

STRENGTH & SENSITIVITY

CATALYZING DIALOGUE ABOUT GENDER EQUALITY AND INTERSECTIONAL FEMINISM
CONCEIVED AND DIRECTED BY COLLEEN BERNSTEIN



Chicago, Nov. 6 - On December 6, 2019 at 7pm, *Strength & Sensitivity*, a touring concert production, comes to the Hairpin Arts Center in Chicago, IL. This show utilizes the immense, unique power of music to inspire new pathways of thought and action. In today's divisive socio-political climate — the watershed era of #MeToo, #TimesUp, and #BelieveWomen — it is essential that artists unite in celebration and empowerment of underrepresented communities. Join the performing cast on December 6 to explore the power behind telling your own story.

Strength & Sensitivity blends percussion music, poetry/spoken word, and audience interaction to explore the intersection of art and the gender equality movement, with a spotlight on empathy. The Chicago program will feature two local percussionists, Rebecca McDaniel and Gloria Yehilevsky, performing alongside the artistic director, Colleen Bernstein, on a program of original pieces, contemporary classical music, and poetry by Gloria Anzaldúa and Kelsey Peterson. Two spoken-word artists who call Chicago home will perform original work and collaborate with the musicians as featured artists: singer-songwriter Kíéla Adira and E'mon Lauren, the city's first ever Youth Poet Laureate.

In addition, the program includes musical compositions by Sarah Hennies, Andrea Venet, and Cassie Wieland, as well as a *Strength & Sensitivity* commission by Victor LaBozzetta. Premiering at this production is a brand-new, trio arrangement of "Homebody" by Andrea Mazzariello, which combines indie-pop percussion and singing. *Strength & Sensitivity* is designed to create opportunities for performances and audiences with diverse perspectives and experiences to share, listen, and progress towards a more gender-equal society.

What: Strength & Sensitivity: Chicago

Where: Hairpin Arts Center, 2810 N Milwaukee Ave, FL 2, Chicago, IL 60618

When: December 6 at 7pm CST

Tickets: \$15 Regular, \$10 Students (<https://strengthsensitivitychi.brownpapertickets.com>)

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

E'mon Lauren is a queer Scorpio, from the West and Souf side of Chicago, who uses poetry and playwriting to explore a philosophy of hood-womanism. She was named Chicago's first Youth Poet Laureate. E'mon has been published in "The BreakBeat Poets" (Vol. 1 and 2), Poetry Magazine, The Down Dirty Word, and elsewhere. She has been featured in Chicago Magazine, The Chicago Tribune, and Vogue Magazine. She is a member of Young Chicago Authors Teaching Artist Corps and host of her new podcast, "The Real Hoodwives of Chicago". Her first chapbook of poems, "COMMANDO", was published by Haymarket Books, Fall of 2017.

Kiéla Adira is a 23 year old teaching and performing artist, creative director, and recent Oberlin College graduate from the SouthSide of Chicago. Her primary mission is to produce art that inspires, heals, and makes you feel something. During her first year post-grad, in addition to teaching and performing, she did community engagement work with organizations like The Obama Foundation, Save Money Save Life, and The Chicago 200. She is currently working on her first music project while also preparing for a two week trip abroad with Djapo Cultural Arts Institute to study West African dance and drum in Bamako, Mali and Dakar, Senegal. Kiéla has a passion for creating meaningful, powerful work that gives back to the communities that continue to pour into her. You can follow Kiéla (kiela.adira) via Instagram to stay updated!

Rebecca McDaniel is passionate about sharing music with others and about supporting the creativity of young musicians. She works as the Office Manager and Development Associate for the Grammy Award-winning quartet Third Coast Percussion, and also performs regularly in the Chicagoland area. An active chamber percussionist, she frequently collaborates with interdisciplinary percussion collaborative Beyond This Point, and is a member of improvisational trio Three Hands Clapping, and classical chamber ensemble 5th Wave Collective, for whom she also serves as Marketing Director. She also teaches percussion lessons to students of all ages.

Gloria Yehilevsky has performed internationally in transmedia, cross-disciplinary, solo and chamber settings; her work is committed to the concept of music as communication. Selected as an artist with the World Percussion Group in 2017, she appeared at the Royal Northern College of Music, Sibelius Academy and Royal Danish Academy. Performance highlights include appearing on BBC television with Millennial Percussion, airing on BBC Radio 3 in the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire's Royal Opening Gala, performing in the International Symposium at Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Music in Bangkok and presenting at PASIC 2018. She is a Musical Merit Foundation protégé and won the PAS/Armand Zildjian Percussion Scholarship. Gloria is proud to endorse Black Swamp Percussion as a Concert Artist.

Colleen Bernstein is the founder and artistic director of Strength & Sensitivity. She has received international acclaim as a percussion soloist and is an entrepreneurial arts advocate and concert presenter. Since its inception in 2018, *Strength & Sensitivity* has been produced in Ann Arbor, MI and Boston, MA, created partnerships with Kadence Arts and internationally-acclaimed vocalist Carla Canales, and served as the keynote at the University of Michigan Symposium on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in February 2019. More about artistic director Colleen Bernstein and the project's current season can be found at www.colleenbernstein.com/strengthsensitivity/. Colleen is a proud Artist Endorser for Mallettech.

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