



ONE FOUND SOUND 2022-2023 SEASON ARTIST & ENSEMBLE BIOS

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NATHALIE JOACHIM is a Grammy nominated flutist, composer, and vocalist. The Haitian- American artist is hailed for being “a fresh and invigorating cross-cultural voice”. (The Nation). She is co-founder of the critically acclaimed urban art pop duo, Flutronix. Upcoming world premieres include Joachim’s first ever symphonic and choral work commissioned by St. Louis Symphony and the In Unison Chorus; new chamber works for Roomful of Teeth and So Percussion; a youth education piece for Carnegie Hall’s Weill Music Institute; and a work for vocalist Pamela Z with members of Los Angeles Philharmonic. Joachim’s debut solo album, Fanm d’Ayiti with Spektral Quartet received a Grammy nomination for Best World Music Album, and 2020 saw the release of Transformation, a collaboration with students at Kaufman Music Center’s Special Music School High School. Joachim is a United States Artist Fellow, an Artistic Partner with the Oregon Symphony, and a Creative Associate at The Juilliard School.
NathalieJoachim.com.

ESTEVEAN OLMOS is an undergraduate music composition major at California State University, Fresno. His experience as a percussionist results in music that explores how rhythm can be used to subvert the listener’s expectations. Estevan was a finalist in the Second Annual Fresno State Art Song Competition in 2019 and won the NAFME national electronic composition competition in 2020. As a Mexican-American musician, Estevan Olmos aims to create a fusion between the traditional Mexican music he grew up with and classical music.

HERBERT FRANKLIN MELLS was a composer, professor, and choral director. Born in Georgia in 1908, Mells received a B.S. in biology from Morehouse College before receiving his M.A. in music composition in 1938, and in 1944 became the second Black American man to receive a Ph.D. in music composition—and the first to focus on symphonic music—which he earned from Iowa State University. Mells served as the music department chair at Langston University, Hampton Institute, and at Tennessee State University, where he held this position until his death in 1953. Mells’s symphonic works have yet to be published or performed in their entirety: despite the composer’s own efforts to have these works published in his lifetime, historian Mark Clague notes that they “were continually rejected, however, because, as Mells was told, there was no market for classical music written by a Black man.” Coming of age during the Harlem Renaissance and passing away prior to the Civil Rights Movement, “when the music of Black composers finally began to enter the concert hall,” historian Samuel A. Floyd notes, “Mells was not among those who received the long-deserved applause.”

ONE FOUND SOUND (OFS) is a democratic, collaborative orchestra at the forefront of equitable and barrier-free music. OFS brings live orchestral music to unique and informal venues, and by operating without a conductor or single artistic director, our creative vision is placed entirely in the hands of our musicians. One Found Sound champions music that reflects and resonates with our community and is dedicated to supporting the creation of new music by diverse peoples.

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Press Contact: Georgeanne Banker
georgeanne@onefoundsound.org
onefoundsound.org/press