

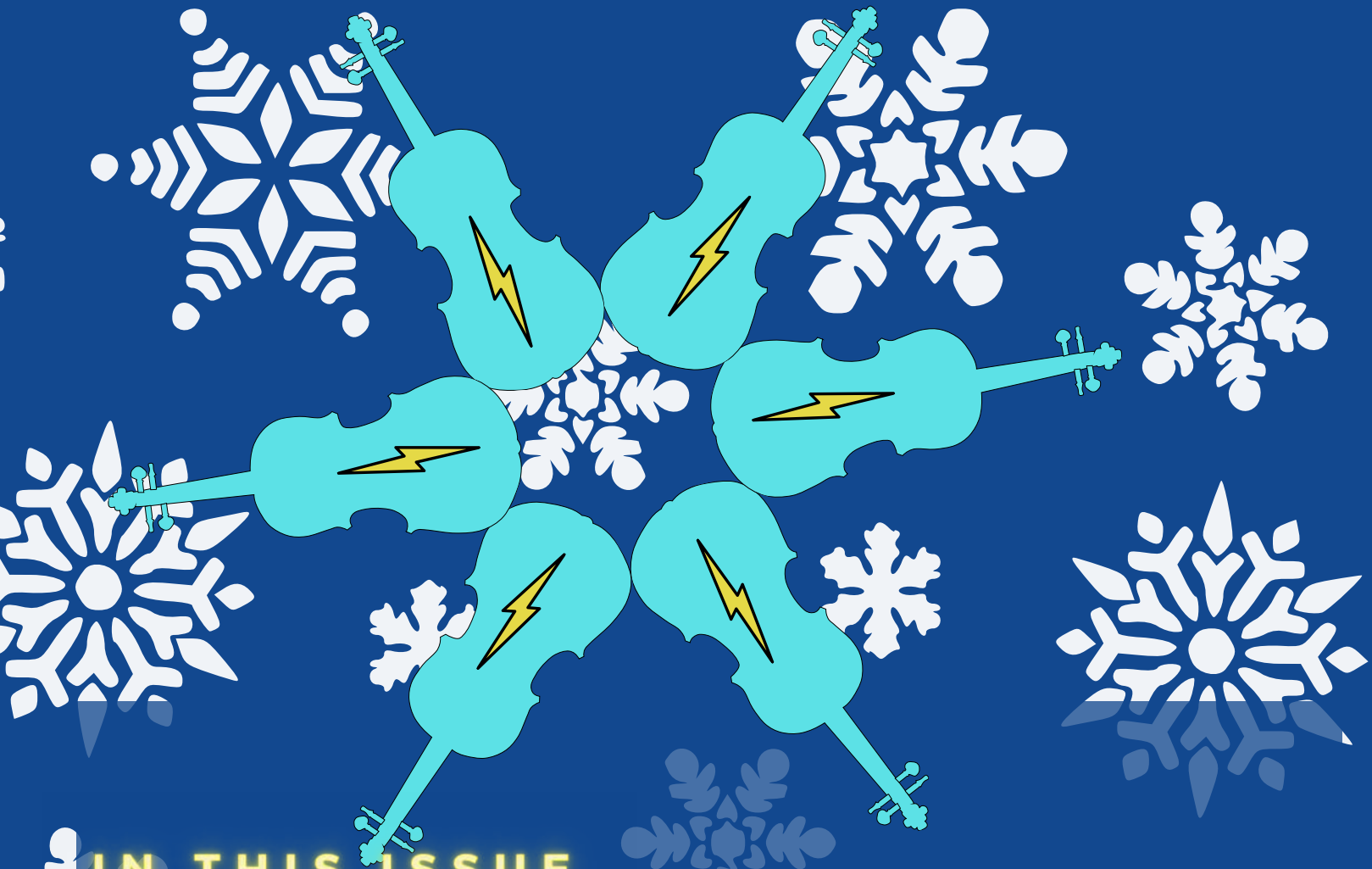
Cello Online

VOL. 28 NO. 2

Winter 2021

WELCOME TO THE NEXUS OF THE NEXT STEPS IN CELLO!

Newsletter of the New Directions Cello Association & Festival

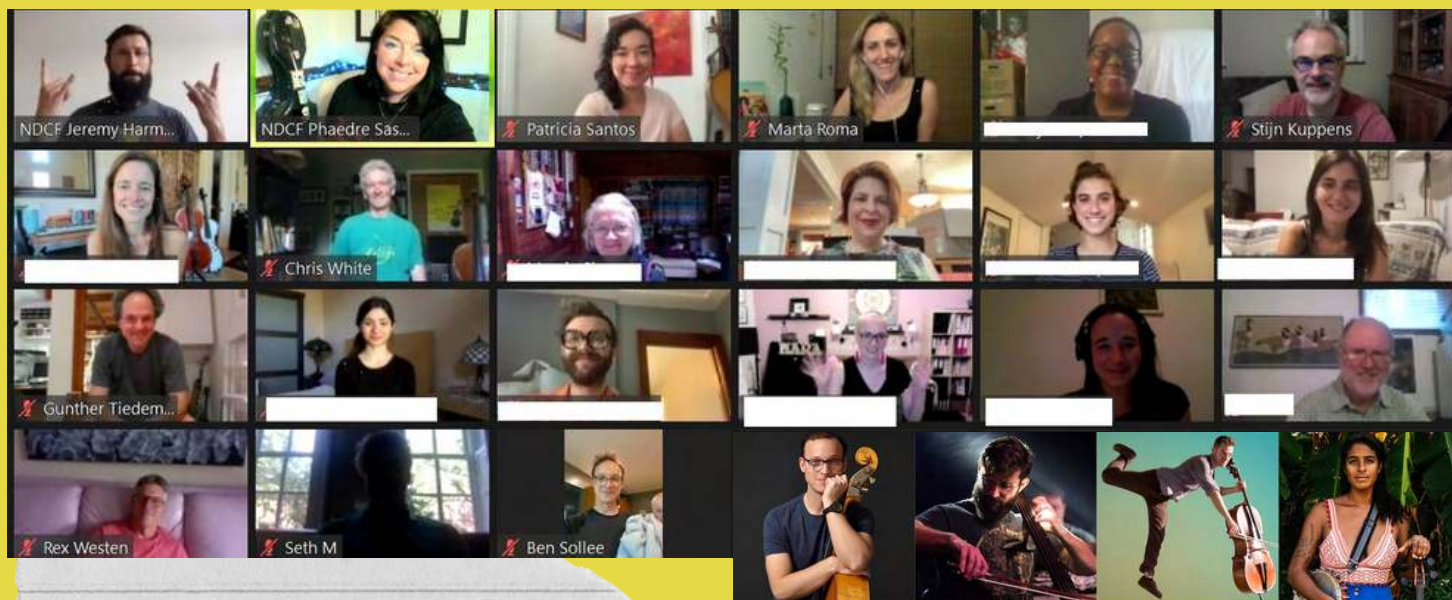


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A LOOK BACK AT NDCF 2021

This June saw NDCF take place virtually for the first time. We were thrilled to have participants from all over the U.S., Canada, Spain, Belgium, Germany, and Singapore! Thank you to all of our amazing guest artists Leyla McCalla, Ben Sollee, Seth Parker Woods, Artyom Manukyan, Jake Charkey, Marta Roma, NDCF Founder Chris White, and NDCF Artistic Director Jeremy Harman for sharing your knowledge and your hearts with us. We hope to see you all in 2022!



We love to hear from you!
If you have any feedback or
suggestions for future
Festivals, please let us know.
info@newdirectionscello.org

NEW DIRECTIONS CELLO FESTIVAL



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Seth Parker Woods

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Spotlight: Sera Smolen



Image by Ernst van Loon

Dr. Sera Smolen has been leading workshops and seminars about New Directions for teachers and students, internationally, for 30 years. She loves to share strategies for music-making, and different schools of thought around improvisation, finding your own voice, and becoming comfortable in different genres. She currently serves as Vice President of the NDCA Board.

Dr. Smolen recently completed a tour of Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands, both performing and holding classes in improvisation. She is pictured below with guitarist/singer-songwriter and husband Tom Mank and fellow NDCA Board Member Stijn Kuppens. She and Tom have been performing together since 1994, and this fall marked their twelfth European tour.



"I invited cellist/improviser Sera Smolen to Belgium in November 2021 during her European tour to share her experiences on integrating improvisation in cello teaching. Besides the wonderful informal exchanges we shared, Sera gave five workshops with five different groups, showcasing a range of pedagogical material in which she collaborated, including her latest publication 'Off the Page'. Sera made a profound and lasting impression on myself and on a number of students. I discovered a wonderful cellist, teacher and improviser, and a new friend." - Stijn Kuppens, Belgium

Improv class at the University of Lübeck.



Improv class in Leuven.



With fellow NDCA Board Member Gunther Tiedemann and festival guest artist Marei Seuthe in Germany.



"Off the Page"

From Seafarer Press

Interested to open up your improv skills - or improv teaching skills? Dr. Smolen collaborated with composer Elizabeth Alexander to create "Off the Page." This is a collection of 9 songs which allow players to read and improvise in different styles and genres from Blues to Funk, the Japanese Hirajoshi scale, the famous Roma Gypsy scale, and more. This collection also invites improvisers to modulate keys, step-by-step from C major up to 3 # and 3 b. Available at jwpepper.com, "Off the Page" includes:

- Sheet music for your instrument, with bowings, fingerings, and breath-marks from master teachers.
- Practice strategies for each song, For example: "what to listen for" and "what you will see on the page."
- Listening tracks for each song are played by master musicians specializing in each style.
- Practicing tracks so you can play each song, putting yourself inside the band.

Dr. Smolen's website offers resources for ND Cello playing and teaching in addition to recordings, including a 2021 release with Tom Mank, "[Like a Raindrop on a Feather](#)." Visit her site to learn more about her projects or to get in touch: <https://serasmolen.com/>



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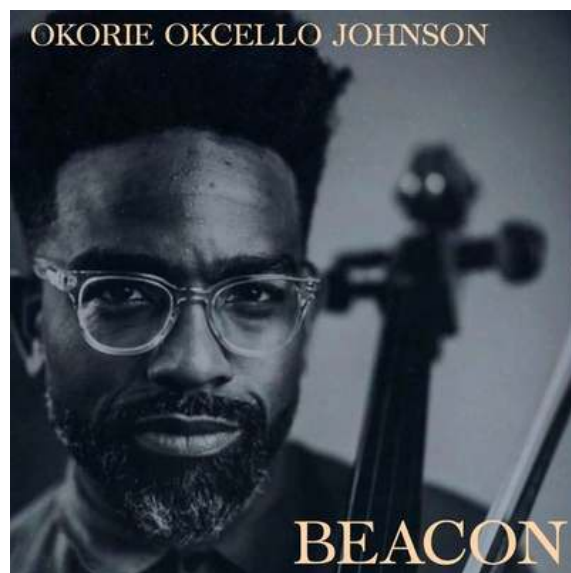
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[Kaitlyn Raitz, Tennessee USA](#)



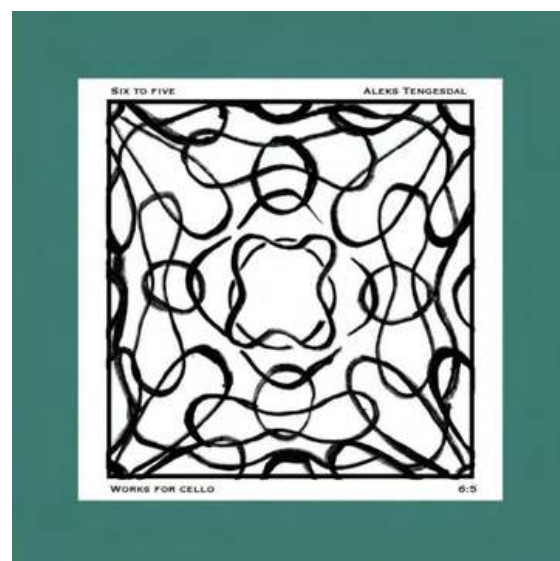
[Gunther Tiedemann, Köln DE](#)



[Okorie Johnson, Georgia USA](#)



[Half Pelican, Colorado USA](#)

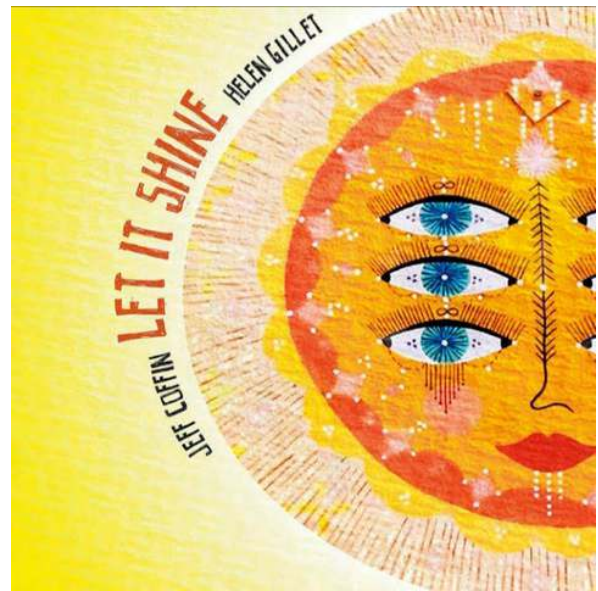


[Aleks Tengesdal, North Dakota USA](#)

Recent releases cont.



Mia Pixley, California USA



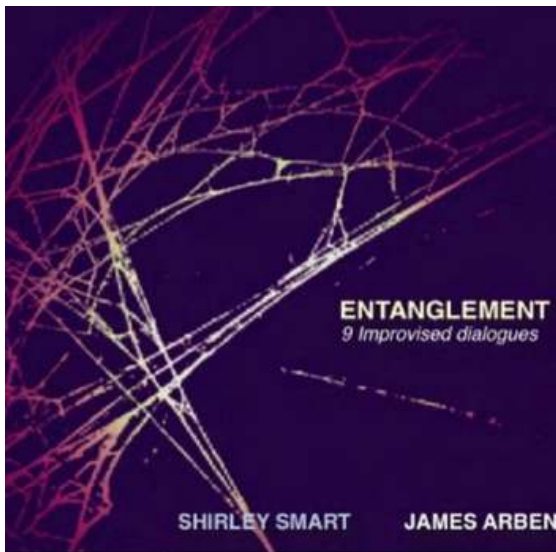
Helen Gillet & Jeff Coffin, Louisiana USA



Natasha Jaffe, Berlin DE



The Wires, Missouri USA



Arben/Smart Duo, London UK

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<https://newdirectionscello.org/shop/>

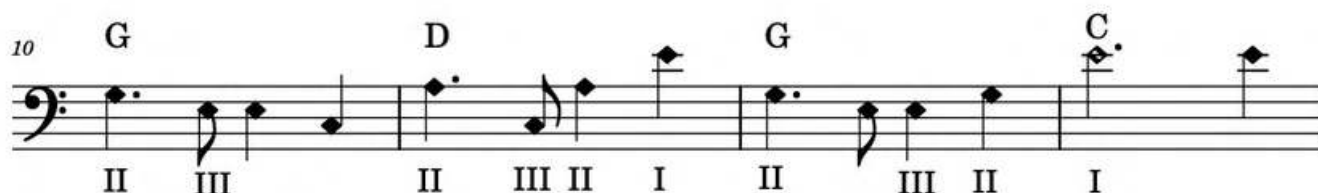
Here's an all-harmonics version of "Auld Lang Syne" to get you ready for the new year (or International Cello Day on 29 Dec)! You can play the whole thing in one position, I've marked in extended third here (you can also play it in second position, replacing the 4th finger notes with 1st). For an added challenge, try playing the chord root on a lower string. If you would like me to send you a PDF, please email patricia@newdirectionscello.org

Enjoy! - PS

Auld Lang Syne

Cello Harmonics

Composer unknown
Lyrics by Robert Burns
arr. P Santos



New Cello Videos of Note

Julius Eastman's "The Holy Presence of Joan d'Arc"

Commissioned by UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance for the 2021 Tune In Festival, this Looking Glass Arts project was produced and directed by Marika Hughes and released last month. The video includes the powerful Julius Eastman work for ten cellos, and the ensemble contains previous NDCF guest artists Tomeka Reid and Seth Parker Woods.

Please visit www.lookingglassarts.org for more info and view the video here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbIVXCd1V6c

An exclusive preview...

of Belgian cellist Stijn Kuppens' upcoming video clip "The Heidelberg Variations." This clip will be released in 2022, but the NDCF community can have a preview!



Please visit this unlisted link to see it before the release: <https://youtu.be/syLjwXmimC4>

The Heidelberg Variations for cello solo, composed by Stijn Kuppens, is a tribute to "printing art", with references to one of its icons "the Heidelberg press." Imagine one day in a printing company, starting in the morning when starting up all the machines, and finishing in the evening, when deadlines need to be met. At the same time there is a theme with variations, which explains the title "The Heidelberg Variations," obviously referring to Bach's "The Goldberg Variations." The musical theme represents a Heidelberg printing press. Every variation of the theme becomes more complex and modern, as the actual press did throughout history. The rhythmic grooves are based upon the repetitive sound of a printing press.

Video footage of Heidelberg presses by kind permission of Jules Bobach and the Industriemuseum of Ghent. Learn more at www.innercello.com

NEW DIRECTIONS CELLO FESTIVAL

We thank our sponsors for their support of this year's festival!



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The NDCA & F is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation.

Cello City Online

Patricia Santos, Editor

Corbin Keep, Assistant Editor

Please send your Cello City Online questions, comments, and contributions to patricia@newdirectionscello.org