

Blues for Katherine by Cassandra Kaczor

Programme notes

Katherine performed the UK premiere of Cassandra's 'secondhand smoke' last year and was keen for Cassandra to write a new singing viola piece. Not only does the piece feature singing and playing at the same time, but also beatboxing! 'Blues for Katherine' combines the technical requirements of a classical violist with the sound world of a fiddle player. Katherine accompanies her voice with viola and flips the roles to accompany the viola with her voice in this challenging work.

Recording

<https://soundcloud.com/cassandra-kaczor/blues-for-katherine>

Composer biography

Cassandra Kaczor is a Chicago-based composer, pianist and multimedia artist focused on issues of social justice and women's empowerment.

Kaczor has produced a musical, ballet, several short film scores and many multimedia pieces with other artists. She is the music librarian and concert curator at Awakenings Foundation, a space that focuses on the work of sexual assault and abuse survivors, after receiving their Judith Dawn Memorial Fund Grant (2015). She is honored to be an Artistic Collaborator and consultant on musical matters for The Sunflower Project. She is also the co-founder of Brunch Project Productions, a production company which creates and manages musical works that impact and empower. As Brunch Project Productions' Artistic Director, Kaczor oversees Chicago's most social multi-genre concert series, Musicians Who Brunch, which may be the only of its kind.

Kaczor has her Master's degree in Music Composition as a Performing Arts Scholar from Roosevelt University's Chicago College of Performing Arts, where she studied privately with Dr. Kyong Mee Choi. She won the Michael Hall Viola Composition Competition (2017) and the Zodiac Trio Competition (2016) during her graduate career. Prior to this she studied with Curtis Curtis-Smith and Christopher Biggs at Western Michigan University.

Kaczor was awarded residencies at the Djerassi Resident Artists Program and the I-Park International Artist-in-Residence Program in 2018.

Kaczor currently works as a professional pianist and singer, entertaining on an international scale, and as a freelance teacher, performer and composer. She will be collaborating with the Chicago Composers Consortium this coming spring. When she is not working, Kaczor enjoys practicing yoga, feministing, songwriting, long runs on Lake Michigan, ogling strangers' dogs while out walking, good drinks, tolerable company, and chronically overthinking as much as possible.