

Wednesdays@7 presents

David Borgo

Cautiously Optimistic

Wednesday, November 9, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.
Conrad Prebys Music Center, Experimental Theater

Featuring:

David Borgo, saxophones and flutes

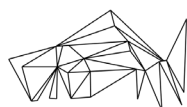
Alan Eicher, piano

Zo Shah, electric guitar

Justin Grinnell, contrabass

Julien Cantelm, drum set

Wayning Influence	David Borgo
Cautiously Optimistic	David Borgo
Yet Another Year	David Borgo
Down The Rabbit Hole	Alan Eicher
Drum Talk	David Borgo
Kaleidoscope Eyes	David Borgo
Perhaps	David Borgo
Spiral Staircase	David Borgo
Pura Vida	David Borgo
Spider Monkey	David Borgo



Cautiously Optimistic is a suite of new and newly re-envisioned music composed by David Borgo on the heels of his previous project, *Suite of Uncommon Sorrows* (pfMentum 2021). The previous suite was composed in response to the tumultuous events of 2020, including the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, the murder of George Floyd and the growing Black Lives Matter movement, and the debilitating polarization of U.S. politics that made it impossible to address any of these physical and social ills adequately.

This new suite was composed as the pandemic began to wane. Despite the on-going challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic (now endemic?), its emergence did require that countries and individuals work together to share research and data in order to stave off an even worse global disaster. During the initial lockdowns, some of the most moving responses to imposed isolation were communities singing or otherwise making music together, crying out for connection and solidarity, and reminding us that physical distancing does not need to equal social distancing.

Music, in my view, has always functioned to ‘promote groupishness’ (and not always in laudable ways, of course). Our most pressing current challenges (climate change, economic inequity, racial animus, attacks on human rights, democratic values, and more) will require large scale, even truly global efforts. Despite the toll wrought by the current pandemic, and the many missteps made along the way, I am cautiously optimistic that it served as something of a trial run for confronting the challenges to come.

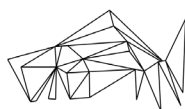
The arts nourish our aspirations. They provide something to admire. They speculate on a world that we might hope to inhabit. The arts, at their best, *enact* that world, if only for only a fleeting moment. I am grateful to the wonderful collaborators who have worked with me on this project, and I am overjoyed if our music can contribute some cautious optimism to our shared contemporary predicament.

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