

USArtists International FY18 Round II –Music Panel

George Lewis (New York, NY)



George Lewis is Professor of American Music at Columbia University, and Area Chair in Composition. A Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy, Lewis's other honors include a MacArthur Fellowship (2002) and a Guggenheim Fellowship (2015). A member of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM) since 1971, Lewis's work in electronic and computer music, computer-based multimedia installations, and notated and improvisative forms is documented on more than 150 recordings. His work has been presented by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, London

Philharmonia Orchestra, Radio-Sinfonieorchester Stuttgart, Musikfabrik, Mivos Quartet, London Sinfonietta, Spektral Quartet, Talea Ensemble, Ensemble Pamplemousse, Wet Ink, and others. His opera *Afterword* (2015) has been performed in the United States, United Kingdom, and the Czech Republic.

Somi (New York, NY)



Acclaimed vocalist and songwriter Somi was born in Illinois to immigrants from Uganda and Rwanda. She is known for her wide-ranging vocal technique, her original blend of modern jazz with African musics, and the innate poetry of her songwriting that often gives voice to issues of social justice. Her latest recording, 'Petite Afrique' (Sony/OKeh) marks her sixth release. Recently winning a 2018 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Jazz Album, it is a timely song cycle about the dignity of immigrants and the gentrification of Harlem's vibrant West African quarter. Guest collaborators on her albums include Common, Angelique Kidjo, Hugh Masekela, and Aloe Blacc. Somi is a 2018 USA Doris Duke Fellow, TED Senior Fellow, an inaugural Association of Performing Arts Presenters Fellow, and former Artist-in-Residence at Park Avenue Armory, Baryshnikov Arts Center, and

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance. Currently, Somi is developing a modern jazz play that she wrote about legendary singer-activist Miriam Makeba that will premiere in Fall 2018.

Sofia Ochoa (Miami, FL) Lay panelist



Ochoa served as President and Executive Director, of the Miami Symphony Orchestra from 1989 to 2009. Ochoa and her husband, Cuban-American conductor Manuel Ochoa, founded the MSO in 1989. Their leadership forged MSO into one of the first minority-owned and operated orchestras in the US and serves as a model of artistic diversity that mirrors Miami's own international, multicultural richness. In 2007, she was selected to attend Harvard University's "Strategic Perspectives in Non-Profit Management". In 2006, Ochoa was honored with the "Unsung Hero Award" by the Miami-Dade Cultural Alliance for her life-long work behind the scenes in Miami's arts community, and received the 1997 "Floridana Award" from the Cuban Women's Club for services to the community.

In addition to her duties with MSO, Ochoa is retired from her 35-year career in medical research with the University of Miami's, Miller School of Medicine. She has served as a member of the South Florida Classical FM Advisory Board (2009-2015), as a music panelist for the NEA and currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Miami Symphony Orchestra.

Julia Tai (Seattle, WA)



Julia Tai has established herself as one of today's most dynamic young conductors on the international stage. She is currently the Music Director of Philharmonia Northwest, and the founder and co-artistic director of the Seattle Modern Orchestra. Her engagements include the American Youth Symphony, Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra, Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic (Czech Republic), Brandenburger Symphoniker (Germany), Estonian National Youth Symphony (Estonia), New Symphony Orchestra (Bulgaria), Orquesta Sinfónica Juvenil Carlos Chávez (Mexico), and the Seattle Symphony. Recognized as a prominent innovator of the contemporary music scene, she is a grant recipient of NewMusicUSA, The Amphion Foundation, The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Washington State Arts Commission, 4Culture and Seattle Office of Arts and Culture. Born in Taipei, Taiwan,

Ms. Tai received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Washington.

Blaine Waide (Silver Spring, MD)



Blaine Waide is Programming Manager for the National Council for the Traditional Arts. He has programmed folk and traditional arts festivals in Florida, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Virginia. He previously served as Florida's State Folklorist (2011-13), where he directed the Florida Folklife Program, and co-edited the expanded reissue of *Drop on Down in Florida: Field Recordings of African American Traditional Music, 1977-1980*. A former managing editor of *Sing Out!* magazine, he has served on panels for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Maryland State Arts Council. He has conducted fieldwork with African American blues singers and barbershops in Mississippi and North Carolina, and griots in The Gambia. Waide has published articles in the *North Carolina Folklore Journal* and *Over the Edge: Pushing the Boundaries of Folklore and Ethnomusicology* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing), and book reviews in the *Journal of American Folklore*. He has an M.A. in Folklore (UNC-Chapel Hill).

USArtists International FY18 Round II –Dance/Theater Panel

Madeline Bell (Burlington, VT)



Madeline Bell is the Programming Manager at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts in Burlington, Vermont. In her time at the Flynn she has strengthened the Flynn's relationship with local colleges and professors, revitalized the community ticket voucher program, and developed substantive community engagement opportunities with visiting artists. Previously, Madeline was the Artist Services Coordinator at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland. She is a member of the Arts Presenters of Northern New England, New England Presenters, and has served on reviews panels through the National Performance Network. Madeline is a member of the second cohort of the Association for Performing Arts Professionals' Leadership Fellows Program. She has participated in the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Champlain program and APAP's Emerging Leadership Institute. Madeline received her B.A. in Theatre from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Lane Czaplinski (Columbus, OH)



Lane Czaplinski is the Director of Performing Arts at the Wexner Center for the Arts. Formerly he served as the artistic director of the contemporary performing arts center, On the Boards, in Seattle for fifteen years. Under his leadership the organization commissioned and produced over 80 new multidisciplinary performance works and nurtured regional artists to make new works that garnered national funding and touring opportunities. One of Czaplinski's signature initiatives, OntheBoards.tv, expanded the audience for On the Board's programming through HD-quality performance films, attracting an international subscriber base of universities and arts enthusiasts. His efforts won Czaplinski several awards, including a Genius Award from Seattle's *The Stranger*, and led the *New York Times* to declare On the Boards "one of America's best theaters for contemporary performance."

Juan José Escalante (Yonkers, NY)



Juan José Escalante is the Executive Director of the José Limón Dance Foundation, after joining the organization as a Development Consultant in 2013. Escalante has a lengthy nonprofit management background from New York City Ballet, where he worked as an associate director of finance and Miami City Ballet as the development manager and human resources director, and Ballet Florida, where he served as Executive Director from 2001 to 2004. He also led the Orlando Ballet from 2009 to 2011 as their Executive Director. Mr. Escalante holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Master's Degree in Global Management. He has chaired the national committee for small and medium companies for DanceUSA, and has served on grant panels for the NEA, Miami-Dade County, and NYC's Department of Cultural Affairs. Escalante was appointed Executive Director of the José Limón Dance Foundation on January 1st, 2014 and currently serves on the Advisory Board of Dance NYC.

Laura Faure (Portland, ME) Lay Panelist



Laura Faure has just retired as the Director of the Bates Dance Festival at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, a position she held for 30 years. During her tenure she developed the Festival into an internationally acclaimed contemporary dance program known for its artistic excellence, curatorial vision, and commitment to building community through dance. A former dancer, choreographer and teacher with forty years of experience in the field of dance, Faure also works as an independent producer, curator and consultant helping artists advance their work. She

has served as a panelist, project coordinator and consultant for federal, regional, and state agencies as well as for many foundations, and individual artists and arts groups. Among her accomplishments, Faure developed an international visiting artists residency program at BDF in 1994 that has served over 50 artists from Asia, Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and Central America. She was also a founding member of the Africa Contemporary Arts Consortium.

Julie Nakagawa (Chicago, IL)



Julie Nakagawa is a Co-founder and Artistic Director of DanceWorks Chicago. From Evanston, Illinois, Nakagawa was a featured dancer with Christopher D'Amboise's Off Center Ballet, Cleveland Ballet, and Twyla Tharp Dance. Returning to Chicago upon her retirement from dancing, she has been especially interested in the development of dance artists and their related artistic collaborators. At the invitation of Lou Conte, Nakagawa joined the staff of Lou Conte Dance Studio in January 1994 and rose to the position of Associate Director. In addition, she led Hubbard Street 2 from its inception in 1997 through February 2006 as the artistic director of the second company of Hubbard Street Dance

Chicago, nurturing young dancers and establishing the National Choreographic Competition to provide creative opportunities for emerging dance makers. A sought-after teacher, Nakagawa has taught classes for dance studios, university programs, and companies, nationally and internationally. She has served as a member and officer of the Board of Trustees of Dance/USA, has been a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, and is a member of the Citizens Committee for the Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts). The Chicago Foundation for Women's Asian American Leadership Council has honored Nakagawa for her work in the creative arts.