

# Finding Memories through Music

COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE ANNA CLYNE



## The Citizen Musician Fellows

AT WORK IN CHICAGO COMMUNITIES

At the beginning of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago's 2013/14 season, a unique pilot project was launched: the Citizen Musician Fellowship. The fellowship is an extension of the Citizen Musician Initiative, training eight musicians from the Civic Orchestra in four key areas: artistic development, Citizen Musicianship, entrepreneurship and professional development. Throughout the course of the season, the Fellows have worked closely with Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant Yo-Yo Ma exploring the values of Citizen Musicianship. The Fellows have also collaborated with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and other artists and ensembles in the Chicagoland area, including eighth blackbird, Fifth House Ensemble and Ensemble Dal Niente on various projects.

The Fellows' projects vary, ranging from school visits and educational workshops to panel discussions and performances across the city. In March, two Fellows traveled to the Walt Disney Magnet School to work with CPS teachers to create lesson plans and musical experiences incorporating the themes and music of the CSO's *Truth to Power* Festival. The Fellows have also visited students at the Chicago High School for the Arts and Hibbard Elementary School, providing coaching sessions to music students.

The musicians have also been participating in The Brandenburg Project, a season-long venture led by Civic bassist and Citizen Musician Fellow Brett Lewis that couples performances of Bach's *Brandenburg* Concerto No. 3 with hands-on experience in concert booking and programming, personnel management and other behind-the-scenes work that many aspiring professional musicians will experience as they further their careers. So far, the musicians have performed the work in a variety of locations, including: an unconventional pop-up performance with Yo-Yo Ma in the foyer of The Shops at North Bridge; a performance and panel discussion about Citizen Musicianship and The Brandenburg Project for the Chicago Cello Society and students of the music conservatory at Roosevelt University; and a performance for members of the Bridgeport community in Chicago at the Zhou B Art Center, a unique space that showcases art and performances by local and international artists in an open house exhibition.

Stay tuned for 2014/15 when the program begins its second season with eight new Fellows that will participate in an extended two-year experience. To learn more, please visit [citizenmusicianfellows.tumblr.com](http://citizenmusicianfellows.tumblr.com).

Throughout March and April 2014, three Civic Orchestra musicians—Emma Koi (flute), Amy Hess (viola) and Desiree Miller (cello)—and CSO Mead Composer-in-Residence Anna Clyne collaborated in a Citizen Musician project with the staff of Mather Lifeways in Evanston, a memory care facility for elderly residents with Alzheimer's and dementia. Over the course of six weeks, the musicians performed music for the residents—jazz standards and other popular music from their generation—while participating in arts therapy sessions led by Mather's resident arts therapist, Caroline Edasis. Each session was recorded, and Clyne was able to use the recordings to create a story of music and memories as told by the residents at Mather. The final piece, *Mather Suite*, combined the audio track, an accompaniment of arranged pieces performed by the musicians and a video with images of artwork created by the residents.

The project also featured the work of a young composer at the Merit School of Music in Chicago, Nhyta Taguchi, who composed *Pitter Patter*, a song inspired by one of the residents who expressed that when she hears music, she is "flooded with emotion." The three Civic musicians performed Taguchi's piece as a prelude to Clyne's *Mather Suite*. The culminating event in April featured a performance of both works for the residents involved in the project and their families.

### Anna Clyne

*"The most satisfying part of this process was sharing the work with the residents, their families and the staff at Mather. It became clear that this work can touch a lot of people and can bring a voice to people for whom words can only take them so far. Music and art are the languages that can move beyond these barriers, which makes it even more vital that we utilize these mediums to help facilitate communication and to capture beautiful moments expressed by loved ones. This project has certainly enriched and inspired my work as a composer."*

### Amy Hess

*"Working with the residents was such a great experience, and I learned a lot as a musician. We were able to be very 'in the moment' and be creative about what we were trying to get the residents to open up about."*

### Emma Koi

*"It was a really positive experience, probably one of the most memorable experiences that I've had, because of the emotional connections that we made. Being able to see the families reacting to the residents at the final performance, seeing them singing and smiling, was really great."*

### Desiree Miller

*"The culmination was just amazing. The residents were clearly moved, as were their families. It was great to be a part of something like this. Mather is a beautiful place, and I'm glad that we were able to take the time to make music and art for the residents."*

