Farshad Zadeh started playing piano at age 4, and made his debut with orchestra at 11 in his hometown of Princeton, NJ. He has performed in concert halls throughout the US, including Carnegie Hall in NYC and the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia. He received 1st place at the LISMA International Competition in 2011, and was the winner of Oberlin Conservatory's Arthur Dann Competition in 2015. He earned his Bachelors at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, under the tutelage of Alvin Chow. He received his Masters and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Texas in Austin, where he studies with Anton Nel. He currently teaches piano at Austin Community College. He serves as Teaching Assistant at the University of Texas, where he teaches class piano as well as private students at the undergraduate and graduate level. He is also a junior faculty member at Blue Mountain Festival, a chamber music festival based in Lancaster, PA.

A frequent performer in the Pacific Northwest, Soprano Ibidunni Ojikutu is known for having a strong foundation in traditional and contemporary repertoire and has studied extensively in both areas. Ms. Ojikutu made her Seattle Opera debut as Strawberry Woman in their 2011 production of Porgy and Bess. Opera News said of her performance, “Ibidunni Ojikutu’s turn as Strawberry Woman was as charming as the lilt in her voice.”

A recipient of the top award in the Seattle Opera Guild Training Grant Competition, Ms. Ojikutu is a teaching and freelance artist with Seattle Opera Outreach and Seattle Opera. Recent credits include her Benaroya Hall debut with Showtunes Theater Company in their production of Finian's Rainbow. Ms. Ojikutu was incredibly excited to create the role of Sally Hemings in Garrett Fisher's opera Monticello Wakes. The opera, about the relationship between Sally Hemings and Thomas Jefferson, had its debut at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Ms, Ojikutu was also pleased to reprise the role of Strawberry Woman in Seattle Operas 2018 production of Porgy and Bess along with making her role debut as Serena in the same production. Earlier this year, Seattle Art Song Society (SASS) invited Ms. Ojikutu to perform on their Black Voices and Womxn's Voices Concerts.
October 13th – Deborah Anderson, Composer

Deborah began composing at the age of 6. She grew up in Tacoma, Washington, and graduated from Lawrence University (Appleton, WI) with a degree in French. After graduation, she worked as a nanny in Paris, then taught English for two years with the Peace Corps in Tunisia where she learned to play the ‘oud and sing in Arabic. Soon after, she fulfilled a lifelong dream of studying the English Renaissance lute. In 1979 she earned her master’s degree in French from the University of Washington (Seattle) and taught French on the college level. Over the years, she has studied seven foreign languages and continues to travel widely throughout the world. She enjoys gourmet cooking, basic gardening and the arts. She has sung in a number of choirs, including ten years with the PLU Choral Union. She also enjoys watercolor painting. Deborah’s compositions range in setting from solo voice and choir to instrumental solos and ensembles. Her work is regularly performed at National Flute Association conventions, university faculty and student recitals, and by chamber music groups all over the world. Several works have been awarded prizes and honors from international competitions. This event will feature outstanding student performers of PLU and UPS.

November 24th – Adán Vásquez, Harpist

Adán Vásquez is a versatile and much-acclaimed musician who has gained renown for his artistry on the harp both as a soloist and as an ensemble player. Equally at ease in the traditional and contemporary repertoires, Vásquez has won accolades for his expertise in the physically demanding Salzedo harp technique. He began his musical studies at an early age in the National Conservatory of Music in his native Dominican Republic where he studied with Mirla Salazar. In 1989, he was awarded a prestigious scholarship by the Dominican government and moved to Chile to study with concert harpist Manuel Jimenez at the Facultad de Artes at the University of Chile. Later, he relocated to New York City where he completed his B.A. at Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music and studied with the well-known harpist Sara Cutler. Shortly thereafter, he received an M.A. from the Manhattan School of Music where he continued advanced studies under the renowned harpist Lucile Lawrence.

Vásquez has appeared as a guest harpist with numerous symphony orchestras including the National Symphony Orchestra of Chile, the Dominican National Symphony Orchestra, and the Brooklyn Heights Symphony Orchestra in New York. In 2004, he was invited to participate in the First International Harp Festival of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where he also lectured and conducted Master Classes on the Salzedo technique. Vásquez has also premiered works especially commissioned for him by contemporary composers such as William Dickerson, Gary Heckard, and Eugenio Escobar. He has a deep commitment to the neighborhood of Washington Heights, where he serves on the faculty of Gregorio Luperón High School as Music Department Coordinator. Since 2009, he has served as artistic director and president of the Association of Dominican Classical Artists, Inc., the Washington Heights Community Conservatory, and the Camerata Washington Heights.
Dr. Quinton Morris enjoys a multifaceted career as concert violinist, educator, entrepreneur and filmmaker. He is the founder of Key to Change, a nonprofit with the mission of inspiring underserved youth and students of color through world-class music instruction and supporting their development as self-aware leaders. Key to Change operates two violin and viola studios in South King County, Washington which serve middle and high school students who may not otherwise have access to classical music instruction.

Key to Change was born out of Dr. Morris’s BREAKTHROUGH World Tour, which paired recitals and concerto performances with lectures, master classes and educational outreach in over 25 cities across five continents. The tour also featured Dr. Morris’s short film The BREAKTHROUGH, which premiered at the Seattle Art Museum and the Louvre Museum in Paris, among other distinguished venues worldwide. He directed and starred in the film, which tells a modernized story of the Chevalier de Saint-Georges: a violinist of African origin who, against all odds, rose to become one of the most prolific and forgotten figures of the 18th century.

Dr. Morris received top prize at the European Independent Film Awards, and was recognized as one of Musical America’s Top 30 Movers & Shapers and the Puget Sound Business Journal’s 40 Under 40. Additional career highlights include concerto appearances with the Seattle Symphony, three consecutive years of sold-out recitals at Carnegie Hall, eleven years as Artistic Director of The Young Eight String Octet and a TEDxSeattle talk on “The Age of the Artist Entrepreneur.”

Dr. Morris is a Seattle native and earned his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He joined the Seattle University faculty in 2007 as Director of Chamber and Instrumental Music and Associate Professor of Violin and Chamber Music. He is the first tenured music professor at Seattle University in over 35 years and the second living African-American violinist in United States history to receive such a distinction.

**Visual / Performance Artists in 2019**

**Erika Ray**

Hailing from the Pacific Northwest, Erika Ray is driven by the desire to create a sustainable system of respect for the Earth rooted in her belief that humanity has the ability to create positive change. She has lived and studied in Portland, Seattle, New York and Chicago. Her work ranges from hand-made cards to large-scale pieces up to 400 square feet. Erika currently resides in West Seattle.
Gerardo Peña

Gerardo, better known as Periko the Artist, was born in Queretaro, Mexico, but his family moved when he was a young child to the state of Washington. Gerardo was raised up and down King County and has settled in Tacoma, WA. Gerardo has a background in business management and is a co-founder of a local company. Considering the current political climate, and his status as a DACA recipient, he felt that it was an appropriate time to focus his energy as an artist. Typically a surrealist painter, Gerardo, has been expanding into the public art realm and works as a community engagement specialist. Gerardo has been using his role as a public artist to connect and bring a positive change to the communities of Tacoma.

Tenoa Spencer

Tenoa Spencer is an accomplished dancer, choreographer, hip-hop instructor, model & actor from Tacoma, WA. He is signed with MSA in Los Angeles with his professional credits including: Marques Houston, Macklemore, opening for Kanye West, Ludacris, Trey Songz and Eric Bellinger; WeDay, World of Dance Seattle, Vancouver, and Los Angeles; Collaboration Bay Area, and Carnival Los Angeles.

barry johnson

barry johnson is a self-taught interdisciplinary artist who creates work about race, community and culture. He's held residencies throughout the Puget Sound region as well as Hawaii, Tulum and Argentina as well. barry recently authored and illustrated a children's book titled, Oh What Wonderful hair, and self-published in (2017). barry has also spoken at a TEDx event in 2018 about the power of creating multiple personas to aid you in your career. He has received multiple grants and awards including the Edwin T. Pratt Award, smART Ventures award, the 2018 GAP Award and he was a finalist for the Conductive Garboil Grant in 2018. Currently barry resides in Federal Way but is native to Topeka, Kansas.