

5 fivebyfive

loud & clear o)))

"classical turned loose in the toy store."

— Jeff Spevak, WXXI Arts & Life Editor





GROUP BIO

Described as “classical turned loose in the toy store” (Jeff Spevak, WXXI-FM arts & life editor), **fivebyfive** (Laura Lentz, flute and artistic director; Marcy Bacon, clarinet; Ken Luk, electric guitar; Eric J. Polenik, bass; Haeyeun Jeun, piano; and Marc Webster, audio/video engineer and technical director) is an artist-led Rochester, NY-based ensemble formed in 2015 with a mission to engage audiences in the collaborative spirit and creativity of today’s chamber music.

Performing music of leading and emerging composers from around the world, fivebyfive advocates for creators who are underrepresented in the field and collaborates with artists across disciplines.

fivebyfive’s events often involve community-building experiences in real-time during performances. Inspired by the United Nation’s 2022 International Year of Glass, its 2022-2023 season included *More Fire*, a real-time collaboration with glass blowers from More Fire Glass Studio performed at the Rochester Fringe Festival; the World Premiere Of *Breath and Fire* by composer/harpist Amy Nam—supported by a Chamber Music America Commissioning Grant and featured at multiple residencies including Crane, Eastman, and Fredonia School of Music; *Live from Hochstein*; and various other performances.

Additional types of these innovative programs include: *Persevering*, an interactive world premiere performance with poetry, art, and music at the 2021 Rochester Fringe Festival; *Music/Glass* at the 2019 Rochester Fringe Festival where audiences were free to move throughout the space during the live performance and participate in creating a fused glass art work; *Meet the Composer*

events where audiences were a part of the conversations bringing new works to life, and its educational programs in the schools with students throughout the Rochester area.

Through its workshops and educational concerts, fivebyfive aims to spark young people's unlimited creative potential and inspire a deeper understanding of today's chamber music. With a commitment to accessibility, fivebyfive performs in a variety of settings, offering affordable or free programming and sensory-friendly events.

The winner of the 2018 Eastman/ArtistShare New Artist Program and a New Music USA grant recipient for its commissioning project for new works inspired by the stained-glass artist Judith Schaechter, fivebyfive was awarded a second New Music USA project grant for a collaboration with the George Eastman Museum, commissioning new works inspired by photographer James Welling's "Choreograph" collection. These works were recorded by fivebyfive and released in December 2021 on the ArtistShare label.

Most recently, fivebyfive was awarded funding from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) including a three-year organization award and an artist support award for a new work by composer Roberto Sierra to be premiered in 2024. In 2021 the group was chosen as a New Music USA Organizational Development Fund Recipient which recognizes outstanding organizations that work regularly with—and support the development of—music creators and artists, offering a critical community resource.

fivebyfive has appeared nationally on American Public Media's Performance Today with host Fred Child, on WXXI Classical 91.5's programs Backstage Pass and Live from Hochstein, and Fresh Ink on WCNY.

fivebyfive became a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization in 2017.





What does fivebyfive mean?

The term “fivebyfive” comes from two-way radio communication. While broadcasting, a station may request a report on the quality and strength of their signal. The signal quality is reported on two scales, signal strength and signal clarity.

fivebyfive therefore means a signal which has excellent strength and perfect clarity – the most understandable signal possible. Put simply, it means to be heard “loud and clear.”

MEMBERS

LAURA LENTZ



LAURA LENTZ is the Artistic Director and flutist for fivebyfive. A versatile performer, dedicated educator and passionate arts leader, in 2015 Lentz co-founded the collaboratively-minded fivebyfive and in 2020 was named Artistic Director. For its work fivebyfive has received grants and awards from New Music USA, Chamber Music America, New York State Council on the Arts, and The Eastman School of Music, among others.

Lentz earned her Master of Music in Flute Performance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with Stephanie Jutt, and studied at the Crane School of Music with Ken Andrews where she earned the Bachelor of Music and Performer's Certificate. In addition to her formal flute studies, Lentz was exposed to jazz and improvisation from an early age as the daughter of jazz musician/composer Jake Lentz.

As well as performing with fivebyfive, Lentz has played with The Crossroads Trio, Sotavento, the Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society, Madison Symphony, Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra of Northern New York, Champlain Valley Symphony, Cordancia Orchestra, and others. She spent eight years in Rome, Italy, continuing her studies, performing, and teaching. Highlights include a performance at the St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Upon moving back to the United States in 2010, Lentz spent an influential year working with Carnegie Mellon flutist Alberto Almarza, and in 2011 she traveled to Blonay, Switzerland to participate in the performer-composer session Music11 with new music ensemble eighth blackbird.

Recently Lentz has been recording flute and electronics pieces of Dutch composer JacobTV. A new work by the composer, Loudly and Clearly, was written for and dedicated to her.

www.lauralentzflute.com

Clarinetist MARCY D. BACON teaches clarinet at Nazareth College of Rochester, Rochester Institute of Technology, and the Eastman Community Music School, as well as maintaining a home private studio. An active performer, Bacon is the clarinetist for the Wilmot Wind Quintet, Fem Vindar [a woodwind quintet], and contemporary music quintet fivebyfive. She has played with the Rochester Chamber Orchestra, Rochester Oratorio Society Orchestra, Rochester Lyric Opera, ensemble.twenty.21 and the Western New York Chamber Orchestra. Bacon has presented sessions on wind quintet literature with her Wilmot Wind Quintet colleagues at the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Winter Conference and the NAFME All-Eastern Conference. She has also presented sessions on the topic of audiation as it pertains to both early childhood and instrumental applications at the NYSSMA Winter and Summer conferences.

MARCY D. BACON



Bacon holds a DMA in Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music, an MM from Michigan State University, and a BM from Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. Prior to joining the faculty at Nazareth, Dr. Bacon taught applied clarinet and clarinet methods at SUNY Fredonia for seven years. She has taught general music in the Jamestown City School District and for the Diocese of Rochester. Bacon can be heard on the Oregon Catholic Press label playing sacred music and compositions by Jacob Avshalomov.

ERIC J. POLENIK



Bassist Eric J. Polenik has been a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra since 2005 and performed on the orchestra's Grammy winning album, *American Rapture*. Polenik fell in love with classical music after hearing Beethoven's Fifth Symphony for the first time in a high school general music class. Drawn to the low sounds of the double bass, Polenik began learning to play the instrument at age 16 and, four years later, performed the symphony with the Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra as its Principal Bassist.

Polenik came to Rochester earning a Master in Music degree from Eastman School of Music after earning his Bachelor of Music from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA. Polenik regularly performs with many ensembles in upstate New York including the Buffalo Philharmonic, Slee Sinfonietta at University of Buffalo, Rochester Oratorio Society, and Finger Lakes Opera, and was a member of the eclectic string chamber group Gibbs and Main.

Polenik is Professor of Bass at Roberts Wesleyan University and a member of the string faculty at Hochstein School of Music. He regularly serves as a coach for collegiate and youth orchestra programs.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, KEN LUK frequently appears as a soloist and with the Janus Guitar Duo and Trio Ghidorah. He performs with Rosa Boemia, Forró Estrelas do Norte, Mosaic Foundation, the Eastman Gamelan Ensemble, and the Rochester Mandolin Orchestra. Performance highlights include Experiencing Villa-Lobos Festival, Live from Hochstein, Rochester Fringe Festival, The Great Blue Heron Festival, and Grassroots Festival of Music and Dance, among others. Co-founder of Rochester Classical Guitar and the Rochester Mandolin Orchestra, Ken is also an avid arranger, and was a finalist in the 2017 Roland Dyens Arranging International Competition. He also serves on the board of the Classical Mandolin Society of America.

Ken received his Doctor of Musical Arts in classical guitar with Professor Nicholas Goluses at the Eastman School of Music where he also earned a master's degree in music theory pedagogy.

KEN LUK



HAEYEUN JEUN



Pianist HAEYEUN JEUN, a native of Korea, has gained recognition as an accomplished performer in both the United States and Korea. Her impressive lists of achievements include silver medal at the 2013 Seattle International Piano Competition, second prize in the 12th Osaka International Piano Competition, first prizes in the Eastman-Hamamatsu, Piano Society of Korea, the Nanpa, and the Music Association of Korea competitions as well as many other awards and scholarships. In 2006, she was chosen by the piano faculty at Eastman to be the school's representative at the 2007 Hamamatsu International Piano Academy in Hamamatsu, Japan. As a soloist, she made her orchestral debut at age nine with the Busan Philharmonic and Chanwon Philharmonic Orchestras. She has performed with other prestigious orchestras including the Prime Phil Orchestra and Vio-LINK-oto

Ensemble and in numerous solo recitals and chamber music concerts in Korea and the United States.

Jeun completed the doctor of musical arts program in piano performance and literature as a scholarship student of Dr. Douglas Humpherys at the Eastman School of Music where she also earned the master of music degree. She received her undergraduate degree in piano performance at Seoul National University. She is currently on faculty at the Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua, NY and serves as organist and accompanist at Greece United Methodist Church.

Technical Director, recording engineer, keyboardist, and composer MARC WEBSTER brings experience in a wide range of musical styles. As a performer he has been featured as piano soloist with the Rogue Valley Symphony Orchestra, keyboardist for the rock band Uncommon Ground, pianist for the 52nd Street Jazz Sextet, organist for blues artists Chris Beard and Johnny Rawls, and choir director for the Aenon Baptist Church. As a composer his compositions have been featured on Performance Today, his soundtrack for the movie "Fury" was awarded semi-finalist at the Moondance Film Festival, and his commissions have included music for fivebyfive, Gibbs & Main String Quintet, and the Eastman Youth String Orchestra. Webster also owns and operates [Blue on Blue Recording Studio](#) which has a special focus working with classical musicians and composers to create music videos.

MARC WEBSTER



RESIDENCIES



fivebyfive offers performances, individual masterclasses, chamber music masterclasses, student composition readings, and a variety of related music business / music leadership workshops or events including grant-writing, advising, starting your own ensemble, and more. For more info, [visit our website](#).

"As a student, seeing fivebyfive in residence at the Eastman School of Music helped contextualize the work of a professionally performing new-music ensemble. Seeing the way a local new-music group organizes, performs, and presents their music made the world of contemporary music much more real for me. In addition, to see an ensemble passionately commissioning and performing the works of my colleagues made me excited to be a composer."

— Logan Barrett, PhD Composition Student, Eastman School of Music

RECORDING



[Listen on Apple Music](#) | [Listen on Spotify](#)

"OF AND BETWEEN" (2021)

"fivebyfive slips effortlessly between haunting soundscapes, rhapsodic interplay, and tight grooves."

— Composer and GRAMMY®-nominated violist Jessica Meyer

"The album is permeated by a film noir sensibility; each member of fivebyfive excels at evoking an atmosphere of mystery and suspense, in synchrony with the works of art they aim to enliven."

— Julia Kuhlman (I Care If You Listen)

Inspired by photographs of [James Welling](#) (Choreograph Collection) and stained glass art of [Judith Schaechter](#) (Glass Works Collection), the music on this recording realizes a collaborative artistic vision to capture movement, light, and connections through music and art.

[Album digital liner notes](#)

Other recordings available on [YouTube](#), [Spotify](#) and [Apple Music](#)

WRITTEN FOR FIVEBYFIVE

New Music USA - Glass Works

Blue Jewel - Edie Hill

Manhattan - Jung Sun Kang

Of and Between - Andrea Mazzariello

Procession and Burlesque - Jon Russell

New Music USA - Choreograph

BOKEH - Kay HE

It Can't Not Be Dance Music - Robert Lydecker

Dancing About Architecture - Kamala Sankaram

For The Future (Susan B. Anthony event)

Right to a Voice - Mina Esary (supported by a Humanities NY Action Grant)

Playful Music Project

(supported by a Genesee Council on the Arts Community Artists Grant)



Clue - Sherri Chung
Ball - Sherri Chung
Get Soaked! - Olivia Kieffer
Rock those Blocks! - Olivia Kieffer
Rubber Duck - Mikhail Johnson
Jax - Mikhail Johnson
Wrapped in a Blanket - Emer Kinsella
Skateboard Runs - Emer Kinsella
Bubbles - Logan Rutledge
Mana - Logan Rutledge
Cinnamon - Shannon Sea
Let's Make a Hit! - Shannon Sea

Chamber Music America Commissioning Grant
of breath and fire - Amy Nam

Eclipse Project

Eclipse Prism - Julie Herndon
I Can Take - Julie Herndon, arranged for fivebyfive
Eclipse - Marc Mellits
Occultation - Jessica Meyer (supported by New York State Council on the Arts Composer Commissioning Grant)
Untitled - Kamala Sankaram

Norwegian Music Fund

Dreams of glass and water - Kari Telstad Sundet

Other new works

What Lies Below - Glenn McClure
Hackysack - Marc Webster
La música de Tlön - Roberto Sierra (supported by New York State Council on the Arts Composer Commissioning Grant)

Works arranged for fivebyfive

Tamboreño - Miguel del Aguila
Frysta - Olafur Arnalds (arr. Eric J. Polenik)
Near Light - Olafur Arnalds (arr. Eric J. Polenik)
Oldurot - Olafur Arnalds (arr. Eric J. Polenik)
Sephardic Suite - Clarice Assad (arr. Ondrej Veselý)
Inner Circle, Look Both Ways - David Crowell
Mooncurrents - Diego Garcia (arr. Eric J. Polenik)
Low Hanging Fruit - Michael Gilbertson
A tiny dream - Anthony R. Green
Lead Me Home - Brittany Green
Pick it Up! - Olivia Kieffer
Persevering - Joe Jaxson
John Boy - Brad Mehldau (arr. Jake Lentz)
Parlour Games - Meredith Monk (arr. Eric J. Polenik)
Phantom Waltz - Meredith Monk (arr. Eric J. Polenik)
Untangled - Nicole Murphy
Sonus Dulcis - Andrián Pertout
Postcard Pieces - Sophie Stone
Flytrap - Nick Revel
Night Dance - Jon Russell
Heavy - Evan Williams

PRESS

"The next thing in art music."

— Rob Haskins, American Record Guide

"classical turned loose in the toy store."

— Jeff Spevak, WXXI Arts & Life Editor

"...fivebyfive has quickly become a go-to source for contemporary classical concert music in Rochester. "

— Daniel J. Kushner, CITY Newspaper

Recognized for its "deep and consistent impact on their communities of artists and music lovers"

— New Music USA (in selecting fivebyfive as an Organizational Fund Recipient)

"They are the perfect amalgamation of a top-flight chamber ensemble and an awesome community group... Their ideas are awesome, fun and very meaningful."

— Armand Hall, Gateways Festival Program Director

10/20/2022 - WUHF Rochester

Unique instruments part of Glassmaking-inspired work at Eastman School

2/21/2022 - I Care If You Listen Review

Of and Between: fivebyfive Draws Connections Between Music and Visual Art

2/2/2022 - Soundweavers Podcast

Engaging a Screen-Centric Audience: fivebyfive

12/30/2021 - WXXI News Arts Recap

The year of living dangerously: a 2021 arts recap

10/11/2021 - Rochester Business Journal Playful Music

Rochester's fivebyfive music ensemble to offer sensory-friendly performances...

CONTACT

BOOKING

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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