The Voices of Culture
2021-22

SEASONAL PROGRAM

Fall 2021
Science and Culture

Sian Proctor - October 28, 2021 – Virtual - 4:30 PM (AZ)
Pre-talk music: Andrés Pantoja

Lee Smolin - November 30, 2021 – Virtual - 4:30 PM (AZ)
Pre-talk music: Tim Kantor; Fanya Lin

Spring 2022
Economics and Government

James Piereson - February 22, 2022 - 4:30 PM (AZ)
Center for Creative Photography Room 108
Pre-talk music: Michael Becker Brass Trio

Magatte Wade - April 7, 2022 - 2:30 PM (AZ)
Holsclaw Hall, Music Building
Pre-talk music: Jing Xia; Bin Hu

For more information: freedomcenter.arizona.edu/calendar

Sponsored by the University of Arizona Center for the Philosophy of Freedom
Center for American Culture & Ideas
The Voices of Culture

THE CENTER FOR THE PHILOSOPHY OF FREEDOM

Prehistoric cave painting from Cueva de las Manos (Cave of the Hands), Santa Cruz, Argentina
Multiple hands that unite in a holistic unified image

The Voices of Culture is a non-partisan, broad-based collaboration between philosophy and the fine arts. It blends the visual arts, classical music, and intellectual interchange in a multimedia space where presenters and attendees feel culturally enriched and stimulated by ideas. Each event is presented as an open-ended vehicle for cross-cultural dialogue in order to countenance good will and engender unifying ideas of togetherness.

The Voices of Culture explores concepts and ideas that include, but are not limited to,

- Freedom and Equality
- Individualism and Identity
- Equity and Dignity
- Toleration
- Art and Creativity
- Ennoblement and Transcendence
- Law and Justice
- Citizenship and Civic Virtue
- Institutional Reform
- Compassion and Kindness
- Poverty and the Human Soul
- Economics
- Science and Civilization

The Voices of Culture seeks to champion the importance of human life, its desire for happiness, its place in a global culture, and its significance to each individual in the world. It values diversity of thought and background, openness and insight, and depth of understanding. The events it sponsors help promote the variety of thought necessary to uncover and amplify the universal characteristics at the core of what make us unique individuals in an interconnected world. Here, social, economic, philosophical, scientific, artistic, and political ideas and histories from across the spectrum of left, right, and center sit side by side in good faith and open-hearted earnestness in order to bring together the widest possible platform for cultural discourse.
The Speakers

Sian Proctor

Dr. Proctor is a geoscientist, explorer, space artist, and astronaut. She was the mission pilot for the Inspiration4 all-civilian orbital mission to space launched in September 2021. She is also one of “The Explorer’s Club 50: Fifty People Changing the World.” Her motto is called Space2inspire, where she encourages people to use their unique one-of-a-kind strengths and passion to inspire those within their reach and beyond. She believes that we need to actively strive for a J.E.D.I. space: a just, equitable, diverse, and inclusive space as we advance human spaceflight. She uses her afrofuturism space art to encourage conversations about women of color in the space industry. Dr. Proctor is also an analog astronaut and has completed four analog missions, including the all-female SENSORIA Mars 2020 mission at the Hawai’i Space Exploration Analog and Simulation (HI-SEAS) Habitat, the NASA funded 4-months Mars mission at HI-SEAS, a 2-weeks Mars mission at the Mars Desert Research Station (MDRS), and a 2-weeks Moon mission in the LunAres Habitat. She believes that when we solve for space, we also solve issues on Earth.

Lee Smolin

Dr. Smolin is a faculty member at Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, an independent, resident-based research institute devoted to foundational issues in theoretical physics at the highest levels of international excellence. Born in New York City, Dr. Smolin was educated at Hampshire College and Harvard University. He was formerly a professor at Yale, Syracuse, and Penn State Universities, and held postdoctoral positions at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, the Institute for Theoretical Physics, Santa Barbara and the Enrico Fermi Institute - the University of Chicago. He has been a visiting professor at Imperial College London and has held various visiting positions at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, the Universities of Rome and Trento, and SISSA in Italy. He is the recipient of the 2016 PROSE award in the Cosmology and Astronomy Category, given by the Association of American Publishers, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, awarded in 2013, and the Majorana Prize awarded in 2007. Dr. Smolin was named one of "100 world thinkers" by Prospect Magazine in 2015. His books include Einstein's Unfinished Revolution: The Search for What Lies Beyond the Quantum (2019) and Time Reborn: From the Crisis in Physics to the Future of the Universe (2013).
The Speakers

James Piereson

James Piereson is a Manhattan Institute senior fellow and President and Trustee of the William E. Simon Foundation. During 1985–2005, he was Executive Director and trustee of the John M. Olin Foundation. Previously, Piereson served on the political science faculties of Iowa State University, Indiana University, and the University of Pennsylvania, where he taught government and political thought. He serves on the boards of the Pinkerton Foundation, Thomas W. Smith Foundation, Center for Individual Rights, Philanthropy Roundtable (where he was chairman, 1995–99), Foundation for Cultural Review (as chairman), American Spectator Foundation, Hoover Institution, and Donors Trust.

Magatte Wade

Magatte Wade is a serial entrepreneur, inspirational speaker, and visionary business leader with a passion for creating positive change in Africa. She is the founder and CEO of SkinIsSkin.com and is dedicated to reducing racial discrimination while creating jobs and prosperity in her home country of Senegal. She is an entrepreneur who believes that free markets and economic freedom is the pathway for Africa to leapfrog ahead, with Africans taking the uncontested leading role in the co-creation of 21st century prosperity for all, innovation, culture and technology.
The Musicians

Andrés Pantoja

Andrés Pantoja, from Chile, started his guitar studies at the age of 13, with Edith Vásquez, his mother. He holds an undergraduate degree from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and a master’s degree in performance from the University of Arizona, where he is pursuing his Doctor of Musical Arts degree. Andrés has recorded 6 CDs; premiered more than 20 works for solo guitar and ensemble; played in his Chile with four prominent orchestras, as well as in the US, France, Switzerland, Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, Venezuela, Bolivia, Uruguay and Chile.

Tim Kantor

A dedicated teacher and coach, Timothy Kantor is Assistant Professor of Violin at the University of Arizona’s Fred Fox School of Music. Professor Kantor also teaches at the Kinhaven Music School in Vermont and the Programa Gabriel del Orbe in Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic). He graduated with honors from Bowdoin College, earned a Master of Music degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, and pursued doctoral studies at Indiana University. Professor Kantor has performed around the globe at some of the world’s greatest concert halls and chamber music series. As a member of the Afiara Quartet in Toronto, he has performed hundreds of concerts and helped to develop several innovative projects.

Fanya Lin

Pianist Fanya Lin has captivated audiences worldwide with her charismatic and gripping performances. Fanya earned her Doctoral Degree at the University of Minnesota, her Master’s Degree at The Juilliard School, and her Bachelor’s Degree at Weber State University. In Fall 2019, Dr. Fanya Lin joined the faculty at University of Arizona in Tucson as Assistant Professor of Music in Piano. An avid soloist, Fanya promotes classical music to the general public by creating innovative concert programs and engages her audience by presenting interactive performances.
The Musicians

Michael Becker

Michael Becker joined the faculty at the University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music in 2019. He is Principal Trombone of the Tucson Symphony Orchestra and Second Trombone of the Arizona Opera Orchestra. Mr. Becker has also performed with the London Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, Lyric Opera of Chicago, the New York Philharmonic, Sir Georg Solti’s World Orchestra in Geneva, Switzerland, Baden Baden, Germany, and London, the Malaysian Philharmonic, Bergen Philharmonic, Charlotte Symphony, Alabama Symphony, and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. As an active soloist and chamber music artist, he has had two solo works written for him, Still Points Concerto by Peter Askim and Characters, a sonata by Carmela Cinco. Mr. Becker is a member of the Tucson Symphony Brass Quintet, performing more than 40 concerts annually.

Jing Xia and Bin Hu

Together, Jing Xia and Bin Hu form Duo Chinoiserie, a world-culture-inspired ensemble comprised of a traditional Chinese instrument and a western instrument – the guzheng and guitar. Its repertoire embraces traditions from cultures across Eurasia and displays the interactions and similarities as well as the uniqueness and exoticism of different musical cultures. As its name implies, the communication between east and west promotes an intercultural artistic exchange for a more inclusive world. Duo Chinoiserie has performed in Spain, China, and the United States. Their performances have been described as sensational by audiences and critics alike, and their creative artistic activities have been featured by mainstream media outlets including the Arizona Daily Star and Tucson Lifestyle Magazine.