

Sunday, April 21, 2024

3:00pm

Madonna della Strada Chapel

Mass Re-Imagined

Program information coming soon.

Background information on this program:

To celebrate Earth Day, Loyola's Ignatian Voices is joined by members of the New Earth Ensemble from The EcoVoice Project to explore the "Mass Reimagined" as a spiritual platform for contemplating climate change. The performance features Sarah Kirkland Snider's *Mass for the Endangered*, as well as the world premiere of Dongryul Lee's *Kyrie eleison* from his forthcoming *Missa Laudato Si'*. Students from the School of Environmental Sustainability will join the performance to read selections from Pope Francis's *Laudato Si'* encyclical, and members of University Chorale and University Singers will collaborate on Lee's new *Kyrie eleison*.



Dongryul Lee on his *Kyrie eleison*:

The first movement, *Kyrie eleison*, is an overture in the form of musical theater, where multiple musical dramas and events coincide. It includes the sound of a melting glacier, which is spouted from the Schumann resonance (chord) of the earth—an electromagnetic low frequency 'breath' of the earth. It also features desperate narratives of already extinct, dying, or critically endangered species from the RedList, morphing spectrograms of consonance and vowel changes in the sounds of *Kyrie*—[k] [i:] [r] [i] [e], and Buddhist-chanting-like callings in the 'Christe' section. In Buddhism, one of the most prevalent ways of chanting is repeatedly saying the name of Amitābha, similar to the Catholic's Holy Rosary Prayer. The movement also includes an iridescent pastoral heterophonic melody in the 'eleison' section, which itself demonstrates the lush continuum of changing spectral profile in its sounds.

All of these quite apocalyptic musical sceneries are supported by the overall dramatic and harmonic soundscape of the movement, reminiscent of the meteoric outpourings of the *Dies irae* openings of canonic requiems. I wanted my students, who will participate in the performance of the first movement, to sense in their bones and appreciate the bodily rawness and vitality of the music, engaging in musical 'activism' that hopefully ignites the non-dead green futures still living in their hearts. All the text that I employed in *Kyrie eleison* is cited from the RedList website at www.iucnredlist.org with their permission, and from *A Prayer for Our Earth* by Pope Francis.