



THE CEDAR
COMMISSIONS

*The 12th annual presentation of the
flagship program for local emerging artists*



Fri. February 17 & Sat. February 18, 2023
Doors at 7:00 pm, Show at 7:30 pm



ARAM KAVOOSI (HE/HIM)

OIL AND DUST

Collaborators:

Aida Shahghasemi - Vocals

Jonah Esty - Bass

Freddy Barragan - Original Artwork

Special Thanks:

Special thanks to Aida, Jonah, Freddy, Ahoo, Brahim, Zoë, Nana, Mom, Baba, Farzin, Faraz, Alex, Andre, Grant at Hex Audio Labs, Robert & The Cedar.

About *Oil and Dust*:

Despite its ubiquity and domination in the American way of life, oil in its material form goes largely unrendered in public consciousness. If we cannot see petrol as it is contained to our tanks and pipelines, “Oil & Dust” will soundtrack the petropolitical spell to which we are bound: a death knell for a viral planetary resource curse.

Aram Kavooosi’s artist name is **biaban**.



DJ FAWZI (SHE/HER)

CARUURTEENA

Special Thanks:

Special thanks to my dancers, students for the Horn of Africa (SHA) a group at the University of MN - Twin Cities:

- Masnoo Adem
- Ali Isse
- Ahmed Ahmed
- Khadar Mohamed
- Samiya Jibril

Also thanks to Free Gods, one of the performers, a group of 3 amazing artists. Thanks to The Cedar for this wonderful opportunity. My 2 amazing Kings Jibril and Zakariah for their support. And to my friends Shukri, Khadija and Dalmar Construction for emotional support.

Collaborators:

- Free Gods ; PTG - Tony the Producer/Rapper
- Free Gods ; GTG - Rapper
- Free Gods ; CMTG - Rapper

About Caruurteena:

In “Caruurteena” (Somali for “our children”), DJ Fawzi aims to foster connection within the Somali community among kids, parents, and elders in the face of the wider growing fentanyl crisis and the distance that drug abuse often creates. Mixing in poetry, rapping, dancing, and positivity, she is intent on bringing community members together in the creation of this work, inviting youth, community leaders, and other artists into the process in order to foster empathy and support for youth who are struggling.



EMILY BOYAJIAN (SHE/HER)

TRANSITION

About *Transition*:

Myrtle Lemon Todd and Trevor Lemon Todd - Vocals

“Transition” is a song cycle written by Emily Boyajian, a pianist, composer, and transgender woman living in the Twin Cities. Drawing on texts by the composer and other transgender community members, “Transition” explores the complexities of navigating transition and change, particularly gender transition and finding one’s true self in a gendered world. The songs focus on topics such as the mixture of excitement and nervousness from starting a gender transition, dealing with “impostor” syndrome, facing discrimination, building self-confidence, and finding strength in community. Overall, “Transition” portrays trans people as neither monsters nor heroes, but simply people trying to find their personal path to a happy, fulfilling life. This performance features transgender singers, as well as several instrumentalists who are transgender and/or queer.

Collaborators:

Myrtle Lemon Todd - Vocals

Trevor Lemon Todd - Vocals

Ashley Ng - Violin

Leah Meyer - Violin

Joshua Dieringer - Viola

Stephanie Knapper - Cello

Eric Struve - Double Bass

Beth Leska - Flute

Alexis Varghese - Oboe

Alex Hecker - Clarinet

and Bass Clarinet

Elizabeth Brophy - Bassoon

Harlie Lane - French Horn

Isaac Mayhew - Trumpet

WELCOME TO THE CEDAR COMMISSIONS

The Cedar Commissions is a flagship program for local emerging artists made possible with a grant from the Jerome Foundation. Since the program began in 2011, the Commissions have showcased new work by over 60 Minnesotan emerging artists in Minnesota. Artists receive \$5,000 plus a \$500 production stipend to create and premiere 30 minutes of new music at The Cedar Cultural Center.

In 2022, the first year that The Cedar was open from January to December since 2019, these artists began crafting their commissions with a bit more normalcy on the horizon, but a lot of strangeness, newness, and darkness in the rearview. They've been composing, exploring new ideas, and assembling teams of musicians to bring their work to fruition on The Cedar's stage later this month. Over the two nights of the Twelfth Annual Cedar Commissions, audience members will witness performances about the existential threat of petrol, the importance of protecting and embracing Somali youth, how to find meaning in the indescribable, how to listen to the song of the planet, an illustration of journeying gender transition, and a depiction of the soul-body reunion after trauma.

Are you a musician or composer interested in applying for a Cedar Commission? Application guidelines for the 2023-24 round will be posted on our website (www.thecedar.org/cedar-commissions) this spring. You can sign up to be notified when the information is released.

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JEROME

FOUNDATION

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