

# CHATTERBIRD

presents

## HELLO GOLD MOUNTAIN

a world premiere  
written by WU FEI

**with Shanir Ezra Blumenkranz, oud  
and Wu Fei, guzheng**

**Joseph Lee, conductor**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2019  
12 PM, Casa Azafrán  
7 PM, Ingram Hall, Vanderbilt University

special thanks to our season partners:

THE MAP FUND  
THE DANIELLE ROSE PAIKIN FOUNDATION  
TENNESSEE ARTS COMMISSION  
METRO ARTS  
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY BLAIR SCHOOL OF MUSIC

<http://www.hellogoldmountain.com>

# HELLO GOLD MOUNTAIN

a world premiere composition by Wu Fei

I. Overture

II. For Ho Feng Shan, the Chinese Schindler

III. Lily and Meimei

IV. Stateless Dance

V. July 17, 1945 - The Raid

VI. Shanghai Dark Sea

VII. Hello, Gold Mountain

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**Joseph Lee, conductor**

**Wu Fei, guzheng**  
**Shanir Ezra Blumenkranz, oud**  
**and the musicians of chatterbird**

**with a reading by SarahRose Schiftan**  
**in memory of her grandmother,**  
**Edith Schiftan (1921 - 2018), who found refuge in Shanghai**



*\*please join us in chant when directed by our conductor.*

*Hello Gold Mountain* is a requiem for the lost possibilities of the Jewish community of Shanghai. This original composition by Wu Fei tells the stories of Jewish refugees who fled from Europe to Shanghai during WWII, and later from Shanghai to San Francisco during the Chinese Civil War.

From 1933 until the end of the war, Shanghai was often the only port at which Jewish refugees fleeing Europe could disembark without a visa. In the early 1940s, more than 20,000 Jews lived in Shanghai and contributed to its cultural and civic life.

But the Jews could not stay. As China's bloody civil war came to a close in 1949, most fled. Many emigrated to the US, often arriving at the port of San Francisco, or Old Gold Mountain.

*Hello Gold Mountain* honors the memories of these refugees and celebrates the cultural enrichment that happens when we open ourselves to the lived experiences of others. Drawing on the musical traditions of eastern European Jewish culture and China, it reflects on the cultural impact of refugee populations both then and now.

The world premiere performance of *Hello Gold Mountain* is made possible by funding from the MAP Fund, supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Additional key funding for the project was provided by the Danielle Rose Paikin Foundation, the Tennessee Arts Commission, Women's Philharmonic Advocacy, and a significant anonymous donor.

## רַפְּנִיכַ תַּחַת יְנִיּוּסֵינִיכָה

רַפְּנִיכַ תַּחַת יְנִיּוּסֵינִיכָה  
תּוֹחַאָו סָא יֵל יִיהוּ  
,יִשְׂאֵר טַלְקַמ רְקִיחַ יֵהִי  
תּוֹחַדְנָה יִתּוֹלְפַתְּנִיכַ

תּוֹשְׁמֵשֶׁה־וַיֵּיב, סִימְחַר תַּעֲבו  
סִירוּסִי דּוּס רָל לְגַאֵו יִחֵשׁ:  
– סִירוּעֵנ סְלוּעֵב שִׁי, סִירְמוֹא  
?יִרוּעֵנ נְכִיָה

הִדְוֹתָא רָל דְּחָא זָר דּוּעֵו  
הִבְהַלֵּב הַפְּרִשְׁנִי יִשְׁפַּנּוּ  
– סְלוּעֵב שִׁי הִבְהַא, סִירְמוֹא  
הִבְהַא תּאזִיְהֵמ?

יִתּוֹא וּמַר סִיבְכוּפָה  
רַבָּעַ אוּהַ סִגְ רָא – סוֹלַח הִנָּה  
– סְלוּעֵב סוֹלֵכַ יֵל וַיֵּא הִתַּע  
רַבְּדַ יֵל וַיֵּא

רַפְּנִיכַ תַּחַת יְנִיּוּסֵינִיכָה  
תּוֹחַאָו סָא יֵל יִיהוּ  
,יִשְׂאֵר טַלְקַמ רְקִיחַ יֵהִי  
תּוֹחַדְנָה יִתּוֹלְפַתְּנִיכַ

## Take Me Under Your Wing

Take me under your wing,  
be my mother, my sister.  
Take my head to your breast,  
my banished prayers to your nest.

One merciful twilight hour,  
hear my pain, bend your head.  
They say there is youth in the world.  
Where has my youth fled?

Listen! another secret:  
I have been seared by a flame.  
They say there is love in the world.  
How do we know love's name?

I was deceived by the stars.  
There was a dream; it passed.  
I have nothing at all in the world,  
nothing but a vast waste.

Take me under your wing,  
be my mother, my sister.  
Take my head to your breast,  
my banished prayers to your nest.

- Chaim Nachman Bialik

“Take me under your wing” was written on 17 February 1905 (12 Adar I 5665). The transcription of the Hebrew was made by the Ben Yehuda Project. English translation by Ruth Nevo for Chaim Nachman Bialik: Selected Poems (Dvir and the Jerusalem Post 1981).

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# ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

*“Cell phones got alerts that a performance by Chinese guzheng player Wu Fei was at capacity.”* — Rolling Stone magazine, on Wu Fei’s sold out solo performance at Big Ears music festival, March 2017.

**Wu Fei** is a native of Beijing and a current Nashville resident. She is a classically trained composer, master of the guzheng — the 21-string Chinese zither, and a vocalist. She plays in the guzheng’s vernacular — a musical language which is at least 2,000 years old, and mixes Western classical and Chinese traditions with a contemporary, idiosyncratic sound. Her early music education was at the China Conservatory of Music, but did her Master’s at Mills College and later immersed herself in the New York downtown improvisation scene at venues like The Stone, where Fei has frequently performed and curated.

Wu Fei composes for choir, string quartet, chamber ensemble, Balinese gamelan, and orchestra; her commissions range from a composition for Percussions Claviers de Lyon that premiered in the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing to live performances in Paris and Tokyo for luxury brand Hermès. Currently, Wu Fei is the composer-in-residence for chatterbird Ensemble.

In addition to her own original compositions, Fei has collaborated with artists of different disciplines and genres ranging, from Béla Fleck, Abigail Washburn, Billy Martin (Medeski-Martin-Wood) to avant garde composers John Zorn and Fred Frith. She has taken her guzheng and music around the world and touring highlights include composition premiere at the Forbidden City Concert Hall in Beijing, Shanghai EXPO 2010, the MoMA in New York City, North Sea Jazz Festival in the Netherlands, Vossa Jazz in Norway, Europalia Festival in Belgium, and the Big Ears Festival in Tennessee.

Wu Fei has given concerts and workshops to many universities around the world including Princeton University, UNC Chapel Hill, UC Irvine, Vanderbilt University, China Conservatory of Music, and Norwegian Music Academy.

Wu Fei has released two solo records and one duo record with classical guitarist Gyan Riley. Each record exhibits both her unique solo improvisational vocabulary and her craft of composing for chamber orchestras. “Wu’s work evinces respect for tradition, an interest in what instruments can do, a strong sense of architecture, and good old fashioned showmanship.” Allmusic.com review of YUAN, on Tzadik Records.

**Shanir Ezra Blumenkranz** — acoustic bass, electric bass, oud, gimbri — was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1975 to Polish and Egyptian parents. He was given his first instruments, the pots and pans from the kitchen and a three string guitar, at the age of two.

Shanir is featured on over 50 releases on John Zorn's Tzadik record label since 1999 - producing and arranging many of the bands he works with, including Rashanim "The Gathering", Edom "Hope And Destruction", Pitom "Blasphemy And Other Serious Crimes", and the "Kef" self titled debut. In 2011, Shanir produced and arranged the cd "Caym", featuring Cyro Baptista's Banquet Of The Spirits - comprised of compositions by John Zorn as part of the Masada "Book Of Angels" series on Tzadik. Other CDs by Cyro Baptista include the self-titled debut of "Banquet Of The Spirits" and "Infinito" - with compositions and arrangements by Shanir.

In 2012, Shanir released a cd by his own group, ABRAXAS, on Tzadik featuring John Zorn's Masada "Book Of Angels" compositions.

*"ABRAXAS: Shanir Ezra Blumenkranz steps out on his own to make one of the most primal and tribal installments in the 'Book of Angels' series. Drawing on his Sephardic roots, Shanir plays gimbri throughout, giving the music a primeval Moroccan edge. Featuring the intense guitar pyrotechnics of Eyal Maoz, Aram Bajakian and the atavistic drumming of Kenny Grohowski, this is Ritualistic Jewish Rock for the 21st century by a brilliant young lion from the East Village via Brooklyn/Israel!"*

Shanir has performed in concert halls and festival stages all over the world with John Zorn, ABRAXAS, Banquet of the Spirits, Yemen Blues, Zion80, Edom, Pitom, Rashanim, Satlah, Kef, Pharaoh's Daughter, and recently joining Yo-Yo Ma playing oud, bass, gimbri, and arranging music for the Silk Road Project.

In 2017, Shanir founded a new record label called Chant Records. From ecstatic re-imaginings of the world's musical traditions to the farthest reaches of avant experimentalism, Chant is dedicated to releasing adventurous and uncompromising music across the spectrum.

## CHATTERBIRD MUSICIANS

Trombonist **Roland Barber** joined the faculty of the Blair School of Music in January 2017 as Adjunct Associate Professor of Trombone and Jazz Studies, teaching trombone, jazz brass and jazz improvi-

sation. One-half of longtime Nashville-based jazz duo The Barber Brothers, Barber has also performed with an impressive and diverse list of artists, including Chaka Khan, the Duke Ellington Orchestra, Wynton Marsalis and Jazz at Lincoln Center, Kirk Whalum, the Wooten Brothers, Robin Thicke, The Temptations, and the Saturday Night Live Band. Barber has performed in venues the world over, from Manhattan to Estonia, including Carnegie Hall, Birdland, the Blue Note, Lincoln Center, and Madison Square Garden. Television appearances include MTV's Making the Band, CBS' Today Show and the ESPN Awards. Barber has performed with titans of jazz music as well as young lions, including Stefon Harris, Clark Terry, Steve Turre, Houston Person, Jeff "Tain" Watts, Wynton Marsalis, Sean Jones, and the Grammy-winning New Orleans Jazz Ensemble. Barber holds an M.M. in Jazz Studies from Manhattan School of Music (2005), as well as an Artist Diploma (2003) and B.M. in Jazz Studies (2001), both from Indiana University.

Clarinetist **Emily Wasson Bowland** maintains an active career as performer and teacher. An equally versatile performer on clarinet, E-flat, and bass clarinets, she enjoys an interesting and diverse career, both live and in the recording studios. Emily currently holds the positions of Principal Clarinet of Orchestra Kentucky, 3rd/Bass Clarinet of the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra, and the Nashville Opera Orchestra. As a soloist, she has appeared with Orchestra Kentucky and on recitals at the International Clarinet Association's ClarinetFest, University of Oklahoma Clarinet Symposium, and the Society of Composers, Inc.. Emily was a part of several recordings with the Nashville Symphony, a highlight being the release of Musorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition" under the direction of Leonard Slatkin; and was a part of the world-premiere of Trey Anastasio's "Time Turns Elastic" with Orchestra Nashville, a performance featured in Rolling Stone magazine. An enthusiastic supporter of contemporary music, Emily is a core member of Nashville-based new music ensembles Intersection and chatterbird. Emily is active in the Nashville studio scene, having performed on many movie and video game soundtracks and recording for publishing companies to solo artist projects. She can be heard on Jack White's Grammy-nominated debut solo album, "Blunderbuss." She is also featured in a recording with roots musician Pokey LaFarge, as a part of the film soundtrack for The Lone Ranger (2013). Emily holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music

and a Master of Music degree from the University of Southern California. Her major teachers have included Yehuda Gilad, Mitchell Lurie, and Richie Hawley. She resides in Franklin with her husband, saxophonist Jimmy Bowland, and kids, Parker and Ila. When not playing the clarinet, Emily loves to hike with her family.

Pianist **Maeve Brophy** gave her first solo recital at age 9 and made her orchestral debut at 15. She has given numerous solo and collaborative performances across the United States and abroad. The Brophy Sisters, her violin-piano duo with her sister, released their first album in January 2018. Maeve has performed as soloist with the Chernygev Symphony in Kiev as well as the Paducah Symphony, San Francisco Concerto Orchestra, and the Central Florida Philharmonic. She has played for the Memphis Chamber Music Society and the Artist Ascending Series in Memphis, the Lindberg Farm Series and Messiah Lutheran Concert Series in Huntsville, and the UAB Piano Series in Birmingham. She has a BA from the University of Alabama at Birmingham where she studied with Dr. Yakov Kasman and a Master of Music in Piano Performance from Texas Christian University where she studied with the late Jose Feghali. She also studied at the Manhattan School of Music with Marc Silverman and at the New England Conservatory of Music with Russell Sherman. Maeve is currently an adjunct professor and freelance collaborative pianist at Belmont University, and she is a faculty collaborative pianist at Vanderbilt University, where she has performed numerous recitals with students, faculty, and guest artists. She recently became pianist and organist at East End United Methodist Church in East Nashville. Maeve also writes songs and plays jazz and is the former pianist for the Establishment Big Band. She is the proud parent of a 1 year old daughter.

A performer and educator in high demand, **Ryan Cockman** is known for his unique tone and exciting live performances. After graduating from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a MM in Violin Performance and Pedagogy, Ryan's path has lead him to Nashville to pursue his freelance and teaching careers. Currently, Ryan maintains a busy schedule that includes appearances with an array of orchestra and chamber groups in the area, such as the Gateway Chamber Orchestra, Huntsville Symphony, Orchestra Kentucky Bowling Green, and the Louisville Orchestra.



**Joshua Dent** began playing cello at the age of fourteen in Kissimmee, Florida. Two years later they began learning improvisation and exploring genres outside of the classical umbrella of music. Towards the end of their studies at Florida State University, they decided it was best to pursue music by learning in the professional world in different ways. Since then, they moved to Nashville, Tennessee where they currently reside. Their career is always changing; currently, their work ranges from playing in chamber music groups, vaudeville style bands, rock groups, and jazz ensembles, to playing with singers-songwriters, recording for studio sessions, and teaching improvisation workshops for cello studies around the country. Currently they are an artist in residence with abrasiveMedia, principal cellist for Strings of Saturn, and active member of chatterbird since its beginning. Spending much of the year away from their home, Joshua frequently travels around the U.S. and Europe playing music and collaborating with artists of other mediums such as painters, dancers, writers, and actors.

Oboist **Jared Hauser** has been described as “melodious and spontaneous” by ArtsNash, and as a “sensitive, elegant soloist” with a “subtle refined style” by Gramophone Magazine. Appointed to the faculty of the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University in 2008, Hauser performs with the Blair Woodwind Quintet, and maintains an international stature as performing and teaching artist. He also serves on the faculty of the National Music Festival, as principal oboe with the Nashville Opera, and performs on period oboes with Music City Baroque. Recent performances have taken Hauser to Spain, France, Costa Rica, and across the United States. Highlights of this season include the premier of several works, some involving interactive electronic media and improvised oboe, pushing the boundaries of the instrument’s traditional repertoire. Hauser has recorded nearly a dozen highly acclaimed solo CDs for BGR and Naxos, and can also be heard on recordings from Koch International, AUR, Gemini and Eroica Records among others. His performances have been broadcast on NPR’s Performance Today, CBC/Radio Canada and BBC Radio 3. Hauser holds degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory, Rice University, University of Michigan, and Michigan State University, and is a Yamaha Performing Artist.

**Benjamin Chakoian Jones** is a composer, arranger, bassist, and violist living in Nashville, Tennessee. Born in Iowa and raised in Ohio,

Benjamin moved to Nashville to attend college, and has continued to make it his home. He studied composition at Belmont University under Mark Volker and William Pursell. As a composer, Jones' works have been performed by groups including Trio Siciliano, Nashville Concerto Orchestra, The Nashville Collegiate Orchestra, The W.O. Smith Faculty Orchestra, The Newark-Granville Youth Symphony String Quartet, and ensembles through his own Nashville Chamber Music Series. In addition to his creative endeavors, Jones is the founder and curator of The Nashville Chamber Music Series, "a collective of composers, performers, and music lovers who wish to develop Nashville's communal passion for classical and jazz music." Drawing on the chamber concerts of the Romantic period, Jones hopes to revitalize the capacity for classical music to be enjoyed on a casual and intimate level.

**Carl Larson**, violist, hails from Louisville, KY and maintains an active performing and recording career as a member of symphony, chamber, opera, ballet, and session orchestras in New York, Florida, Tennessee, Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Alabama, and the Dominican Republic. Carl has also toured with San Francisco's JazzMafia, Deltron 3030, Barry Manilow, and many Nashville artists. Summer engagements include the Endless Mountain, Montreal Jazz, Artosphere, Bard, Interlochen, Aspen, Yellowstone, and New Hampshire music festivals. He holds degrees in Mathematics and Viola Performance, and studied at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. Carl is also actively involved with the Miami, Cincinnati, and Nashville chapters of Classical Revolution, a project which seeks to revolutionize the way live classical music is programmed and heard by offering chamber music performances in highly accessible venues such as bars and cafés, and collaborating with local musicians and artists from various styles and backgrounds.

**Joseph Lee** serves as Resident Conductor of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, Music Director of the Huntsville Youth Orchestra, and Music Director of the University Orchestra at the University of Alabama Huntsville. He is the Principal Conductor of the Campamento Internacional de Musica Pochote (Costa Rica) and Music Director of Music Ministries at East End United Methodist Church of Nashville. In addition to his regular conducting activities, Mr. Lee frequently travels the Southeast US and Central America leading

clinics, adjudicating band and orchestra festivals, and guest conducting. Mr. Lee has participated in music festivals and master classes both at home and abroad. He graduated cum laude from Vanderbilt University.

**Maya Stone** is a champion of music. She has commissioned and premiered several works by American composers. Most recently she is performing the Potsdam, NY premiere of Gregory Wanamaker's piece, *Echoes of Melancholy*, written in 2017. Stone is a freelance musician in the Nashville region. She is Acting Principal Bassoon with the Huntsville Symphony in Alabama, Second Bassoon with the Sphinx Symphony based in Detroit and performs often with other orchestras around the Southeast. She is also passionate about participating in the rise of musicianship and life skills in youth, and has an active private studio. She gives recitals and master classes around the U.S. each year. Dr. Stone was a visiting professor at Universities in Missouri and Ohio. Prior to that, she was Assistant Professor of Bassoon at Middle Tennessee State University, and in 2004, she held a visiting professorship in Double Reeds at Austin Peay State University. She is currently an adjunct professor at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Dr. Stone has a D.M.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, an M.M. in from Michigan State University, and a B.M. from SUNY Potsdam. Her teachers include Kristin Wolfe Jensen, Barrick Stees, and Frank Wangler.

**Jesse Strauss** specializes in chamber & orchestral music and improvised music for dance. A graduate of Belmont University, he studied percussion under Christopher Norton focusing heavily on solo marimba repertoire. As an accompanist and performer, he has worked with Nashville based dance companies Epiphany, FALL Dance, Belmont University Dept. of Dance, Nashville Contact Improvisation, Chinese Arts Alliance, and Tennessee's Governor School for the Arts. His dance music employs improvisation with hand drums, synthesizers, sound processing, and drones. Jesse is the percussionist and Assistant Artistic Director for chatterbird, a contemporary classical ensemble that performs new music from composers around the country and from Nashville-based songwriters and instrumentalists. He also performs as an extra section percussionist with the Nashville Symphony. Jesse co-founded Make Music Nashville, a free day of music that brings outdoor concerts and participatory musical activities to neighborhoods around the city. He has also worked

with many non-profit arts organizations in various capacities, including Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Nashville Symphony, and Belcourt Theatre.

**Emma Supica**, chatterbird's Education and Outreach Coordinator, is an arts educator and consultant based in Nashville, TN. Her work centers on music and theatre education. Currently, Ms. Supica serves as Executive Director for Unscripted, a nonprofit organization in Nashville which makes improv more accessible to the community, and as a method for wellness. She also works as a music educator with several ensembles, including ALIAS, Intersection, and chatterbird, and formerly served as program manager for the nonprofit W.O. Smith Music School. Before coming to Nashville, Ms. Supica taught general music, band, choir, and coached softball in public schools in her native state of Kansas, as well as Oklahoma, where she was named district teacher of the year. Her educational interests focus on community and character building through the arts, and she enjoys teaching students of any age and skill level. Ms. Supica received her Master of Education in Nonprofit Leadership from Belmont University and her Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Kansas with both instrumental and vocal K-12 certification.

Flutist **Celine Thackston** is a versatile musician, delivering expressive, sensitive performances featuring repertoire that blurs the traditional boundaries of classical music. She completed her doctorate in flute performance from the University of Oregon, where she was a Graduate Teaching Fellow and studied with Molly Barth, founding flutist of eighth blackbird. She has performed often with a wide array of ensembles from traditional to the avant-garde, including the New York New Music Ensemble, Opera Theater Oregon, Nashville Symphony, Alabama Symphony, Memphis Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Classical Revolution, and Filmusik, among others. In Nashville, she has also performed on numerous studio recordings for movies, video games, and popular artists. Celine received her master's degree in flute performance from New York University as a student of flutist Robert Dick. She has served on the faculty of Middle Tennessee State University and Fisk University. In addition to making music and corralling chatterbirds, Celine coordinates grantwriting efforts and provides development support for arts and human services clients in Tennessee and beyond.

We are grateful to the following organizations for their partnership and assistance with this project:

The Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition  
The Jewish Federation of Nashville and Middle Tennessee  
Vanderbilt University and the Blair School of Music  
Chinese Arts Alliance of Nashville  
Eastwood Christian Church  
Gordon Jewish Community Center  
Nashville Public Library  
Casa Azafrán  
W. O. Smith Music School

We are grateful to Rabbi Mark Schiftan, Senior Rabbi at the The Temple–Congregation Ohabai Sholom, for his time and collaboration around this project.

Community programming initiatives were made possible by a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission's Arts Build Communities fund.

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Special thanks to the Blair School of Music Technical Operations team for their assistance with Saturday night's performance.

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and the continued development of**

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**[hellogoldmountain.com](http://hellogoldmountain.com)**

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## **chatterbird's staff:**

Celine Thackston, Artistic Director  
Jesse Strauss, Assistant Artistic Director  
Wu Fei, Composer in Residence  
Emma Supica, Education and  
Outreach Coordinator

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## **hello gold mountain project assistance:**

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