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Photo Caption: Wild Up

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For Immediate Release

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Wild Up Returns to Sierra Madre Playhouse with Adventurous Program Spotlighting Female Composers that Intersect with L.A.

**Part of Wild Up's L.A. Composer Series,
Program Is Curator by and Features Violinist Mona Tian,
along with Carson Rick, Viola, and Mia Barcia-Colombo, Cello**

**Repertoire Includes Contemporary Chamber and Solo Works by Ellen Reid, Nina C. Young,
Marta Tiesenga, Kay Rhie, Nina Shekar, and the Late Sarah Gibson**

Monday, November 11, 2024, 7:30PM, at Sierra Madre Playhouse

(Sierra Madre, CA – October 24, 2024) Celebrated contemporary music ensemble **Wild Up** presents a range of chamber and solo works by female composers with deep links to Los Angeles in the second of two adventurous programs in its L.A. Composer series at **Sierra Madre Playhouse**, its new long-term East Los Angeles-based home, on Monday, November 11, 2024, 7:30 pm. The program, which embraces the city's richly diverse sound and multi-cultural landscape, showcases Wild Up's unique fusion of new music, theater, performance art, and pop. It is curated by and features **Mona Tian** on violin along with **Carson Rick** on viola, and **Mia Barcia-Colombo** on cello.

The concert includes ...*In The Dreams of Another* and *Apertures*, both for violin and viola by Korean-born/LA-raised composer **Kay Rhie**, a professor at UCLA's Herb Albert School of Music whose wide-ranging music often explores the issues of belonging and the science of acoustics.

Among other works are *Meditation* for violin and cello by trailblazing Rome Prize-winner **Nina C. Young**, an Associate Professor of Composition at USC Thornton School of Music who is known for bridging instrumental and electroacoustic music, and LA-based Pulitzer Prize-winner **Ellen Reid's** *West Coast Sky Forever*, evoking sweeping views of Los Angeles from atop Mount Hollywood in Griffith Park. She composed it for her site-specific installation *Ellen Reid SOUNDWALK*, a GPS-enabled work of public art that reimagines urban parks as interactive soundscapes.

Also featured is *rotoglyph* by interdisciplinary artist **Marta Tiesenga**, noted for illuminating the parallels between maps and musical scores. A composer, visual artist, sound artist, multi-instrumentalist, and improviser, Tiesenga holds an MFA in Composition - Experimental Sound Practices and an MFA in Experimental Animation with a Concentration in Integrated Media from California Institute of the Arts.

Wild Up presents two works by first-generation Indian American **Nina Shekhar**, a composer and multimedia artist who explores the intersection of identity, vulnerability, love, and laughter to create bold and intensely personal works, including *Cajón*, an extraordinary percussive piece for solo cello, and *Warm In My Veins*, which Shekhar says refers to “the blood of our ancestors (that) runs warm in our veins, carrying their culture, wisdom, and fieriness of spirit.” Shekhar previously served as Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra’s 2023-24 Sound Investment Composer.

Capping the concert is a poignant tribute to the late Los Angeles-based composer **Sarah Gibson**, an important Wild Up collaborator who passed away from cancer in July 2024 at age 38. Tran will perform Gibson’s *You Are Still Here*, a moving solo violin work inspired by Mona Hatoum’s artwork of the same name – a double mirror created to spark a conversation with oneself about the confirmation of existence and survival.

Tian is a member of the Grammy-nominated chamber ensemble Wild Up and has performed extensively for Broadway musicals. She has toured nationally as concertmaster with the Tony Award-winning best musical "Dear Evan Hansen" and "A Christmas Carol." As an avid chamber musician, Mona has performed at Mostra SESC des Artes in São Paulo, Otto Gruber Hall in Saalfelden, Austria, the Ojai Music Festival, Lincoln Center, Walt Disney Concert Hall, and more. She is a member of Wadada Leo Smith’s Red Koral Quartet. A strong advocate for contemporary music, Tran regularly performs with Long Beach Opera and has worked closely with composers such as Karen Tanaka, Ellen Reid, Annie Gosfield, Caroline Shaw, and Wadada Leo Smith, as well as Raven Chacon. She has performed and shared stages with artists such as Sarah Chang, Hélène Grimaud, Martha Graham Dance Company, Calder Quartet, Bill T Jones’ Dance Company, Randy Newman, and Sigur Rós, and can be heard on recordings with the Kronos Quartet, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, The Industry Opera Company, and films and TV soundtracks for "House of Cards," "Dear White People," "The Great," "Avatar: The Way of Water," and the "Transformers" film series.

Tickets and Information

Tickets to **Wild Up** (\$12 - \$35) are on sale now. For tickets and information, please call 626.355.4318 or visit www.sierramadreplayhouse.org. Sierra Madre Playhouse is located at 87 West Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE, a vibrant Southern California cultural hub with a rich history spanning a century, energizes audiences and the community with distinctive theatrical productions and captivating live performances. Hailed as a “jewel” (*Pasadena Weekly*) and “a landmark theater” (*ABC7 Los Angeles*), the performing arts center has garnered tremendous accolades for its varied repertoire and thought-provoking education and outreach programs curated with social impact in mind. The *Los Angeles Times* proclaims, “This is theater from the heart.” As one of San Gabriel Valley’s only performing arts center presenting a broad spectrum of performance genres, including theater, music, dance, film, comedy, and family-friendly productions featuring eminent local and national professional artists, the treasured artistic beacon draws audiences from across the Southland. The intimate 99-seat Sierra Madre Playhouse offers an up-close and personal connection to performances that resonate deeply, earning multiple Ovation Awards, NAACP Awards, and LA Times Critics' Choice honors. It is nestled into a historic building on the inviting Main Street of Sierra Madre, a charming village in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. Retaining its distinctive movie theater façade and instantly recognizable marquee, the structure has undergone numerous transformations since opening in 1910, from furniture emporium to silent movie theatre to the artistic institution that now stands as a vibrant embodiment of the region’s rich cultural legacy. The Sierra Madre Playhouse fosters creativity that aspires to bridge divides and spark dialogue, all while celebrating the rich tapestry of the American experience and the enduring pursuit of shared understanding.

EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

WHAT:

Sierra Madre Playhouse Presents Music @ the Playhouse: Wild Up – L.A. Composer Series

Mona Tian, curator/violin/leader

Carson Rick, viola

Mia Barcia-Colombo, cello

WHEN:

Monday, November 11, 2024, 7:30 pm

PROGRAM:

Reena Esmail - *Darshan*

Nina Young - *Meditation*

Ellen Reid - *West Coast Sky Forever*

Kay Rhie - *In The Dreams of Another*

Marta Tiesenga - *Rotoglyph*

Nina Sheckar - *Cajon*

Sarah Gibson - *You are still here*

WHERE:

Sierra Madre Playhouse

87 West Sierra Madre Boulevard

Sierra Madre, CA 91024

TICKETS AND INFORMATION:

Tickets: \$12-\$35

(626) 355-4318

www.sierramadreplayhouse.org

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