from *Between the Sandhills and the Sea* were performed at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. Earlier in March of 2018, *Twelve Pieces* was premiered at Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo, NY. Both performances featured pianist Michelle Alvarado and “Movement I: Time” was performed by Alvarado with cellist Hannah Holman.

Starr’s jazz band, The Eric Starr Group, has released two critically acclaimed albums and his group has performed at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, among other venues. His albums have received international radio play and rave reviews in *Downbeat Magazine*, *The Jazz Journal*, *Jazzwise Magazine*, the *All Music Guide* and over a dozen additional publications worldwide. Brian Morton, publisher of the *Penguin Guide to Jazz* called his album *Such Is Life* “One of my favorite releases of the year.” Iconic drummer, Bill Bruford, called Eric “an extremely welcome new addition to the club [of percussionist composers]” and famed composer Steve Reich wrote, “I'm impressed with the directness of Eric's music and the craft with which he has written it. His music would appeal to a wide variety of listeners.”

As an author and educator, Starr has written five books about music for Adams Media, Inc. Two of them have been translated into Spanish. In 2010, Starr was a featured speaker at Loyola University New Orleans’ Beiver Guest Lecturer Series. Since 1995, he has also appeared as a guest artist and clinician at many high schools and colleges throughout the country. Starr currently resides in the Hudson Valley.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

For the most up to date listing of concerts and recitals, please visit [arts.uiowa.edu](http://arts.uiowa.edu). All events are FREE unless otherwise indicated. View livestreamed concerts at [music.uiowa.edu/livestream](http://music.uiowa.edu/livestream).

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<th>OCTOBER</th>
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| 24 3:00 p.m. | Celebrating Beethoven: Complete 32 Piano Sonatas | Concert Hall
| 24 7:30 p.m. | Faculty & Guest Artist Recital: Ensemble Yeon | Concert Hall
| 24 7:30 p.m. | Faculty Recital: Red Vespa | Stark Opera Studio
| 25 7:30 p.m. | Guest Artist Recital: Evan Fowler, trumpet | Recital Hall
| 28 7:30 p.m. | Guest Chamber Recital: Dave & Sam’s Brass Extravaganza | Stark Opera Studio
| 29 7:30 p.m. | Choral Collage Broadcast | Livestream
| 31 3:00 p.m. | Iowa Percussion Fall Concert | Concert Hall
| 31 7:30 p.m. | Tuba/Euphonium Studio Recital | Recital Hall

**CENTER FOR NEW MUSIC**

Season 56

**Center for New Music Concert 3**

Eric Starr, composer
Hannah Holman, violoncello
Michelle Alvarado, piano
Jennifer Larson, narrator

Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.
Voxman Music Building Recital Hall
Season 56, Concert 3
A Celebration of Women in History
A tribute to authors and social activists Vera Brittain and Winifred Holtby

Hannah Holman, violoncello
Michelle Alvarado, piano
Jennifer Larson, narrator

PROGRAM

No Mourning By Request
for violoncello and piano
A tribute to Winifred Holtby
Eric STARR

Between the Sandhills and the Sea
for violoncello and piano
A tribute to Vera Brittain
I. Time
II. Love and War
III. Dear Roland
IV. A Plea
V. Refuse to Forget (L’Envoi)
Eric STARR

Epilogue: Immortal Flower
for solo piano
A tribute to Winifred Holtby
Eric STARR

- POETRY SELECTIONS -

“No Mourning By Request” Winifred Holtby
“To Them” Vera Brittain
“Perhaps” Vera Brittain
“Roundel” Vera Brittain
“The Aspirant” Vera Brittain
“The End” Vera Brittain
“Invocation to Time (A Prayer)” Winifred Holtby
“A Wink from Hesper” (excerpted) W.E. Henley

PROGRAM NOTES

This concert is a presentation of three related works for violoncello & piano honoring authors and social reformers Vera Brittain and Winifred Holtby. As part of the presentation, a reading of select poems by these authors will accompany each of the seven movements of music. Vera Brittain (1893-1970) and Winifred Holtby (1898-1935) were groundbreaking British authors and social reformers. Brittain, a nurse during WWI, was the only woman to chronicle the Great War in depth. Together with her friend Holtby, Brittain campaigned for peace, women’s rights, and minority rights.

Both were strong believers in the internationalism promised by the League of Nations. Their collective message is a cautionary tale, informed by a keen understanding of the horrors of war and an unwavering desire to promote gender and racial equality.

Working near the front lines, Brittain witnessed the devastation of war while caring for both British and German soldiers. Among others, she also lost her only brother and a fiancé to the war. Later, her grief-stricken father committed suicide over his son’s death. Brittain wrote and lectured with searing passion about her powerful experiences, and is best known for her memoir Testament of Youth (1933).

Like Brittain, Holtby was dedicated to world peace, women’s rights, and racial justice. Among other achievements, she established the Society of Friends of Africa (1934), which promoted the unionization of Black workers. In 1940, the Winifred Holtby Memorial Library was built in Johannesburg in her honor. The first library of its kind in South Africa, it was ‘equipped solely for the use of non-European... and intended to serve native women as well as men.’

Holtby died at age 37 from renal failure, but not before completing her landmark feminist novel, South Riding (1936).

THE CENTER FOR NEW MUSIC

The Center for New Music, a performance organization devoted to the late 20th and early 21st century repertoire, is the focus of contemporary composition and performance at the University of Iowa. The Center, like the internationally renowned Writers Workshop, embodies the institution’s commitment to the vital role of the creative arts at the frontiers of human experience.

The Center functions as a laboratory and performance extension of the School’s composition area, and as a repertory ensemble for the creation and presentation of contemporary music in general. The core ensemble consists of violin, viola, cello, and piano supported by Research Assistantships assigned by those studios. The remaining members that complete the sinfonietta ensemble are assigned by the individual studio faculty, typically for the academic year. The Center also serves as host for guest composers and artists.

The Center remains an advocate of contemporary music performance. Its programming reflects the range of current compositional styles as well as what is considered standard repertoire from the mid-20th century into early 21st. The high quality of performance results from working with a core ensemble, steadily expanded into the repertoire over an extended period of time. New and more diverse audiences are carefully cultivated through outreach concerts, and the Center’s professional reputation is steadily being established through CD recordings as well as through the collaboration of nationally-known guest composers and performers.
MICHELLE ALVARADO
Michelle Alvarado is described by jazz journalist and historian Scott Yarow as a "versatile classical pianist" and "a virtuoso who can handle any piece of written music". Her passion for beauty and excellence brought her to New York City where she arrived in 2013 to study at Mannes under the tutelage of Pavlina Dokovska and has remained in the city ever since.

In 2018 Alvarado partnered with Hudson Valley composer Eric Starr for the world premiere of Twelve Pieces for Solo Piano at Kleinhans Music Hall in Buffalo. According to the Buffalo News her performance "moved from the delicate to the primal and the sublimely melodic to the cacophonous with finesse and grace." Shortly after the premiere, Alvarado recorded the pieces at the National Opera Center in Manhattan.

Following the recording she made her Carnegie Hall debut in October of 2018 where she performed the Twelve Pieces and gave a world premiere of the first movement of Between the Sandhills and the Sea by Eric Starr featuring cellist Hannah Holman.

Most recently in the summer of 2021 Alvarado was invited to be a part of the Crescendo Chamber Music Project culminating in a performance at the Bruno Walter auditorium at Lincoln Center.

MICHELL ALVARADO
In October of 2018 Starr's Twelve Pieces for Solo Piano and "Movement I: Time" by Eric Starr featuring cellist Hannah Holman.

In addition to her work with the New York City Ballet Orchestra, Ms. Holman is the principal cellist of the Quad City Symphony, a position she has held since 2008 and is super delighted to be an adjunct instructor at the University of Northern Iowa and Biola University for 2020-2021. She began her professional career in England playing with the English String Orchestra under Yehudi Menuhin and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Simon Rattle. Her previous orchestral work also includes serving as assistant principal cello with the Michigan Chamber Orchestra, the Richmond Symphony, and the American Sinfonietta.

HANNAH HOLMAN
Hannah Holman,cellist, joined the New York City Ballet Orchestra at the beginning of the 2012-2013 season. Her career has encompassed orchestral and chamber music, solo performances, and teaching. In a review of the second CD she recorded with pianist Reine Leucouma, Fanfare Magazine declares "her tone and technique are the stuff that cello legends are made of... Holman's cello sings with a lustrous tone that's hard to resist."

BIographies