

CATCHFIRE COLLECTIVE



Brittany Faith Photography

Reigniting the chamber music experience

"Catchfire's performance was magical...[they] captured the essence of the piece with relentless pulse, contrasting textures, and beautiful individual playing."

- ***Classical Voice of North Carolina***

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Catchfire Collective



our story

In 2019, Robin approached Isaac with an idea - "what if we started a chamber group?" They took a look at the music they liked and thought up the kind of people they would want to play with. After assembling an all-star team of musicians in Greensboro, they presented a very informal, very casual first show under the name of "Catchfire Collective."

The first season was very much a patchwork attempt. With Isaac in Michigan and Kyle moving to Europe, we experimented with different combinations, playing as trios, quartets, and sextets. We traveled to Michigan for a few shows and were thrilled to be featured at the Darkwater Women in Music Festival, but the real gem was **Dreamscapes**. Early on we had tossed around different ideas for innovative shows and projects. Those things came together in Dreamscapes, which featured the music of George Crumb. This show took a lot for us to put on, both musically and logistically, but in the end, we somehow pulled it off. It was thrilling and completely shifted the attitude of our group. Every show needed to be like Dreamscapes - and we began to put plans together for a season full of similar programs.

Then, COVID hit. The vision we had for our second season was scrapped instantly, and we had to reorganize and adapt. It forced us to find new ways to be innovative and find new music that could still connect with people in a virtual space. It forced us to find new spaces, forge new partnerships, and be the most creative we've ever been.

So, what's next for Catchfire? Our third season is going to be our most exciting and most ambitious one yet. Over the course of the year, we'll present seven unique programs in Greensboro and beyond. We're featuring music by a diverse set of composers, with over half of our season programming written by female-identifying composers. We're choreographing works, improvising, bringing in electronics, and expanding our collective. We're building a community for new music lovers and creating resources for new music education.

In just a few short words, we're reigniting the chamber music experience. We can't wait for you to join us.





2021-22 Season at a Glance

They Sing and They Clap and They Shout

Music is often referred to as the “universal language” - the *lingua franca* that unites people of different cultures. Music becomes a means of expression, a way to give voice to something where words fail. But while every culture creates music, not every person sings the same song. This program explores the words behind the music, the ways in which different people have used music to give themselves or others a voice.

Featuring works by Christopher Mayo, Phong Tran, Allison Loggins-Hull, Jen Wang, inti figgis-vizueta, and Edward Top.

City of Industry

Described by the BBC as a “one woman Hadron collider,” Annie Gosfield’s music is inspired by “the inherent beauty of found sounds, such as machines, destroyed pianos, warped 78 rpm records and jammed radio signals.” During *City of Industry* we present four of her pieces that work with these ideas. From the sounds of decaying RPM records to the factory clatter of Detroit, *City of Industry* explores the fusion of industry, sound, and music.

Featuring the music of Annie Gosfield

I am a shadow... the true self

Each of us has some sort of negative perception of ourselves - our darker sides, our shadow self. We spend much of our lives rejecting these traits, striving to show others our best sides only. We split ourselves into two. But the more we reject the shadow, the stronger it becomes, the more distorted it becomes - and we suffer for it. ***i am a shadow...the true self*** considers what might happen if we accept this shadow self. It is only through acceptance of those darker thoughts that we can acknowledge who we truly are. Only through dancing with the shadow can we find enlightenment.

Featuring new choreography by Dylan Reddish for Eleanor Alberga’s *Dancing with the Shadow* alongside works by Philip Cashian, David Lang, and Roshanne Etezady.



"Kindling," Charlie Peck



Catchfire Collective



"Openwork," inti figgis-vizueta





CATCHFIRE COLLECTIVE

Catchfire Collective presents innovative, powerful, and inspiring performances that reignite the chamber music experience. Based in Greensboro, North Carolina, Catchfire was founded by six graduates of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in May 2019. Equally at home as a sextet, in smaller formations, and as soloists, Catchfire's members represent a dynamic background of artistic approaches and experiences, united in their common goal of offering unique performances that capture the ethos of twenty-first century art music.

Catchfire's innovative programming has been met with audience and critical acclaim. Their December 2020 program **Falling Up: The World Upside Down** was praised as "magical" and "artistically stitched together," featuring "relentless pulse, contrasting textures, and beautiful individual playing." Other past projects include **Dance on the Edge**, a high energy balancing act featuring the music of Graham Fitkin, Roshanne Etezady, and Marc Mellits, and **Dreamscapes**, an immersive performance of the music of George Crumb. Other performances have featured the music of Charles Peck, inti figgis-vizueta, Jonathan Bailey Holland, Julius Eastman, Carl Schimmel, Fjóla Evans, Zhou Tian, and Catchfire's own Robin McLaughlin. Catchfire has also previously commissioned pieces by Stephen Ryan Jackson, Grace Gollmar, and Shar Joyner.

Since their formation, Catchfire has become a prominent part of Greensboro's arts scene. They have presented performances throughout the city and the Piedmont Triad region and are a regular fixture at the city's local bars, churches, and music stages. During the 2020-21 season, Catchfire formed a partnership with Flux Creative Studio to continue presenting performances in a virtual, interactive format, attracting attendees from all across the country. In 2019, Catchfire was the featured ensemble at the 2nd Annual Darkwater Women in Music Festival at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Catchfire has also been featured as a guest artist at Virginia Tech, Towson University, Grand Valley State University, and High Point University.

There are more ways than ever to join Catchfire in reigniting the Chamber Music Experience. Whether 6 ft apart or tuned in to Twitch, we can't wait for you to join us! Interested in reigniting the chamber music experience? Give us a like on Facebook, follow us on Instagram and Twitter, and subscribe to us on YouTube. For more information on all things Catchfire, sign up for our mailing list or contact us at catchfirecollective@gmail.com.

upcoming season stats:

- 7 unique programs & 20 total performances, featuring 28 pieces & over 350 minutes of music
- Programs featuring electronics, improvisation, multimedia, choreography, & new works by Hilary Purrington, Peter Swanson, & Isaac Pyatt
- 64% of works composed since 2010, with 54% of works by female-identifying composers & 18% of works by BIPOC
- 20 estimated rehearsals when Kyle brings iced coffee & Jillian brings her dinner

