

28th Annual  
**NEW DIRECTIONS CELLO FESTIVAL**

2023 VIRTUAL SCHEDULE

*Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11am-7pm EST via Zoom*

**11:00am-11:50am - *Agustin Uriburu: Basic Tools for Improvisation***

This workshop will explore various ways in which cellists can explore playing over simple chord changes. Starting simply with one note per chord, the group will explore various tools and ideas which can be utilized and developed to create balance in one's improvisation and allow cellists to "see" the chords on the fingerboard.

**12:00-12:50pm - *George Crotty: An Improviser's Approach to Ornamentation***

Left Hand ornaments and right hand extended techniques can open the door to a spectrum of sonic minutiae and add depth and character to one's improvisation and creative language. In this workshop, cellists will explore ornaments from celtic, arabic, hindustani and western traditions and way in which they can be utilized creatively.

**1:00-1:50pm - *Stijn Kuppens: Advanced Pizzicato Techniques***

In this workshop, Stijn will discuss his unique approach to both pizzicato and percussive techniques on the cello; how he developed them and how he continues to push himself to evolve. Using examples from his composition *Peyoneer Bouchakour*, the workshop will start by disassembling sections of the piece and cellists will learn small excerpts which they can then utilize in their own creative ways, combining right hand and left hand pizzicato in increasingly complex patterns. Stijn will finish by sharing the background story behind the piece and giving a full performance!

**2:00-3:00pm – BREAK**

**3:00-3:50pm - *Patricia Santos: Playing & Singing: Making the Rhythmic & Textural Most of Yourself***

In this workshop cellists will get a thorough walk through of how to get from simple cello settings (drones, block chunking, etc.) to more complicated grooves, then ultimately, to hold two completely independent rhythms across the cello and voice. Cellists will be shown how to slightly offset the vocal rhythm from the cello rhythm to create more motion and texture as a single performer, "filling the grid" – and how this helps highlight when they travel together on the beat.

**4:00-4:50pm - *Jeremy Harman: An Introduction to Improvising over Non-Diatonic Chord Changes***

There are many wonderful harmonic possibilities within a single major or minor key, but chord progressions that involve changes of key and tonal center are a big part of jazz and many other genres and often can yield even more interesting results. Learning to improvise over these kinds of chord changes can be challenging however, so this workshop will explore ways of practicing to get more comfortable when changing keys and making scale alterations.

**5:00-5:50pm - *Mia Pixley (with Andrew Carruthers): The Ripple Cello***

In this workshop, we will join Mia and Andrew from his actual workshop in California as they discuss origin and making of the Ripple Cello (featured in Strings magazine), a truly 21st century cello that pushes the boundaries of traditional instrument making.

**6:00-7:00pm - *Open Mic for Virtual Participants***

28th Annual  
**NEW DIRECTIONS CELLO FESTIVAL**  
2023 IN-PERSON SCHEDULE

Friday June 23<sup>rd</sup>

**1:30-3:30pm** - Arrival and registration window.

**3:30-5:00pm** - Welcome Session & WORKSHOP BLOCK

***Kely Pinheiro: The Art of Playing Brazilian Music***

In this workshop cellists will learn the art of playing Brazilian music with contemporary techniques. This workshop will focus on innovative ways to incorporate rhythms, melodies, and harmonies from Brazilian music into one's cello playing. With hands-on exercises and demonstrations, cellists will explore extended bow techniques and create unique textures and sounds in their playing.

**5:30-7:00pm** – Dinner

**7:00pm** – Concert #1 @ BOMBYX Center for Arts and Equity

***Vincent Courtois - Kely Pinheiro – Agustin Uriburu***

BOMBYX Center for Arts and Equity

Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup>

**7:15-8:30am** – Breakfast

**9:30-10:45am** WORKSHOP BLOCK (select one!)

***Kely Pinheiro: Pizzicato Approaches to Accompanying and Comping***

In this workshop cellists will explore new ways to use pizzicato, such as arpeggios, broken chords, and syncopated rhythms, to create bass lines and chords that add depth and complexity to their cello playing and performance.

***Patricia Santos: Playing and Singing: Making the Rhythmic and Textural Most of Yourself***

In this workshop cellists will get a thorough walk through of how to get from simple cello settings (drones, block chunking, etc.) to more complicated grooves, then ultimately, to hold two completely independent rhythms across the cello and voice. Cellists will be shown how to slightly offset the vocal rhythm from the cello rhythm to create more motion and texture as a single performer, “filling the grid” – and how this helps highlight when they travel together on the beat.

**11:00am-12:15pm** WORKSHOP BLOCK (select one!)

***George Crotty: An Improviser's Approach to Ornamentation***

Left Hand ornaments and right hand extended techniques can open the door to a spectrum of sonic minutiae and add depth and character to one's improvisation and creative language. In

this workshop, cellists will explore ornaments from celtic, arabic, hindustani and western traditions and way in which they can be utilized creatively.

***Mia Pixley: To Loop or Not to Loop?***

This workshop will explore live looping as a cellist and the various ways in which it can be utilized. Cellists will explore the choice of when to loop to enhance a composition or song (and when not to!) as well as some additional loop work-arounds to grow your live sound.

**12:15-1:30pm** – Lunch

**2:00-3:15pm** WORKSHOP BLOCK (select one!)

***Agustin Uriburu: Basic Tools for Improvisation***

This workshop will explore various ways in which cellists can explore playing over simple chord changes. Starting simply with one note per chord, the group will explore various tools and ideas which can be utilized and developed to create balance in one's improvisation and allow cellists to "see" the chords on the fingerboard.

***Vincent Courtois: Improvising a Solo Piece***

What are some of the tools we can use when Improvising in a solo context? Deep listening, the blending of conscious and unconscious sound, the embrace of both stage fright and pleasure will be discussed and practiced along with notions of simplicity, posture, and accessing one's inner world through improvisation.

**3:30-5:30pm** – Cello Ensemble rehearsal – *All participants are welcome to join!*

**5:30-7:00pm** – Dinner

**7:00pm** - Concert #2 @ BOMBYX Center for Arts and Equity

***Mia Pixley – George Crotty – Patricia Santos***

Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup>

**7:15-8:30am** – Breakfast

**8:00-9:00am** – Yoga!

***Marcy Little & Chris White: Yoga with Cello Accompaniment***

Unwind and energize with Marcy Little, veteran yoga teacher, and her husband and founder of NDCF, Chris White, on cello. Bring your own mat.

**9:30am-10:45am** WORKSHOP BLOCK (select one!)

***Mia Pixley: Finding and Owning Your Personal Groove***

This workshop will focus on how to reach into and feel oneself when creating a song or composition, and how to stay in that feeling when performing. This workshop will explore feeling into the body, the soul, and the psyche, and bringing all of that juice into one's

musical ideas to get that deep musical and emotional resonance, and how to keep that nice vibe when performing.

***George Crotty: Global Grooves and Polyrhythms***

This workshop will focus on rhythm!! Cellists will explore cumulative rhythms, polyrhythms, limb independence, playing over grooves, and developing a stronger and deeper time feel.

**11:00am-12:15pm WORKSHOP BLOCK (select one!)**

***Vincent Courtois: Improvising a Duo Piece***

Improvising in a duo setting presents a different set of challenges that improvising solo. The ideas of sharing musical material and choices, playing with or playing against one another, controlling one's listening, trust, tuning, quality of sound, clarity and more will be both discussed and put into practice in a very hands-on way.

***Patricia Santos: Songwriting/Storytelling at the Cello***

Songwriting is an extremely vast topic, but in this workshop, cellists will examine creating a cello setting to help serve the individual song. This will often start as a simple chord progression and develop into a thoughtfully composed piece.

**12:15-1:30pm Lunch**

**2:00-3:15pm WORKSHOP BLOCK (select one!)**

***Agustin Uriburu: Piston's "Melodic Curve" Applied to Improvisation***

When improvising, understanding chord/scale relationships is important, but simply playing the "right" notes over chord changes doesn't always yield the most interesting and cohesive results. Using (composer/theorist) Walter Piston's idea of the "melodic curve" as a way of outlining a melody or melodic idea can give structure and form to our improvisations, and in this workshop, examples from the classical repertoire will be used as jumping off points for creating improvised melodic lines that have direction and intention.

***Gunther Tiedemann: Grooves from the Grid***

This workshop will explore pizzicato and arco techniques which are all based on the principle of a constant rhythmic grid, such as 8th notes, triplets and/or 16th notes to create constant grooves: strumming, single note lines, hammer on/pull off pizzicato lines and some arco equivalents. By keeping a constant rhythmic motion while leaving out certain notes in the grid and utilizing ringing notes, dead notes, and percussive sounds, lines can be layered to create grooves for jamming, composing and improvising.

**3:30-4:30pm Cello Ensemble recording session**

**4:30-5:30pm Open Mic for Participants**

**5:30-7:00pm Dinner**