

disenfranchised by homelessness, incarceration, and poverty in Los Angeles County. She is also co-director of Shastra, a national organization that supports and cultivates musicians who work between Indian and Western traditions. Among her many prose writings is a detailed blog detailing her experiences as a Fulbright scholar, <http://www.reenaesmail.com>, and a series of essays on Hindustani music for NewMusicBox.org. Her doctoral dissertation, "Finding Common Ground: Uniting Practices in Works for Hindustani and Western Art Musicians," is an inquiry into the methodology and collaborative challenges in collaborative works by Western composers involving Hindustani and Western art musicians, and a compilation of the best practices currently in use in this nascent genre. Dr. Esmail recently created a video blog on Facebook designed for young composers/creatives. Titled *Resonant Space*, it deals with some of the tough moments in the creative process. Further information about Dr. Esmail's music and career can be found on her Facebook page and on her webpage, <http://www.reenaesmail.com>.

Tonight's concert offers a representative sampling of Dr. Esmail's solo and chamber music compositions, ranging from one of her earliest pieces, *Chardonnay* for unaccompanied flute (2001), to her most recent work, *Khirkiyaan (Windows): Three Transformations for Brass Quintet*, completed on November 13, 2017. *Khirkiyaan* was created for the Kansas State University Faculty Brass Quintet and receives its first public performance tonight.

Kansas State University

School of Music, Theatre and Dance

Music by Reena Esmail

Chardonnay for unaccompanied flute

Karen McLaughlin Large, flute

2001

Jhula Jhule for trumpet and piano

Craig B. Parker, trumpet
Amanda Arrington, piano

2014

Khirkiyaan (Windows): Three Transformations for Brass Quintet 2014; 2017

Kansas State University Faculty Brass Quintet
Jim Johnson and Craig B. Parker, trumpets
Jacqueline Fessler-Kerstetter, horn
Paul Hunt, trombone
Steve Maxwell, tuba

first performance

Intermission

"goole doodi (dark flower)" from *Anjuman Songs*

2013

Patricia Thompson, mezzo soprano
Alyssa Morris, English horn
Amanda Arrington, piano
Reena Esmail, narrator

Perhaps for cello and film

(2005/2015)

David Littrell, cello
film by Heather McCalden

Take What You Need: An Anthem for Skid Row

2016

Flint Hills Children's Choir and members of KSU choirs
Janie Brokenick, conductor
Cora Cooper, violin

Dr. Esmail's residency at Kansas State University this week has been sponsored by the Dow Center for Multicultural & Community Studies of Hale Library; the KSU College of Arts and Sciences Diversity Committee; and the KSU School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, Jeffrey Ward, director.

Wednesday, November 29, 2017
7:30 p.m.
All-Faiths Chapel Auditorium

Flint Hills Children's Choir

Janie Brokenicky, artistic director—Konza Choir
 Karis Dolenz, artistic director—Bluestem Choir
 David Wood, administrative director
 Heather McCormack, accompanist—Konza Choir
 Alicia Willard, accompanist—Bluestem Choir
 Victoria Loepp—intern
 Mika Ptacek—intern

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Will Addair | Taylor McHugh |
| Carissa Brandt | Corbin Montenegro |
| Isabella Budreau | Bryleigh Morgan |
| Nevaeh Buffington | Marley Neal |
| Tavia Buffington | Audri Newman |
| Lily Corkill | Kady Newman-Strecker |
| Kade Crump | Pyper Paddock |
| Paige Dalton | Katelyn Purdom |
| Madison Elliott | Taryn Robinson |
| Ella Fanning | Addie Mae Smith |
| Trigg Galle | Alexa Steinbach |
| Kelly Gartner | Zoey Thompson |
| Abby Jeanneret | Emily Ward |
| Jenna Keeley | Rileigh Willi |
| McKenzie Kelso | Elizabeth Williams |
| Tirzah Joy Kohl | Grace Williams |

Assisting Singers from K-State Choirs

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| <i>Sopranos</i> | <i>Tenors</i> |
| Victoria Loepp | Kage Edgar |
| Heather McCormack | Ryan Hernandez |
| Kelly Urschel | Garrett Prall |
| <i>Altos</i> | <i>Basses</i> |
| Karis Dolenz | Alec Cowley |
| Ellie Mankin | Spencer McIntire |
| Ashley Tysick | Willie Michaels |

Indian-American composer Reena Esmail (born February 11, 1983 in Chicago to a Catholic mother and Muslim father) ranks among the most versatile and influential composers of her generation. Her highly heralded compositional output, which embraces both Western and Hindustani elements, includes numerous solo, chamber, choral, and orchestral works as well as film scores. Her works have been commissioned and premiered by such esteemed organizations as the Albany (NY) Symphony, American Composers Orchestra, Chicago Simfonieta, Copland House, Imani Winds, Kronos Quartet, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Pasadena Master Chorale, and the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. Among her recent commissions was for *This Love Between Us: Prayers for Unity*, an oratorio for choir, Baroque orchestra, sitar, and tabla. The text for this work, in eight languages, is taken from holy writings of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Jainism, Islam, Sikhism, and Zoroastrianism. The Yale Schola Cantorum, Juilliard415, sitarist Rabindra Goswami, and tabla player Ramchandra Pandit, conducted by David Hill, premiered *This Love Between Us: Prayers for Unity* on March 2, 2017 at Alice Tully Hall in New York's Lincoln Center. Following a performance in New Haven, these musicians performed this work in Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai, India. This oratorio is scheduled for several performances by other musical forces next season, including by the Los Angeles Master Chorale, America's largest independent professional chorus.

A graduate of the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts as a piano major (2001), Esmail earned her B.M. in composition from The Juilliard School in 2005, where she studied composition with Samuel Adler and Christopher Rouse. She earned her M.M. (2011), M.M.A. (2014), and D.M.A. (2017) in composition from the Yale School of Music, where she studied composition with Martin Bresnick, Aaron Jay Kernis, and Christopher Theofanidis. In 2011-12, Esmail studied Hindustani classical music at Delhi University under a Fulbright-Nehru Scholarship. Esmail also studied violin with Ella Rutkovsky-Heitels and Robert Uchida, piano with Robert Turner, and composition with Susan Botti. Her Hindustani vocal teachers have been Gaurav Mazumdar in New Delhi and Priya Kanungo, Mosami Shah, Srimati Lakshmi Shankar, and Sali Oak Kalyanpur in the U. S.

Esmail has taught at the Manhattan (NY) School of Music precollege division (2006-09), the Yale Department of Music as a teaching fellow (2010-2012-14), and the Neernana Music Foundation in New Delhi (2011). She currently teaches composition privately in the Los Angeles area and lectures frequently at colleges and universities throughout the United States. Yesterday, she spoke on "Intersections Between Hindustani and Western Art Music in the Work of Reena Esmail" at Hale Library, sponsored by the library's Dow Center for Multicultural & Community Studies. In spring semester 2018, she will be in residence at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, and will teach workshops in Mumbai, India during February 2018 to give Hindustani singers the skills needed to collaborate with Western classical musicians.

In addition to composing, lecturing, and teaching composition, Dr. Esmail is composer-in-residence with Street Symphony, an organization that places social justice at the heart of music making by creating opportunities for musical engagement and dialogue between world-class musicians and people