

**Illinois State University
Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts
School of Music**

Guest Artist Recital Series

Unheard-of Ensemble

Ford Fourquarean, *Clarinet*

Erica Dicker, *Violin*

Iva Casian-Lakos, *Cello*

Daniel Anastasio, *Piano*

**This event is sponsored by the Harold K. Sage Foundation
and the Illinois State University Foundation Fund.**

**Kemp Recital Hall
November 1, 2022
Tuesday Evening
8:00 p.m.**

This is the thirty-fourth program of the 2022-2023 season.

Program

Please silence all electronic devices for the duration of the concert. Thank you.

Christopher Stark – *Fire Ecologies* (2021-22) 55’ Video art by Zlatko Ćosić

Scene 1: Terra Incognita

Uncharted territory. Earth becoming an alien planet. Distance from nature.

Scene 2: Jeux d'eau

Play of Water

– after Ravel

Field recordings of water are digitized, fragmented, and obliterated until fountains of harmony spill forth and glisten.

Scene 3: Louange à l'éternité de Mère Nature

Praise to the Eternity of Mother Nature

– after Messiaen

A meditation on the eternity of Mother Nature.

Scene 4: Infernal Dance

– after Stravinsky

A prophetic and burning firebird is conjured through an energetic dance as a harbinger of catastrophic Climate Change.

Scene 5: Dypt inne i barskogen

Deep in the Forest

– after Grieg

Solitude and space for contemplation. A reflection on what we've lost.

Scene 6: Marche funèbre

Funeral March

– after Chopin

A field recording of a high-voltage power line in the Sierra Nevada is slowed down, revealing electric cycles in march-like rhythm; the rhythm of human progress and destruction.

Scene 7: Terra Incognita (Reprise)

Uncharted territory. Earth becoming an alien planet. Distance from nature.

PROGRAM NOTE

Fire Ecologies is a fifty-five minute unique musical and visual experience that explores American landscapes through the lens of climate change. Composer Christopher Stark and video artist Zlatko Ćosić embarked on a journey across the United States capturing audio and video for this multimedia experience. The work incorporates field recordings of the 2020 California wildfires along with sonic and visual imagery from Chris's trip across Montana, Oregon, and California as well as parts of Colorado. Zlatko gathered footage from the American heartland surrounding Missouri as well as long form explorations of nature surrounding St. Louis. Stark created a work that can be experienced both in concert halls as well as in nature from gallery spaces to the Gowanus Canal.

ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE

Unheard-of//Ensemble is a contemporary chamber ensemble dedicated to connecting new music to communities across the United States through the development and performance of adventurous programs, using technology and interactive multimedia. Unheard-of is committed to the idea that new music belongs in every community and implements this mission through concerts and educational workshops throughout New York, as well as across the United States through touring. Unheard-of's scope and impact has grown dramatically since forming in 2014, now a nation-wide community across multiple artistic genres. With an approach that is open and welcoming of all voices, Unheard-of strives to be a vehicle for imaginative voices novel and experienced, experimental and traditional, uncomfortable and accessible.

Unheard-of commissions large-scale multimedia projects, runs its own summer workshop for emerging composers (the Collaborative Composition Initiative or CCI), and self-presents collaborative concerts with community organizations like the Gowanus Dredgers and Tideland Institute. These innovative projects range from concerts aboard rafts in the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, to gallery spaces and concert halls. Unheard-of's 2022-23 season features new commissions by Nickitas Demos, Lila Meretzky, Adam Mirza, and “Unheard-of plays Unheard-of”, a concert of premieres written by the ensemble. This October the ensemble tours Ohio, visiting Kent State University, Kent State's Stark Campus, and Oberlin. In November, Unheard-of has a residency at Washington University of St. Louis, visits Illinois State University, and performs on Crosstown Arts's series in Memphis, Tennessee. Unheard-of's spring features a four-day guest residency with the Northwestern University composition studio, a concert at Chicago's Constellation, and a collaboration with Minnesota-based Spitting Image Collective workshopping and premiering new multimedia works written by the collective.