

# Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude

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*Andrew Forsythe – Bass*  
*Daixuan Ai – Composer, Piano*  
*Catarine Hancock – Recitation*

Saturday, February 26, 2022 | 8:30 PM

*Thank You*

(2021) .....Daixuan Ai

(b. 1998)

## Choir

Rachel Fitzgerald  
Eirene Stavropoulos  
Alice Lind  
Daixuan Ai

Cameron King  
Jeremy Sivitz  
Steven Warnock  
Andrew Forsythe

*Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude – Four Poems by Ross Gay (2021-22)* .....Daixuan Ai

ode to the flute

ode to buttoning and unbuttoning my shirt

ode to drinking water from my hands

wedding poem

**Andrew Forsythe**, bass, is originally from southeast Michigan. Most recently, he sang **Pistola** in Indiana University Opera Theater's production of *Falstaff* in the 2021 season. He also appeared as **Marquis D'Obigny** in *La Traviata* and in the choruses for *Parsifal* and *Die Zauberflöte* with IU Opera Theater. Forsythe was a finalist in the 2021 Metropolitan Laffont Competition in the Illinois District and is a recipient of an Encouragement Award in the 2020 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in the Houston District. With Oakland University Opera Theatre, Forsythe appeared as **Frank Maurant** in *Street Scene*, **Plunkett** in *Martha*, and **Sarastro** in *Die Zauberflöte*. Forsythe was the substitute/rehearsal bass soloist for Verdi's *Requiem* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* with the Oakland Symphony Orchestra. He completed his Master of Music degree in Voice Performance at Indiana University in 2021 and is currently pursuing a Performer Diploma under the tutelage of Timothy Noble. At IU, Forsythe serves as a Graduate Assistant for the Voice Department Office. He is a graduate of Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan where he studied with John Paul White.

**Daixuan Ai** is a composer and pianist currently pursuing a master's degree in Music Composition at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, where she studies Composition with Don Freund and David Dzubay and piano with Emile Naoumoff. She is also teaching music theory as an assistant instructor. She graduated from Baldwin Wallace University with a bachelor's degree in Composition. There, she studied composition with Clint Needham and piano with Sungeun Kim. Daixuan has been studying harmony, counterpoint, and music analysis at the European American Musical Alliance Institute since 2019, and she is a student of the program founder, Philip Lasser. In summer 2022, Daixuan will be attending Aspen Music Festival for Composition with full scholarship, and she will study with Christopher Theofanidis and Stephen Hartke. Daixuan's works have been performed by various ensembles and performers including Hub New Music, Cleveland Chamber Symphony, Baldwin Wallace Symphonic Orchestra, Baldwin Wallace Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 5th House Ensemble, the Cleveland Orchestra trumpeter Jack Sutte, pianist Jihye Chang, and BW faculty Sungeun Kim and Barton Rotberg. The upcoming performances of Daixuan's music include a trio piece commissioned by CityMusic Cleveland, and a master's composition recital at Indiana University. You can find more information at [daixuanai.com](http://daixuanai.com)

**Catarine Hancock** is a poet and mezzo-soprano currently pursuing her Masters of Music in Voice at Indiana University. She holds a Bachelors of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Kentucky. She is the author of two poetry collections, 'shades of lovers' (2020) and 'sometimes i fall asleep thinking about you' (2021), both published through Central Avenue Publishing. She is known for her "confessional" and "raw" writing style, and has garnered an audience of nearly 300,000 across social media. Her next collection, 'i gave myself the world,' will be released in January of 2023. You can find her on Instagram and Tiktok under the handle @catarinehancock.

## **Acknowledgements**

Thank you to the choir members for working so hard in our rehearsal time to get this piece together! Your talents and effort are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Marcus Peterson for conducting rehearsals with the choir. You are, as always, a force of excitement and passion; you lead these rehearsals beautifully.

Thank you Catarine Hancock for stepping in and providing a voice for this beautiful poetry.

This recital would not have been able to occur as it has without the help of Julia Bentley. Thank you, Julia, for your ideas and wisdom and for guiding me through this independent study. Your coachings and wonderful experience with new song have transformed the presentation of this music. It is a pleasure and an honor to be able to work with you.

And to Daixuan, thank you for all you do and all you are. Your music is exquisitely crafted and allows every element to shine. Working with you and creating with you give me the utmost joy. Your passion and skill are admirable and you inspire me to better my craft every day. I look forward to many more projects working with the one I love on music she has created.