



UChicago New Music Ensemble – Winter Performance

Sunday, March 8, 2026 | 3 PM | Logan Center Performance Penthouse

Hommage à J.S.B. (1979) for solo flute..... **György Kurtág** (b. 1926)

Sasha Ishov, flute

Varga Bálint Ligatúrāja (2007) for violin, cello, and piano **György Kurtág**

Spencer Guo, violin
Andy Zhang, cello
Isabella Ortega, piano

Not Fish (2023)** for string quartet..... **Hao Zhen** (b. 2000)

Spencer Guo and Hannah Goldberg, violins
Sophie McMillan-Myers, viola
Andy Zhang, cello

Hommage à R. Sch. (1975–90) for clarinet, viola, and piano **György Kurtág**

- I. *Kapellmeister Johannes Kreislers kuriose Pirouetten*
- II. *E.: der begrenzte Kreis...*
- III. *..und wieder zuckt es schmerzlich F. um die Lippen...*
- IV. *Felhő valék, már süt a nap... (töredék-töredék)*
- V. *In der Nacht*
- VI. *Abscheid (Meister Raro entdeckt Guillaume de Machaut)*

Nathan Friedman, clarinet
Sophie McMillan-Myers, viola
Hao Zhen, piano

– PAUSE –

Hommage à J.S.B. (2009) for violin and piano (*quasi eco*) **Valentyn Sylvestrov** (b. 1937)

Sophie McMillan-Myers, violin
Isabella Ortega, piano

Hommage à Gy. K. (1997–2003/2013) for clarinet, viola, and piano **Marco Stroppa** (b. 1959)

III. *Sinuoso, semplice*

Nathan Friedman, clarinet
Sophie McMillan-Myers, viola
Hao Zhen, piano

For Frank O'Hara (1973) for ensemble **Morton Feldman** (1926–1987)

Sasha Ishov, flute and piccolo	Hannah Goldberg, violin
Nathan Friedman, clarinet	Andy Zhang, cello
John Corkill and Lauren Molloy, percussion	Sophie McMillan-Myers, conductor
Isabella Ortega, piano	

** indicates Chicago premiere

UChicago New Music Ensemble

Nathan Friedman, Ryan Garvey, Benjamin Martin,
Sophie McMillan-Myers, and John Corkill, co-directors

Sasha Ishov, guest artist flute

Sasha Ishov, flute and piccolo
Nathan Friedman, clarinet
Isabella Ortega and Hao Zhen, piano
John Corkill and Lauren Molloy, percussion
Hannah Goldberg, Spencer Guo, and Sophie McMillan-Myer, violins
Sophie McMillan-Myers, viola
Andy Zhang, cello
Sophie McMillan-Myers, conductor

Program notes: *Not Fish*

The title “Not Fish” is from Zhuangzi’s words: “You are not fish, how do you know if the fish is happy or not?” The piece was initially entitled “Fish” and attempted a fish-specific apparatus—a fish perspective on how a fish moves, lives, and thinks. However, later I realized the futility and inauthenticity of this approach due to my position as a human, not-fish, “otherness”. Instead, the piece is about how fish and human are in relation.

I am fascinated by Zhuangzi’s idea of *wuhua* (物化), the potential to transform into other species. The piece centers around the aesthetic of “disappearance”—a sound moves in and out of its normal resonant state to more transparent, ghostly, and even volatile sonic colors. The agile shift in between the sonic colors convey an imagination of a mobile state of being fish and being human. One can freely transform and emerge into another through the medium of sound. The character of human (人) is imbedded in the traditional calligraphy of fish. We and fish do not form any binary. We are part of a larger continuum.

– Hao Zhen