

OBSERVER
June 22, 2020

FROM THE CUNY GRADUATE CENTER

Dear IRP members,

As you may be aware, last week Governor Cuomo and CUNY declared June 19, Juneteenth, as an observed holiday and all CUNY offices were closed and classes were canceled on Friday. This year marks the 155th anniversary of the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States, when word of the Emancipation Proclamation, signed two years earlier, finally reached those in Texas. We celebrate the State's acknowledgement of this holiday and continue to work towards diversity, inclusion, opportunity, and social justice at The Graduate Center and within the IRP program in line with CUNY's longstanding mission. Our team has had meaningful conversations through our Meet and Greet sessions with committees including the Diversity Committee, collecting ideas from members about programs to co-organize for the IRP community and wider Graduate Center community as well as actions and recommendations for a community agreement and diversity plan that our office will support IRP members in creating. We continue to welcome your ideas in upcoming forums and via email to engagement@gc.cuny.edu. Further, as listed in our [resources document](#), The Graduate Center offers a [compendium of resources](#) for self-education and reflection.

A few announcements:

- Tomorrow you will receive a link in your **Graduate Center email inbox** to submit payment for summer study groups – please select the price that reflects the *total* number of study groups you enrolled in over the course of summer (sessions one and two).
- You may be experiencing an error accessing the library database since last week. There are limitations on remote/off-campus access that we are trying to resolve with the librarians and are developing a short term and long-term solution. We will be in touch with more information as we have it.
- Members, if you have not yet joined a Meet and Greet session with your committee or special interest group, please register [here](#) for a session on Monday June 29. There are two sessions that day: the first at 9:30AM and a second at 3PM, each meeting for about an hour. Ariana, Olena, and I are looking forward to getting to know you better!
- Please see attached flyer for a virtual concert organized by The Marshall Arts and Humanities Series, co-sponsored by The Graduate Center, and scheduled for Friday June 26 at 12PM. Attendees must RSVP on Eventbrite in order to receive the Zoom webinar link. [The Eventbrite link for RSVP is here.](#)
- My office hours will resume on July 7 from 12-1PM and recur on a biweekly basis. Please join me [here](#) in my virtual office!

- I also want to remind you all that The Graduate Center will hold Summer Work Hours and starting this week through Friday August 7, we will work a compressed Monday-Thursday schedule and are “out of office” on those Fridays.

I look forward to welcoming new IRP members with the Orientation committee this afternoon and to meeting more of you in the coming week!

In solidarity,
Mariel

FROM THE AB AND THE TECH COMMITTEE

Schedule for the Observer; Starting This Week

Going forward, the Observer will be formatted and distributed by the team at the Graduate Center’s Office of Academic Initiatives and Strategic Innovation. To ensure a smooth transition, we ask our readers to please remember and follow our usual procedure.

- Submit your items to the editors, Leslie Davis and Eileen Sullivan, **by the end of the day on Friday for inclusion in the Monday issue.** Items submitted after Friday will be saved for the following week

For the immediate future, the Observer will be mailed to the same email address as we are now using. In the future, however, it will be emailed only to your CUNY GC address—another reason to become accustomed to using it.

CUNY GC Email

Speaking of the email, remember that in future, CUNY will send ALL IRP mail to our CUNY email address. You can always access this mail at <https://wa.gc.cuny.edu/owa>. Remember also that for advice and instructions about all things tech, go to <https://sites.google.com/view/irptechstuff>. At this site you can now access the 24/7 chat room, instructions for setting up both your CUNY email on various devices and your GC-CUNY Zoom account and many other things as well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder Summer and Fall Schedules

- Summer Session I ends on Monday, July 6
- Summer Session II starts on Monday, July 13 and ends on Friday, August 21
- Fall Semester starts on Friday, September 11.

Call for Activities between Summer and Fall Terms

The Community Project is looking for volunteers to lead activities during the break from August 24th to September 10th. Just as in our earlier break, your activity can meet one, two, or three times. We also invite summer coordinators to offer a one session favorite “encore” presentation selected from their summer study group.

Please submit your activity to Jan Adler <adlerjan@optonline.net>

Shooting Birds with a Camera

Tuesday, July 7 at 1PM

Peter Houts will facilitate an illustrated Zoom talk with discussion, showing how to create attractive, interesting photographs of birds. Please email Peter at psh2@psu.edu if you plan to attend so that he can email you about how to log into the program.

ONLINE ART SHOW

TITLE: *Corona Kaleidoscope*, Mixed Media Collage

BY: Dick Kossoff

According to Dick Kossoff:

"This collage was inspired by IRP classes taken with Istar Schwager and Carol Sterling.



New Site for Displaying Work of IRP Artists

Also remember to revisit the IRP Art Shows of 2013, 2015, and 2018 as well as the artwork published in the *Observer* this year at the new ArtSig site. Go to the Zine, click on Activities, then select ArtSig. Click on the pictures to enlarge them and marvel at the creativity of IRP's artists.

The site will also be the place to show future work and will include a link to *Voices* so that you can admire the work of many IRP artists. Thanks to Jerry Vogel for setting up the site and to Peter Houts for recovering all the pictures. Questions: Dick Kossoff at chemkos@aol.com.

REMINDERS

Inter-term Activities Continuing

- Short Stories Aloud, Every Tuesday, 4PM, Contact Sharon Girard at proustmatters@gmail.com
- Men's Group, Every Wednesday, 12:15PM, Contact Jay Fleishman at ejayfleish@aol.com
- Women's Group, Every Thursday, 3PM, Contact Arlyne LeSchack at ale
- Federalists Forever, Every other Thursday, 4PM, Next Sessions July 2, July 16. Contact Howard Miller at howard3915@outlook.com
- Pour at Four, Every Friday, 4PM. Hosted by Susan Rubens in the 24-hour [chat room](#).

And Note New Topic and Message for

- Advances in Civilizations, Thursday, June 25, 4PM.

Sara Otey will lead a discussion of Hannah Arendt. If you have attended a previous program, use the prior Zoom invite. If you are new to the series, contact stephenkalinsky@gmail.com for an invitation.

Note that Advances in Civilization will take a break after **this Thursday**, returning on Thursday, **September 17th** at 4 PM with a discussion of Charles Darwin led by Mary Padilla. ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED in participating in the Fall, contact Steve to be placed on the mailing list. A new Zoom invitation will be required for the Fall sessions.

To continue this series after **September 17th**, the organizers need IRP members to present on a topic of their choice. The possibilities are endless. If you are willing to present, please contact Steve at stephenkalinsky@gmail.com as soon as possible.

MEMBER FORUM keep your ideas coming to Leslie Davis at ldavis7104@yahoo.com

The Diversity-Outreach Committee continues to encourage our conversations about race. There will be uncomfortable moments as we confront our unconscious biases. But with awareness comes sensitivity, understanding and change. Phyllis Holloway, a member of the committee, furthers our discussion with this article by David E. Kirkland, "[What is Racism?](#)".

RESOURCES

IRP Zine

- Fall and spring calendars, [click here](#).

Graduate Center, CUNY

- See the [GC calendar](#) for the most centralized GC events calendar.
- The Marshall Arts and Humanities Series, co-sponsored by The Graduate Center will host a virtual concert on Friday June 26 at 12pm. Attendees must RSVP on Eventbrite in order to receive the Zoom webinar link. [The Eventbrite link for RSVP is here](#).
- Newmark J School "[Let's Talk News Business Series](#)."
- The Advanced Science Research Center's (ASRC) upcoming webinars explore CUNY's interdisciplinary excellence and opportunities in the following areas:
 - **June 23:** [Hacking Biology to Advance Medicine](#)
- Center for Humanities online events are listed [here](#) (current series on translation). You can also subscribe to its newsletter
- Segal Theatre Center online events are listed [here](#). You can also subscribe to its newsletter.

MICHAEL POLL (2012), ELIZABETH OGONEK (2012), EMI FERGUSON, JUAN JOFRE, & NICOLAS NAMORADZE

Music Across Space: Performances & Online Conversation

06.26.2020 | 12PM (EDT)

Eventbrite link [here](#)



Michael Poll (2012) is a classical guitarist and conductor who has performed across North America, South America, and Europe, including in Barbican Hall, Wigmore Hall, the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, and the National Theatre of Panama. His debut guitar album, *7-String Bach*, was called ‘masterful’ by Gramophone magazine, and Wholenote praised his ‘Warm, rich, and full tone’. Since its release in April 2018, *7-String Bach* has been streamed over 900,000 times on Spotify and Apple Music, has been played on Classic FM in London, WRTI in the United States, and was BBC Guernsey’s Feature of the Month for July.



American composer Elizabeth Ogonek's (2012) recent music has been commissioned by the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Music Academy of the West, the Fromm Foundation, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Additionally, her music has been premiered and conducted by esteemed figures such as Esa-Pekka Salonen, Riccardo Muti, Elim Chan and François-Xavier Roth. At present, she is working on an orchestra piece for the BBC Proms and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.



Flutist, vocalist, and composer Emi Ferguson can be heard live in concerts and festivals as a soloist and member of the Handel and Haydn Society, AMOC, the New York New Music Ensemble, and the Manhattan Chamber Players. Emi’s recordings for Arezzo Music, *Fly the Coop: Bach Sonatas and Preludes (2019)* and *Amour Cruel (2017)* were amongst the top 10 albums on the Classical and World Music Billboard Charts and showcase Emi’s fascination with reinvigorating music of the past for the present. Emi has been featured in performances by the Marlboro, Lucerne, Lake Champlain, pianoSonoma, and Twickenhamfest music festivals and is currently on the faculty of the Juilliard School. Born in Japan and raised in London and Boston, she now resides in New York City.



Pianist and composer Nicolas Namoradze, whose performances have been hailed by critics as “sparkling... sensitive and coloristic” (*New York Times*), “simply gorgeous” (*Wall Street Journal*) and “astonishing” (*International Piano Magazine*), came to international attention upon winning the 2018 Honens International Piano Competition in Calgary, Canada—among the largest competition prizes in classical music. His activities as the Honens Prize Laureate include recitals at Carnegie Hall (New York), Wigmore Hall (London), Konzerthaus Berlin, Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, Gardner Museum (USA), 92nd Street Y (USA), Toppan Hall (Japan) and deSingel (Belgium); appearances at the Klavier-Festival Ruhr (Germany), Tanglewood (USA), Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity (Canada), Toronto Summer Music (Canada), Miami International Piano Festival (USA), and the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival (USA).



Juan Jofre is currently an Assistant Professor in the Foundation Department at Pratt Institute. He is a practicing architect and educator in New York City, a co-founder of JLA Soundsystems, and runs a small interdisciplinary design practice, Estudio Esmero. Juan received his graduate degree in Architecture at MIT and was named a Soros Fellow for New Americans in 2011.

