

Guest Recital

Sounds of Being

Jessica Meyer, viola and compositions

Friday, October 2, 2026

8:00 p.m.

Harper Hall

Sounds of Being

Jessica Meyer (b. 1974)	<i>Source of Joy</i>	4'
	<i>Hello</i>	5'
	<i>Getting Home (I must be...)</i>	4'
	<i>Flooded Flower on the Destin Shore</i>	3'
	<i>Duende</i>	8'
	<i>Love Songs (A Collection of Words and Music)</i>	19'
	The Light that Still Lives (poem: "Eros" by Jennifer Beattie)	
	The in between only us (poem: "I do not" by Lucy Anderton)	
	Touch (poem: "Riverside Park, Late Summer" by Giancarlo Latta)	
	Unbearable Lightness (poem: "Not Anyone Who Says" by Mary Oliver)	
	<i>Works for Solo Viola</i>	5'
	Naughty Kitty (from "Snapshots")	
	Delta Sunrise	
	Tempest (from "Snapshots")	
	<i>Swerve</i>	6'

We collectively acknowledge that Laurence University is situated on the ancestral homelands of the Menominee and Ho-Chunk people.

GUEST BIO

With playing that is “fierce and lyrical” and works that are “other-worldly” (*The Strad*) and “evocative” (*New York Times*), **Jessica Meyer** is an award-winning composer and violist whose passionate musicianship radiates accessibility and emotional clarity. Meyer’s first composer/performer portrait album, *Ring Out* (Bright Shiny Things, 2019) debuted at #1 on the Billboard Traditional Classical Chart. Her second album *I long and seek after* is a collection of her vocal works that was recently released in March of 2024 on New Focus Recordings and was hailed by *Musical America* as “gorgeously scored.”

Since the start of her composition career in 2014, at age 40, Meyer’s compositions have viscerally explored the wide palette of colors available to each instrument while combining techniques inspired by her experiences as a contemporary and period instrumentalist. Her works have been performed in venues from the Kennedy Center to Carnegie Hall, by musicians of the Minnesota Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic, and by orchestras around the country. Her first Symphonic Band piece was commissioned and toured by The President’s Own United States Marine Band and was a finalist for the William D. Revelli Composition Contest. She has also received multiple commissioning awards from both Chamber Music America and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Premieres have included performances by acclaimed vocal ensembles Roomful of Teeth and Vox Clamantis, the St. Lawrence String Quartet as the composer in residence at Spoleto Festival USA, the American Brass Quintet, PUBLIQuartet, HUB New Music, Dorian Wind Quintet, NOVUS NY of Trinity Wall Street, a work for A Far Cry commissioned by the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, the Juilliard School for a project with the Historical Performance Program, by the Lorelei Ensemble for a song cycle that received the Dale Warland Singers Commission Award from Chorus America, and her viola concerto GAEA that she premiered alongside the Orchestra of the League of Composers at Miller Theatre in NYC.

Recent premieres include a work for MET Opera tenor, Paul Appleby, and the Claremont Trio, a new orchestral piece *Turbulent Flames* this was performed by a consortium of orchestras across the United States, and a commission for the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra that opened their 2025-26 Carnegie Hall Season. This season she is the composer in residence of ROCO in Houston in addition to writing for Cantori New York and the Katarina Quartet where she is a featured soloist.

As a solo performer, Ms. Meyer uses a single simple loop pedal to create a virtuosic orchestral experience with her viola and voice. Drawing from wide-ranging influences which include Bach, Brahms, Delta blues, Flamenco, Indian Raga, and Appalachian fiddling, Meyer's music takes audience members on a journey through joy, anxiety, anger, bliss, torment, loneliness, and passion. Her solo shows have been featured at iconic venues such as BAMcafé, Joe's Pub, and Symphony Space in NYC, the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, in Paris at Sunset Sunside, in addition to venues in Singapore, Switzerland, Vietnam, the Emirates, and beyond. At home with many different styles of music and an ardent collaborator, Jessica can regularly be seen premiering her chamber works, creating with dancer/choreographer Caroline Fermin, performing on Baroque viola, improvising with jazz musicians, or collaborating with other composer-performers.

Recently she headlined the 2024 Primrose International Viola Competition at the American Viola Society Festival with a recital of her own works. Upcoming performances include solo and chamber faculty recitals at Manhattan School of Music, and various appearances around the country.

Ms. Meyer is equally known for her inspirational work as an educator, where she empowers musicians with networking, communication, teaching, and entrepreneurial skills so they can be the best advocates for their own careers. Her workshops have been featured at the Juilliard School, the Curtis Institute of Music, for the Teaching Artists of the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Manhattan School of Music, the Longy School of Music, NYU, the Chamber Music America Conference, and at various universities around the country. Jessica has conducted hundreds of workshops for students and adults for Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Caramoor, the Little Orchestra Society, and the Orchestra of St. Luke's. Currently, she is most passionate about getting musicians of all ages off the page to activate their own creativity, improvise, and awaken their own inner composer – which in turn makes them better performers. In addition to teaching virtual workshops, live engagements have been for the Moab Music Festival, the National Youth Orchestra of Carnegie Hall, for the North Carolina Chamber Music Institute, and in residencies where her music is programmed. For two years, she created and led a Teen Composer Intensive at New England Music Camp so that teens of all abilities can develop their craft, amass recordings for their portfolio, and connect with both professional and student performers. This past summer, she served as the composer in residence for the Imani Winds Chamber Music Festival and led their Emerging Composer Program. As of Fall 2023, she has joined the viola faculty of the Manhattan School of Music.