

PROGRAM NOTES

This recital is an event that will present the culmination of what I've learned at Longy by presenting a small collection of stories that are impacted by the presence of the Sun and Moon. In thinking of themes for recitals I'm often drawn to the reality that is the up and downs of life. In searching for a common thread I looked up and remembered there has been nothing more present in everyday than the Sun and Moon. This continuous bright presence have given artists and composers inspiration from the beginning of music. It's my desire that this music will open up our hearts to remember to look up at that moon and revel once in a while or to stop and feel the rays of sun against our faces no matter our struggles in life. I have been reminded that that symbolism of the Sun is not limited to cheer as well as the Moon's seemingly unwavering symbol for sadness.

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

A budding soubrette **Rachel Edwards** has engaged audiences from the choir riser, wearing glass slippers, backwards waving a baton, and of course from the nook of a piano. Back home in Hilo Hawaii Rachel spent much of her time performing musical theatre with Kilauea Drama and Entertainment Network, the Hilo Community Players, and The University of Hawaii at Hilo. Her most notable roles being Kim in *Miss Saigon*, Judy Bernly in "9-5" *The Musical*, Lady Thiang in *The King and I*, and Cinderella in *Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*.

Rachel hasn't always imagined herself as an opera singer, but as her vocal training continued the draw to classical repertoire and it's vocal style grew. After graduating from the University of Hawaii Rachel produced several recitals that paved a path into her first summer program with the Hawaii Performing Arts Festival and eventually to the Longy School of Music. At Longy she has focused on developing her operatic repertoire and has taken part in several Longy based opera programs.

When she isn't performing she is attempting to expand her musical chops by teaching voice and musical directing. Her experience ranges from private students, directing a church choir, and conducting the small orchestra for the Hilo Community Players production of *Next to Normal*. While at Longy Rachel's other musical endeavors include studying to become a Certified Music Practitioner and a Body Mapping Educator Trainee. When she isn't pursuing music Rachel is spending time outdoors with her loved ones and planning it all out in her favorite bullet journal spreads.

Tim Flores. An advocate of contemporary music and its place within today's world, German-American Pianist Tim Flores strives to chisel out his place within the music world. His work as a pianist, music director, and advocate of contemporary music has helped Tim discover where he belongs in the music world

As a pianist, Tim dedicates himself to discovering music that challenges himself and the audience and creating programs that allow the audience to feel connected to something new and exciting. His passion has found him to begin programming works by composers such as Pierre Boulez, Roger Sessions, William Bolcom, Oliver Messiaen, Betsy Jolas, Ann Southam, John Luther Adams, George Antheil as well as works by younger composer colleagues.

As an advocate of contemporary music, Tim has worked with the Boston New Music Initiative, the USF New Music Consortium. As music director, Tim has worked as both conductor, pianist, and vocal coach with MAD Theatre of Tampa since 2017 on shows such as *Man of La Mancha*, *It Shoulda Been You*, *Green Day's American Idiot*, *Cabaret*, and more. His musical decisions and leadership have been called "dynamic", "extraordinary", "high-octane" and "expert" by *Broadway World*.

Tim has worked with pianists such as Richard Goode, Till Fellner, Helen Krizos, Stephane Lemelin and Svetozar Ivanov in masterclass or lesson settings. Tim holds a B.M. in Piano Performance from the University of South Florida where he studied with Dharshini Tambiah and Pablo Arencibia, he is currently pursuing a Masters in Music at the Longy School of Music with Donald Berman.