duo

8' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30362 (Score (also performing score))

Premiere: February 25, 2017 · New York, NY (USA)

DiMenna Center for Classical Music

Charlotte Mundy, soprano; Doug Balliet, double bass

Vidi l'Angelo nel marmo

for soprano and double bass (2015)

Text by Michelangelo

Commissioned by Departure Duo

7' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30364 (Score and part)

Premiere: May 6, 2016 · Boston, MA (USA)

The Keller Room, New England Conservatory

Departure Duo