



**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 18TH, 2022 & SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19TH, 2022**

**THE CEDAR CULTURAL CENTER**

*All photos courtesy to Buck Holzemer.*

416 Cedar Avenue S, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55454

**Songs Performed:**

I need  
Trauma Loop  
Realization  
Ecstasy

The Edge will be an electro soul, funk, house collection of songs written by multimodal performance artist Vie Boheme. Electro soul music has a pulse with energy between legato spaces that allow for breath. With breath, Vie can manage fully realizing her performance signatures of singing while balancing on one leg in high heels and singing while standing on her head. “The Edge” will also feature driving four on the floor beats and funky bass lines that weave around frank and vulnerable lyrics and poetry inviting listeners to take in honest truths and sit with them.

‘Over the past year we have all been on the edge. The edge of our sanity and our emotional capacity.

I believe that’s an important place to be. I believe that when we are at the farthest reaches of our emotional capacity and self belief that we take risks and make revolutionary choices in alignment with our truest selves. I want to make music about that! And through my two performance signatures, I want to physically practice being at my own personal edge and allow an audience to be a witness to life imitating art.’

**VIE BOHEME (SHE/HER)*****THE EDGE*****Collaborators:**

MMYYKK - Producer  
Yonci - Accompanying DJ

**Special Thanks:**

My parents, my Special thanks to The Cedar Cultural Trust, MMYYKK, Yonci, to my family for being more supportive than I can find the words to say, to Josine and special thanks to my heart for being open during such challenging times.



## ALICIA THAO (SHE/HER)

### *AS LIS SAM THOJ / ALICIA THAO*

#### Collaborators:

Choua Chang Thao (opening act)  
 Kenny Lee (bass)  
 Shawn Mouacheupao (drummer)  
 Yeng Yang (backup vocals & guitar)

#### Special Thanks:

Thank you to my friend Bun for inspiring the start of my project. Thank you Schoua Na for being my mentor and friend. Thank you to my dear family - for loving me even when it's difficult. Ua tsaug nej hlub kuv thiab nyob hauv kuv lub neej. Thank you to my lovely band - Kenny for being the glue, Shawn for the wisdom, and Yeng for being our rock!

#### Songs Performed:

Kwv Txhij Ntsuag Tsis Muaj Niam Tsis Muaj  
 Txiv | Traditional folk song - "Orphan"  
 Hmoob | Intro  
 Mus Ua Si  
 Zoo Li Kuv (Mama's Lullaby)  
 Getting Older | Interlude  
 Eastside  
 Natural  
 Found

Alicia Thao is a singer-songwriter who is Tulsa-raised and Saint Paul-based. "As Lis Sam Thoj / Alicia Thao" will be centering Thao's Hmong American identity, paying homage to her parents' story by connecting with her roots and family history. The set will range from kwv txhij (traditional Hmong folk song), incorporating Hmong inspired sounds which will transition to genres that Thao currently experiments and identifies with: indie, folk, soul, and rnb.



## KAT PARENT (THEY/SHE)

### SWAMPLING

#### Special Thanks:

This project brings together threads of so many things I have learned from different friends and teachers over the years, from water protectors to activist artists to watershed theologians. I sing in gratitude and love for you. Special thanks to the local wetlands, marshes, peat bogs, and floodplains of the Mississippi watershed we visited and learned from while writing this piece, and the ancestors whose stories live there. You give us life; we belong to you.

Huge thanks to the Cedar staff, Cedar Commissions artists past and present, and the Jerome Foundation for supporting me in taking this project from a pile of notebook scribbles to a whole new sound and show. Your encouragement, and the grant that allowed me to take time off from my day job to compose and practice, has meant the world to me.

And thanks to SEE MORE for the love and dedication you have poured into this project over the past 6 months, for the gifts of your collaboration and gorgeous videos, and for introducing me to Alan Moore's Swamp Thing years ago at just the right time. So grateful to spend time with you in the green.

**Collaborators:**  
SEE MORE PERSPECTIVE

**Songs Performed**  
Intro: Dark  
Smart Alec  
In the Green  
Slow  
Sweet Wild Stars

In the streets and peat bogs of Minnesota, Kat Parent weaves darkly beautiful songs processing haunted histories, tangled roots, and unresolved pain. Born to descendents of Wisconsin settlers, loggers and forest conservationists, Kat circled back to the Midwest a decade ago to find their roots though folk singing in the woods and PhD studies on the devastating local history of colonialism. A lifelong choral and folk singer, songwriting became an important way for them to process hard and beautiful learnings as an activist and newly-out queer disabled person.

“Swamplung” is an eco-horror electronic folk show reflecting both the urgent needs and slow, complex inner processes of our hearts and ecological context.  
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The Cedar Commission premieres the first five of an album-length suite of songs with themes inspired by classic horror comic books and Minnesota wetlands. We hear voices of a scrupulous researcher suffocating in whitewashed data, ghosts haunting her ecocidal boss, and a mysterious swamp cryptid emerging with new songs of love and resistance. Kat layers loops of earthy, eerie vocals and guitar in hypnotic live collaboration with Xicano beatboxer and Hip Hop composer SEE MORE PERSPECTIVE.

Visiting different wetlands around Minnesota, they recorded plant and insect soundscapes and SEE MORE shot and edited film projections, adding visual poetry to the narrative. While rehearsing in winter Covid lockdown, Kat dyed and sewed their costume from recycled curtains and other thrift store finds, and SEE MORE designed his instrument stand and mysterious moth form.

# 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 \$3,500 plus a \$1,000 production stipend to create and premiere 30 minutes of new music at The Cedar Cultural Center.

In the second and now third year of the COVID-19 pandemic where shifts in daily life have been ever-present, these artists have been riding the waves. They've been composing, exploring new ideas, and assembling teams of musicians to bring their work to fruition in a mix of virtual and in-person work sessions. Over the two nights of the Eleventh Annual Cedar Commissions, audience members will witness performances about uncovering hidden truths of one's ancestors, uniting African music traditions across drawn lines, illuminating the Third Culture Kid experience, pushing oneself to the ultimate limit, the relational process of self discovery, honoring the disrespected beauty of our planet, and so much more.

Are you a musician or composer interested in applying for a Cedar Commission? Application guidelines for the 2022-23 round will be posted on our website ([www.thecedar.org/cedar-commissions](http://www.thecedar.org/cedar-commissions)) on Monday, May 2nd.

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**JEROME**  
FOUNDATION

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