



RENCONTRES POÉTIQUES

APRIL 13, 2022



I. SHOW DESCRIPTION

Composer Christina Goh, composer Mary Bichner, and the Museum of Science Boston welcome you to the premiere of the *Rencontres poétiques* concert series!

Bringing their international collaboration to Boston for the first time, Goh and Bichner are honored to present a program of original musical settings they have composed for beloved poems in both French and English, including three world premieres (Bichner's "A la seine", Goh's "Trace du reve", and Goh's "Wings of Imagination"). Inspired by the works of Yves Bonnefoy, Phillis Wheatley, Honoré de Balzac, Edgar Allan Poe, Emily Dickinson, Marceline Desbordes-Valmore, James Russell Lowell, and Christina Rossetti; each performance will be set to customized, immersive visuals developed specifically for the Omni screen.

Thank you so much for joining us, and we hope you enjoy the performance!

II. SET LIST

1. Trouveur

(*Composer: Christina Goh / Poet: Ch. Goh – Ode to the troubadour*)

2. To Helen

(*Composer: Mary Bichner / Poet: Edgar Allan Poe*)

3. Fleur d'eau

(*Composer: Christina Goh / Poet: Marceline Desbordes-Valmore*)

4. Love-Song

(*Composer: Mary Bichner / Poet: James Russell Lowell*)

5. Le prix

(*Composer: Christina Goh / Poet: Ch. Goh – Ode to Balzac's female characters*)

6. A la seine

(*Composer: Mary Bichner / Poet: Marceline Desbordes-Valmore*)

7. Trace du rêve

(*Composer: Christina Goh / Poet: Ch. Goh – Ode to Yves Bonnefoy "L'agitation du rêve"*)

8. 996

(*Composer: Mary Bichner / Poet: Emily Dickinson*)

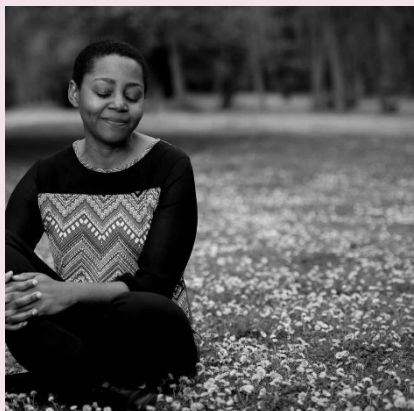
9. Wings of Imagination: The Mental Train Chapter

(*Composer: Christina Goh / Poet: Phillis Wheatley*)

10. Cassiopeia

(*Composer: Mary Bichner / Poet: Christina Rossetti*)

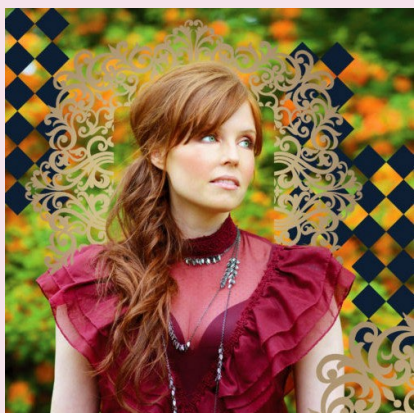
III. PERFORMER BIOS



[CHRISTINA GOH](#), a French vocalist of Ivorian-Martinican origin, is internationally recognized, with a multidisciplinary universe fusing digital art, poetry, and musical creation for two decades.

Goh is the initiator of a vocal technique accompanying high range percussion. She is a member of the jury for the 15th Independent Music Awards held in New York, and she belongs to the board of directors of the French Association for Percussion. Her presentations from Indonesia to Canada have demonstrated her vocal technique for high-range percussion with unique configurations: 13 bass strings, percussion, and voice, as well as her unprecedented collaborations with the western medieval world.

Published in international anthologies and Mondes Francophones, the magazine for the French-speaking world, and nicknamed “Black Pearl of Afro-blues,” she is the author of the collaborative blog “[More of Us Project](#),” organizer of the international online poetry competition “[La Différence](#),” and mastermind of the [UT FORTIS project](#), which merges art and science for suicide prevention via the Internet. Christina Goh is one of the ambassadors of the Tours Loire Valley in France; in 2021 the South African media’s Tropics Magazine included her among the 500 personalities of African descent who have made an impact on the world. Its annual virtual exhibition [Graph\(e\)](#) depicts her twenty-year career on three continents.



MARY BICHNER is an award-winning orchestral composer with the bizarre musical superpowers of perfect pitch (the ability to recognize notes and chords by name upon hearing them played) and synesthesia (a neurological condition that causes Mary to “see” splashes of specific colors when she hears their corresponding pitches sounded). Combining vibrant harmonic progressions with lush orchestrations and catchy, memorable melodies; Mary creates richly-hued compositions that delight classical enthusiasts and indie-pop rockers alike. Her work has recently appeared in publications such as [BBC Music Magazine](#) [UK], [La Nouvelle République](#) [France], [TIDAL](#), and more.

Recent musical projects include a recurring collaboration with the [Museum of Science, Boston](#), for the “[Synesthesia Suite: Live](#)” concert series (an immersive musical event in which live performances of Bichner’s compositions are paired with customized 360° full-dome visuals created by our award-winning Planetarium team); serving as the composer for playwright John J. King’s forthcoming stage work, “[The Mementi Mori of Edward Gorey](#)”; and serving a two-year composer residency at the historic [Mount Auburn Cemetery](#), which resulted in the composition of twelve chamber orchestra works synesthetically inspired by the cemetery's breathtaking landscape and landmarks (and which are now available for streaming as part of the Mount Auburn Cemetery walking tour app). She has also served as composer-in-residence at [The Helene Wurlitzer Foundation of New Mexico](#) and [Marble House Project of Dorset, Vermont](#). She is thrilled to be collaborating once more with Christina Goh and the Museum of Science, Boston for *Rencontres poétiques!*

IV. SPECIAL THANKS

The composers would like to thank the following organizations for making this concert possible: the [Museum of Science Boston](#), [Mount Auburn Cemetery](#), [East Coast Scoring Orchestra](#), [Cloître de la Psalette / Centre des Monuments Nationaux](#) (National Monuments Center of France), [l’Office National des Forêts de France](#), [VIES 37 / National Union for Suicide Prevention France](#), [Musée Balzac Saché Castle](#) et le [Département de Touraine](#), the [City of Tours](#) and the [Bibliothèque centrale de Tours](#), [Muse & Ruse Production](#), [Les Passeurs de Légendes](#).



V. SHORT POET BIOS

(In order of performance)

EDGAR ALLAN POE (1809-1849) was an American writer, poet, editor, and literary critic. Poe is best known for his poetry and short stories, particularly his tales of mystery and the macabre. He is widely regarded as a central figure of Romanticism in the United States, and of American literature. [Wikipedia]

MARCELINE DESBORDES-VALMORE (1786-1859) was a lyric singer and actress, and a pioneer of French romantic poetry. Her work is crossed by the denunciation of injustice and misery. While it is her poetic work that brought Desbordes-Valmore the recognition of her contemporaries, she also produced important works in prose. [BnF France]

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL (1819-1891) was an American Romantic poet, critic, editor, and diplomat. He is associated with the fireside poets, and was also an ardent abolitionist. [Wikipedia]

HONORÉ DE BALZAC (1799 - 1850) was a French notary clerk, journalist, editor and writer before devoting himself to the immense literary work “La Comédie Humaine”, which constitutes in detail a fresco of French society realized in 90 novels, short stories and essays. [franceculture.fr]

YVES BONNEFOY (1923 - 2016) was a French mathematician, philosopher, poet and writer. He was also a translator of Shakespeare (some fifteen works, preceded by prefaces), Yeats (forty-five poems), Keats, Leopardi and Petrarch. In 1981, he was elected as a professor at the Collège de France. His work has been translated into over thirty languages. [Collège de France]

EMILY DICKINSON (1830-1886) was an American poet. Little-known during her life (only ten of her poems and one letter were published before her death), she has since been regarded as one of the most important figures in American poetry. [Wikipedia]

PHILLIS WHEATLEY (1753-1784) was an American writer and poet. She was the first African American to publish a book, and the first woman to make a living from her writing. Through her work, Phillis Wheatley is credited with helping create the foundation of African American literature. [The Phillis Wheatley Historical Society - University of Massachusetts History Club]

CHRISTINA ROSSETTI (1830-1894) was an English writer of romantic, devotional and children's poems, including "Goblin Market" and "Remember". She was a sister of the artist and poet Dante Gabriel Rossetti II and features in several of his paintings. [Wikipedia]

TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE

Thank you for attending this program! Please help us improve the quality of the Museum of Science program experience by completing a short survey. Your response is anonymous, and the survey takes only a few moments of your time.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

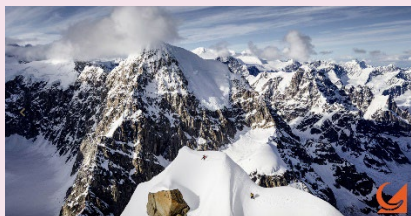
DON'T MISS



DOPE LABS UNPLUGGED

Thursday, April 14 | 7:00 p.m.
HYBRID - FREE | [Register Online](#)

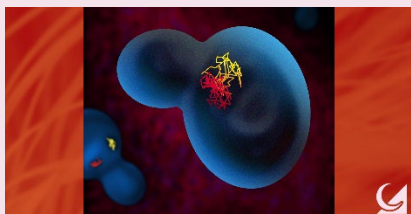
Join Titi and Zakiya, hosts of *Dope Labs Podcast*, as they break down the science of everything. These scientists put your favorite trending topics under the microscope, showing you that science is indeed everywhere! Whether you are a self-proclaimed science nerd or just a casual observer, *Dope Labs* will convince you that science is for everybody.



THE SANCTITY OF SPACE

Thursday, April 28
~~7:00 p.m.~~ SOLD OUT | 9:30 p.m. Added!
IN-PERSON ONLY
Tickets: \$10 | [Register Online](#)

The Sanctity of Space, a new documentary inspired by the iconic photography of Museum of Science's founding director Brad Washburn, is coming to the Mugar Omni Theater for one night only! Join us for a special screening followed by a conversation and Q&A with the cast and creative team.



MUSIC OF THE GENOME

Thursday, May 5 | 7:00 p.m.
IN-PERSON ONLY
Tickets: \$15 | [Register Online](#)

Multiverse Concert Series presents an international collaboration with the **Curie Institute of Paris** in a groundbreaking live concert of music and science. Over the course of an evening, guest presenters from the Marie Curie Institute, as well as Harvard University and MIT, will share their recent research with an audience, interwoven with live chamber music directly inspired by the motions and rhythms of the living genome.

FOR TICKETS AND FULL LINEUP: [MOS.ORG/ADULTS](https://mos.org/adults)

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