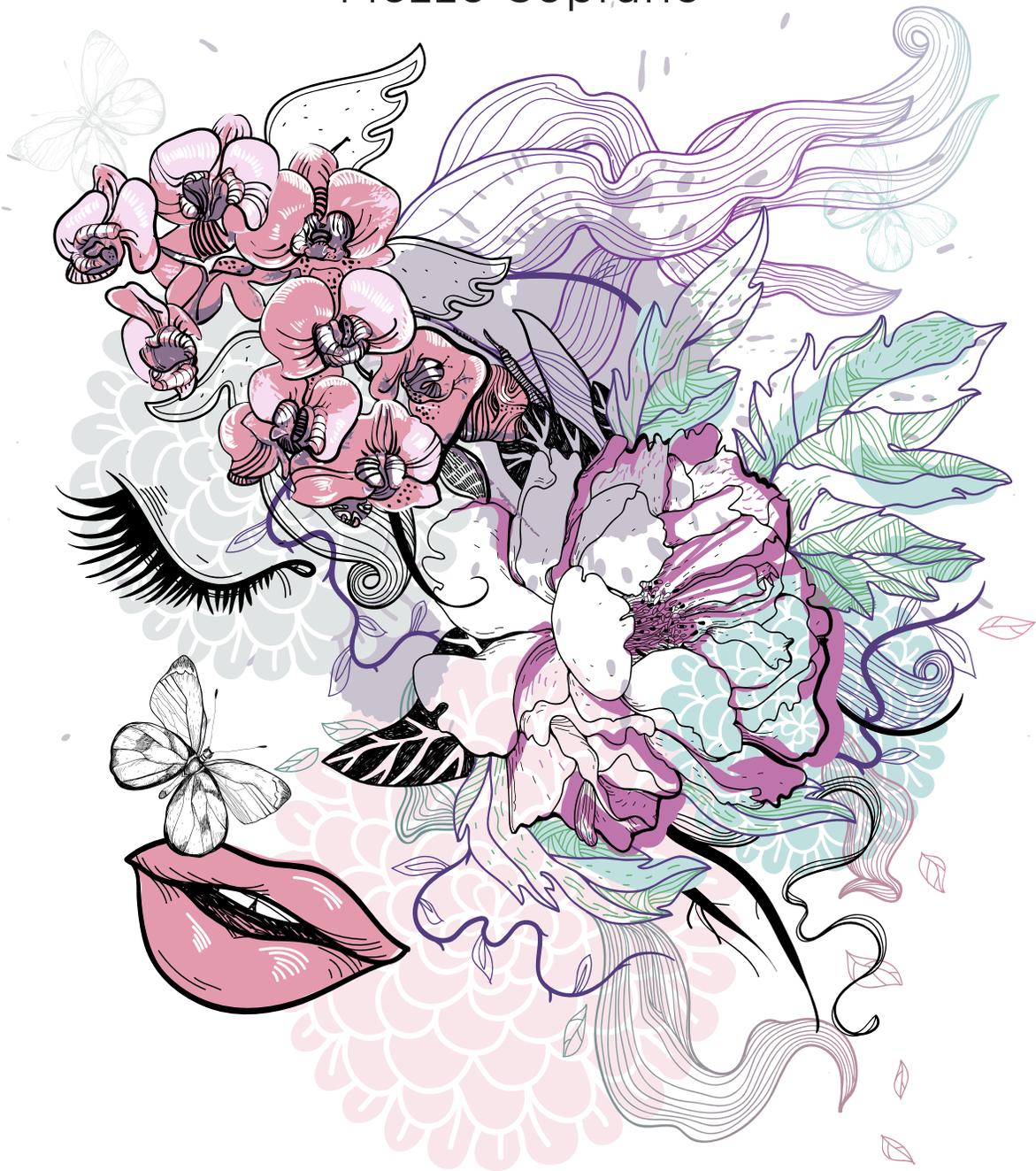


# Megan Ihnen

Mezzo-Soprano



**2019-2020 OFFERED PROGRAMS**

[meganihnen.com](http://meganihnen.com)

# ABOUT

Megan Ihnen is a “new music force of nature.” Her performances thrive on elaborate sound worlds and fully-developed dramatic interpretations.

Passionate about performing contemporary chamber music and opera, Megan has worked with individuals and ensembles around the globe including: International Contemporary Ensemble, Fifth House Ensemble, Great Noise Ensemble, Rhymes With Opera, and Synchrony.

She is deeply committed to the belief that new music should be accessible in cities and towns of all sizes. She has recently traveled to and performed on SPLICE Festival, Oh My Ears, ÆPEX Contemporary Performance, Detroit New Music “Strange Beautiful Music Marathon”, Omaha Under the Radar Festival, Works and Process at the Guggenheim Series, and New Music Gathering.

Learn more about Megan at [meganihnen.com](http://meganihnen.com).



**MEGAN IHNEN NOT ONLY FLAWLESSLY EXECUTES NEW WORKS, SHE IS AN EXPERT AT ENGAGING AND EDUCATING AUDIENCES IN A WAY THAT SPARKS CURIOSITY AND RADIATES A WELCOME ATTITUDE TOWARD NEW MUSIC PERFORMANCE.**

**ELIZABETH KENNEDY  
BAYER  
OH MY EARS ARTISTIC  
DIRECTOR/FOUNDER**



## MEGAN IHNEN & ALAN THEISEN PRESENT...

Megan Ihnen & Alan Theisen present... is a curatorial team dedicated to creating memorable audience experiences through multiform collaborative practices and vivaciousness. The voice/saxophone programs produced through their partnership have been lauded as “a fresh look at what it means to be artists in the 21st century.”

### BLACK MERIDIAN

Black Meridian is a theatrical recital of new music for voice, saxophone, and electronics centered upon black holes and the relativity of spacetime. These interrelated subjects are explored both literally and metaphorically, weaving a narrative of loss, boundaries, forbidden knowledge, and transgression through video projections, spoken word, stage motion, and six newly commissioned pieces by diverse composers (in addition to three extant compositions).

#### Program

##### Part One: Event Horizon

Prelude: Once Upon Another Time — Sara Bareilles

Bright Star III — Michael Oberhauser \*

Vanishing Act — Jamie Leigh Sampson \*

Interlude: Mysteria — Alan Theisen \*

The Clockmaker's Doll — Mara Gibson \*

Interlude: Untitled — deVon Russell Gray \*

Dark Star — Garrett Schumann \*

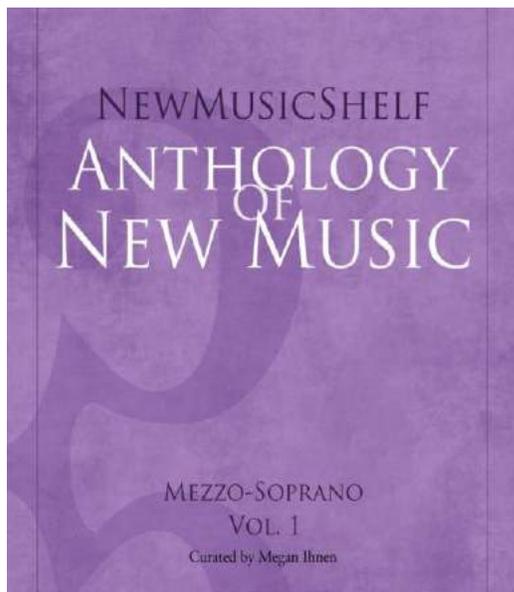
||: Pop, Chew, Swallow :|| — Neil Anderson-Himmelspach \*

##### Part Two: Singularity

ein ton. eher kurz. sehr leise. — Antoine Beuger

Postlude: Outside of Space and Time — David Byrne & St. Vincent

\* composed for MIATp



# NEWMUSICSHELF ANTHOLOGY OF NEW MUSIC FOR MEZZO-SOPRANO

Curated by mezzo-soprano Megan Ihnen, this collection of 20 art songs is ideal for active performers looking for exciting new repertoire, voice teachers searching for fresh contemporary songs for their studios, or student vocalists seeking out unique and culturally-relevant new works to fulfill 21st century repertoire requirements. *Note: Voice departments who invite Megan for masterclasses or performances will receive a free gift set of the NewMusicShelf Anthologies of New Music for soprano, mezzo-soprano, tenor, and baritone.*

## Program

- First Time He Kissed Me - Michael Betteridge
- From the unreal (from To the Soul: Five Sacred Songs) - Mark Buller
- Sister Maude - Stephen DeCesare
- love is a place (from Three Songs) - Douglas Fisk
- Without A Thorn - Matt Frey
- I would live in your love (from Three Teasdale Songs) - Jodi Goble
- Let Evening Come (from Late Afternoon) - Ricky Ian Gordon
- Im Harren - Cara Haxo
- Death (from Fragments of Solitude) - Cameron Lam
- Give Me Your Hand - Cecilia Livingston
- Silent Noon (from Three Songs) - Shona Mackay
- Prairie Dawn - Tony Manfredonia
- Air Stirs - Nicole Murphy
- Thief's Song (from The Accidental Feast of the Holy Fool) - Eric Pazdziora
- Scheherazade - Frances Pollock
- Prayer at my parting (from Portraits of Disquiet) - Julia Seeholzer
- Look Down Fair Moon - Alan Thiesen
- Good Bones - Dennis Tobenski
- Dark Pines Under Water - Moe Touizar
- Blackbird Etude - Ed Windels

Pianist Marianne Parker and mezzo-soprano Megan Ihnen are a chamber music duo inspired by exploring new modes of expression for their traditional instrumentation. Their mission is two-fold: connect eager audiences with composers who are writing contemporary art song and to encourage young musicians to explore beyond the boundaries of voice and piano duos of the past. Both Marianne and Megan have curated anthologies of 21st century repertoire for NewMusicShelf. They premiered the anthology for mezzo-soprano voice and piano at the National Opera Center in January 2019. Marianne and Megan enjoy working with students of all ages and abilities through their workshops and masterclasses. They seek to be a connective force between composers, other performers, and listeners.



# TIME BECOMES SPACE

Megan Ihnen and Darrel Hale, in collaboration with Elena Lacheva and Stephanie Gustafson Amfahr, perform a recital of new music for mezzo-soprano, bassoon, harpsichord, and harp. Time Becomes Space features works by Alec Wilder and William Winstead, as well as recently premiered works by Mara Gibson, Hannah Rice, and Jenni Brandon.

## Program

- Phyllis McGinley Songs - Alec Wilder (mezzo/bsn/harp)
- Ahead of All Parting - Jenni Brandon (mezzo/bsn)\*
- Aurora - Hannah Rice (mezzo/bsn)\*
- White Ash - Mara Gibson (mezzo/bsn)\*
- Trio for Mixed Voices "Sofrothe" - William Winstead (mezzo/bsn/harpsichord)

\* composed for Megan Ihnen and Darrel Hale



A different version of this program for mezzo and bassoon only is available upon request.

**"We need not search for other names.  
It is you in the singing,  
She comes and goes. Is it not enough  
that sometimes she outlasts a bowl of roses?"**

# IHNEN + HALL DUO

Committed to expanding the repertoire for these alto-clef-loving musicians, Ihnen + Hall Duo commissions new works and breathes new life into existing repertoire. The duo frequently collaborates with imaginative composers. Recent engagements include: Shpachenko and Friends Chamber Music Festival, UMKC Summer Composition Workshop, Winifred M. Kelley Music Series, New Music Gathering, and Ethos New Music. Known for their effusiveness and encouraging presence, the two are passionate about being new-music-friends-next-door who invite you into a listener-focused experience with contemporary classical chamber music.



## Program

- He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven - Christian Carey
  - Space, in Chains - Jessica Meyer
  - One Voice - Mara Gibson\*
  - Folio 1 - Garrett Schumann\*
  - Song of the Rattling Pipes - Eric Malmquist\*
  - Berceuse with a Singer in London - Melia Watras
  - Four Miniatures on Poetry by G. Mend-Ooyo - Antonio Celso Ribeiro
  - May: Green-wood Cemetery - Rebekah Driscoll
  - Untitled - Noah Potter\*
  - All Are Welcome Here - David Smooke
  - Continuance - Joel Phillip Friedman
- . \* composed for Megan Ihnen and Michael Hall

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# SINGLE WORDS SHE ONCE LOVED

## A SEMI-STAGED RECITAL

Single Words She Once Loved is a semi-staged recital for voice and piano that centers around the ideas and effects of memory, dementia, and time. It is a deeply personal exploration of the dueling forces of 'eternal sunshine of the spotless mind' and 'God gave us memories so that we may have roses in winter.'

Furthermore, this recital is a devotion to the mother/daughter relationship and what happens when only one of the two parties remembers their collective knowledge.

### Program

Air Stirs - Nicole Murphy

Anna Liffey - David Smooke

Grand is the Seen - Ingrid Stölzel

In the Dooryard - Ryan Keebaugh

Kenyon Songs - Christian Carey

two songs for mezzo-soprano & piano - Jeffrey Mumford

Good Bones - Dennis Tobenski

My Little Wicked Ways - Daniel Felsenfeld

Megan Ihnen teams up with powerhouse artists Kathleen Supove (East Coast) and Vicki Ray (West Coast) on this semi-staged recital. This collaboration with inspirational performers will leave audiences from coast-to-coast spell-bound.

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**"AND I BECOME  
ACCUSTOMED  
TO THE DARK."**

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## SEMIOSIS QUARTET WITH MEGAN IHNEN

Described by the Boston Musical Intelligencer as “astonishing,” Boston-based Semiosis Quartet is quickly gaining a reputation as a dynamic ensemble dedicated to presenting the string quartet repertoire of the 20th and 21st centuries. The quartet’s name refers to the process of using a message or symbol to communicate. The audience interprets the message to derive meaning. The study of this process crosses the boundaries of linguistics, anthropology, and biological sciences. Likewise, Semiosis Quartet demonstrates how the contemporary string quartet repertoire is a vehicle for a diverse collection of narratives from around the world.

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## SUDDENLY THE STARS

Suddenly The Stars is a program of works for voice and string quartet. The collection of works brings the listener into a world of intense emotional expression through the use of lush melodies, whimsical sonorities, and exquisite poetry.

### **Program includes selections from:**

- Stunning Sun - Kala Pierson
- Käthe Kollwitz - Tom Myron
- Even a Woman - Stephanie Ann Boyd
- The Kiss - Chris Cresswell
- *Untitled* - Jessica Rudman (world premiere)
- Stabat Mater - Julia Perry

# HYPEREXTENSION

## A VOCAL COLLECTIVE



Hillary LaBonte

Lisa Perry

Megan Ihnen

Hyperextension is a vocal collective founded in 2016 by Hillary LaBonte. The group is dedicated to presenting new, dramatic, fully and semi-staged works for voices.

### Staged Works

#### **Ophelia Forever - Amy Beth Kirsten**

Ophelia Forever is a chamber opera exploring the myth and madness of the Shakespeare's beloved character, Ophelia. The text is constructed of fragments of poetry by Shakespeare, Elizabeth Siddal, Christina Rossetti, Charles Baudelaire, Arthur Rimbaud, and the composer.

#### **Here Be Sirens - Kate Soper**

Here Be Sirens presents the daily life of three sirens, who kill time on their island as they await an endless procession of doomed sailors. Peitho revels in the luxurious sensuality of their rite; Phaino stonily enacts the ritual with no inner feeling; and Polyxo longs for escape into the world of the real, delving into centuries of scholarship and research on her species in an attempt to untwist their circumstances. As the opera goes on, the sirens re-enact the abduction of Persephone, encounter (and battle) their favored sisters the Muses, and leave no rock unturned to plumb the depths of their own origins in this work of 'audacious, genre-bending music theatre (Wall Street Journal).

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## Educational Programs

Megan Ihnen is an educator dedicated to working beyond the confines of the traditional university, collegiate, or conservatory music department. Her work focuses on teaching 21st century skills and disciplines that augment the current assignments and projects of students.

- **CREATIVE PLACEMAKING THROUGH CLASSICAL MUSIC**
- **MUSIC TELLS A STORY**
- **MAKE IT RAIN**
- **VOWEL SHAPES FOR SINGERS (AND INSTRUMENTALISTS)**
- **EXTENDED VOCAL TECHNIQUES FOR NEW MUSIC SINGERS**
- **COACHING/PERFORMING THE NEWMUSICSHelf ANTHOLOGY OF NEW MUSIC FOR MEZZO-SOPRANO, VOL. 1**
- **STAGE PRESENCE IN RECITAL PERFORMANCE**
- **TEACHING AND PERFORMING RHYTHMIC ACCURACY**
- **SINGING AMERICAN POETRY**
- **PRACTICE STRATEGIES FOR ALL VOICES**

## Be on the Studio Class Podcast

Megan Ihnen is a professional mezzo-soprano, teacher, writer, and arts entrepreneur who is passionate about helping other musicians and creative professionals live their best lives. Studio Class is an outgrowth of her popular #29DaystoDiva series from The Sybaritic Singer. Let your emerging professionals be part of the podcast! Invite Megan to your studio class for a taping of an episode. Your students ask questions and informative, fun conversation ensues.



## BOOKING

For booking inquiries in the US, please contact:

**Megan Ihnen**

**Mezzo-Soprano**

**email: [info@meganihnen.com](mailto:info@meganihnen.com) [Subject line:  
Offered Programs Inquiry]**

For Megan Ihnen & Alan Theisen present..., please  
contact:

**email: [miatpresent@gmail.com](mailto:miatpresent@gmail.com)**