

USArtists International FY17 Round II – Music Panel

Mei-Ann Chen (Chicago, IL)



Mei-Ann Chen is the Music Director of the 2016 MacArthur Award-winning Chicago Sinfonietta and Conductor Laureate of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. She has also served as Artistic Director and Conductor for the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra Summer Festival since 2016. In 2015, she was named one of Musical America's Top 30 Influencers. She has worked with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Netherlands Philharmonic, along with other major orchestras in Austria, Germany, Finland, and Sweden. Ms. Chen has served on panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, Chicago Sinfonietta's Project Inclusion Freeman Fellowships, as well as Memphis Symphony Orchestra's Inaugural International Conducting Competition. Honors and awards include the 2012 Helen M. Thompson Award from the League of American Orchestras, First Prize Winner of the Malko Competition, and a Taki Concordia Fellowship. She holds master's degrees in violin and conducting from New England Conservatory, and

a Doctor of Musical Arts in conducting from the University of Michigan.

Joy Doan (Northridge, CA) Lay Person



Joy M. Doan is a Faculty Librarian at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) in the Oviatt Library. At CSUN, she serves as a reviewer for CSUN's Judge Julian Beck Learner-Centered Instructional Project grant and as a representative on the campuses Research and Grants Committee, which reviews applications and policies for the campuses largest research awards. Additionally, Joy as served on the grant review committee for CSUN's Probationary Faculty Support Program grant. Prior to joining the faculty at CSUN, Joy held a position at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she served as the Music Inquiry and Research Librarian. Joy holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Music from the University of Michigan, a Master of Arts in Music History from Case Western Reserve University, and an M.L.I.S. from San Jose State University.

Steve MacQueen (Burlington, VT)



MacQueen is the Artistic Director of the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, a role he has occupied since 2012. He has worked in the performing arts for 17 years, presenting programming that balances the mainstream and cutting-edge, offering a wide range of works that are both popular and challenging. Prior to the Flynn, MacQueen was the Director of the 7 Days of Opening Nights performing arts festival at Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL; director of the Porter Center for Performing Arts in Brevard, NC; and marketing director/jazz curator at Spivey Hall in Atlanta, GA. He has commissioned new works from such artists as the Kronos Quartet, jazz pianist Marcus Roberts, and classical pianist Simone Dinnerstein. MacQueen has served as a curator for the National Performance Network's Asia Connection, and has served on grants panels for the NEA, the Southern Arts Federation, the Vermont Arts Council, and the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs.

Rudresh Mahanthappa (Montclair, NJ)



Rudresh Mahanthappa is an alto saxophonist and composer. His music hybridizes progressive jazz and South Indian classical music in a fluid and forward-looking form that reflects his own experience growing up a second-generation Indian-American. His latest project, *Bird Calls* (2015), was named #1 album of the year by both Downbeat and NPR Music's Jazz Critics Poll. Mahanthappa has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, two New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships, and numerous commissions. He has been named alto saxophonist of the year four of the past five years in Downbeat Magazine's International Critics Polls and for five years running by the Jazz Journalists' Association. In April 2013, he received a Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, and in 2015, he was named a United States Artists Fellow.

Samantha Pollack (Washington, DC)



Samantha Pollack is the Director of Programming at Washington Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. with Washington Performing Arts for almost 12 years, Ms. Pollack programs over sixty-five performances throughout the D.C. area each season in the genres of classical (orchestral & recital), jazz, global music, modern dance, and gospel. Ms. Pollack has attended international festivals and competitions, scouting new talent at the Verbier Festival, Radio-France Festival, Van Cliburn Competition, Israel's International Exposure, and Young Concert Artists. She has sat on the juries of the Khachaturian Piano Competition, Seattle Symphony Piano Competition, and Concert Artists Guild and on a grant panel for the New England Foundation for the Arts. Ms. Pollack was recently named a "Rising Star in Classical Presenting" by *Musical America*. She received a BM in music performance at the University of Cincinnati/College-Conservatory of Music, followed by a Master of Arts Management from Carnegie Mellon University.

USArtists International FY17 Round II –Dance/Theatre Panel

Simone Eccleston (New York, NY)



Simone Eccleston is the Director of Programming at Harlem Stage. She is responsible for the oversight of all program series and initiatives including WaterWorks, Fund for New Work Commissions, Harlem Stride, Uptown Nights, etc. She has been a speaker at The Department of Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and the Association of Performing Arts Presenters APAP|NYC Conference. In addition, she is currently an APAP|NYC 2017 and 2018 conference co--chair and a member of APAP Leadership Fellows Program (2015-2017). She has also served as a reviewer/panelist for numerous granting agencies including The Jerome Foundation, The MAP Fund, LMCC and Creative Capital. For her outstanding achievements and commitment to service, she has been honored by the Jackie Robinson Foundation as a “42 under 40 to Watch” Distinguished Alumna.

Ben Johnson (Los Angeles, CA)



Ben Johnson is currently the Director of Performing Arts for the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. In this position he is tasked with relaunching the Performing Arts Division of the City of Los Angeles, which includes overseeing six city-owned theaters, relaunching a festival platform for the city, and advocating on behalf of LA artists on a national and international level. Previously, he was the Program Manager at the Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA (CAP-UCLA) in Los Angeles and Director of Programs at United States Artists Foundation. He was also the Director of Northrop Concerts and Lectures at the University of Minnesota – Minneapolis, and he was Director of Education and Audience Development at the University Musical Society at the University of Michigan – Ann Arbor (MI). He has also worked at the Ordway Music Theater (St. Paul) as part of the Planet Ordway Series, and interned at the American Dance Festival (NC) and Walker Art Center (MN) in the Performing Arts Department. As an experienced and seasoned multi-disciplinary performing arts presenter and curator, and he is affiliated with many artists, foundations, funders, and national and international peer institutions.

Michelle Ramos (New Orleans, LA) (Lay Person)



Michelle Ramos, JD, LL.M is project director of the Vera Institute of Justice, New Orleans office. She is completing her dissertation towards a PhD in psychology with an emphasis in race and cultural studies. Prior to her legal career, Michelle, a retired professional ballet dancer, was Director of Dance/NYC from 2006-2010 and is currently Chair Elect for Dance/USA. She worked as an executive director for multiple non-profit arts organizations and served as a program officer for Women’s Foundation of California. She has served as a panelist for the NEA, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, Dance USA EDA, Westchester Arts’ Council and Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

Malik Robinson (Denver, CO)



Malik Robinson is the Executive Director of Cleo Parker Robinson Dance (CPRD), a multifaceted cultural arts institution in Denver, Colorado. In his role, Malik oversees the CPRD Theatre, Academy, Education programs and the internationally renowned CPRD Ensemble (CRPDE). He coordinated the Annual International Association of Blacks in Dance Conference hosted by Cleo Parker Robinson Dance in 1999, 2009 and 2016. Malik was also responsible for securing award-winning international tours to Israel, Italy and Egypt for the CPRDE. As the booking manager for CPRDE, Malik secured funding from national foundations for new work creation and tour support. He also booked and managed national tours averaging 15 cities annually. Malik has served as a grant reviewer for national and regional arts service organizations including MAAF. Malik is a Livingston

Fellow, a 2016 APAP Fellow and serves on the Board of Directors for the International Association of Blacks in Dance and Dance/USA.

Holly Williams (Austin, TX)



Holly Williams is Senior Associate Dean in the College of Fine Arts at the University of Texas and a Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance. As a dancer, she toured nationally and internationally with the Mark Morris Dance Group and Laura Dean Dancers and Musicians. She has also performed with the Limon Company at City Center in New York. Holly has choreographed for the Houston Grand Opera, Dallas Opera, Austin Lyric Opera, Austin Theatre Alliance, Dallas Theatre Center and the concert stage; she received a Fulbright Specialist award for choreographic residency at the Taideakatemia Turun in Turku, Finland in 2010. She has participated in review panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, Dance/USA and the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation and served as President of the American College Dance Association (ACDA). Williams has a B.A. from Barnard College/Columbia University in New York and an M.F.A. from

Texas Woman's University.