



PRESS RELEASE: January 2, 2019, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. Laura Colgate: Co-Founder and Executive Director

laura@boulangerinitiative.org | 901.292.8189

Joy-Leilani Garbutt: Co-Founder and Executive Director of Education

joy@boulangerinitiative.org

[Boulanger Initiative Website](#)

**NEW D.C. ARTS ORGANIZATION CHAMPIONS EQUITY FOR FEMALE COMPOSERS:
Announcing the Boulanger Initiative's WoCo (Women
Composers) Launch Festival, Commencing March 8, 2019 - International Women's
Day.**

The Boulanger Initiative, co-founded by violinist [Dr. Laura Colgate](#) and organist/musicologist [Joy-Leilani Garbutt](#), is a rapidly growing, DC-based start-up on a mission to promote music by women, trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming artists. There is no other organization for composers who face gender-related oppression in existence with the scope and vision of the Boulanger Initiative (BI), and they are excited to redirect the narrative. BI will achieve its mission through action in three divisions:

Performance: Announcing [WoCo Launch Festival!](#) March 8 & 9, 2019 at [Blind Whino](#) in SW Washington, DC. [Jennifer Koh](#) and [Missy Mazzoli](#) are the opening night headliner co-presented by [Strathmore Performing Arts Center](#). Saturday night's headliner is the Grammy-nominated [Aizuri Quartet](#). Additional sponsors and co-presenters include [The Clarice](#), [Capital Percussion](#), and numerous generous individuals.

The weekend of performances by international artists, educational events, panel discussions, workshops, female-owned food trucks, training session booths for

professional development, culminates with a vibrant celebration at [AMP by Strathmore](#) on March 10, with performances by [Washington Women in Jazz](#) & Friends.

A full schedule of events will be announced and tickets will go on sale in the coming weeks. Their premiere concert season (2019/20) is devoted to presenting music composed by women & trans artists, past and present, promises exceptional music performed by acclaimed artists.

Education: The Boulanger Initiative is thrilled to be contributing to a Kennedy Center digital education project in the coming season. In addition, the Boulanger Initiative has joined the member roster of the [DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative](#), which will help launch a pilot program to DC-area elementary schools. BI Ambassadors have already begun presenting programs of music composed by women & trans artists at DC-area colleges and universities, and the program will continue to expand nationally in the coming season.

Commissions: Supporting the composition and performance of new music through commissions, BI aims to foster awareness, create opportunity, and inspire creativity. This division will commence once the series and education outreach is well underway.

There is so much incredible music that has been composed by women & trans artists, and the vast majority of it is undeservedly unknown. We want to enrich the musical landscape so that we can benefit in the present, and shape future opportunities for the next generation of composers.

--Joy-Leilani Garbutt, Co-Founder

We ask no favors for our gender, but we will not surrender our right to be heard.

--Laura Colgate, Co-Founder

The [Boulanger Initiative Team](#) has just over a dozen core volunteers transitioning to paid staff, a Leadership Circle consisting of Advisors, and an Inclusion Advisory Council facilitated by a trans person of color. Boulanger Initiative is currently fiscally sponsored by [Fractured Atlas](#), and receives legal guidance from [Hogan Lovells US, LLP](#).

CELEBRATING, PERFORMING, AND SUPPORTING MUSIC COMPOSED BY WOMEN

Visit us on: [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), [FB](#), and [Twitter](#)