**BMI CONTINUES ITS LONGTIME SUPPORT OF THE PRESTIGIOUS SUNDANCE INSTITUTE FILM MUSIC AND SOUND DESIGN LAB 2020**

**This Year’s Program Will Be Presented Digitally on [Sundance Co//ab](https://collab.sundance.org/)**

**LOS ANGELES, CA, July 27, 2020** – [**Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI)**](http://www.bmi.com/)  today announced its continued support of the Sundance Institute Film Music and Sound Design Lab 2020 in collaboration with Skywalker Sound. The prestigious program returns with a new reimagined digital format on [[Sundance Co//ab](https://collab.sundance.org/) from July 27–August 14, 2020.](https://collab.sundance.org/)

BMI composers **Aaron Parks, Ariel Marx** and **Jeff “Gitty” Gitelman** were invited to participate along with **Cora (Yi-Huan) Chung, DeAndre Allen-Toole** and **Sultana Isham** to round out this year’s talented group of Fellows.

“We’re proud to continue supporting the Lab’s commitment to fostering new emerging composers because it aligns perfectly with what we do at BMI,” said **Doreen Ringer-Ross, Vice President, Creative Relations, BMI.** “The program has enhanced the careers of numerous composers who have gone on to become some of the most sought-after talents in the industry, which not only highlights the success of the program, but the importance and value of mentorship.”

Lead by **Peter Golub**, Director of the Sundance Film Music Program, the Lab brings emerging gifted film composers together with fiction and documentary filmmakers, and sound designers to explore the power of storytelling through score and sound. Composers and filmmakers will have the opportunity to score selections for either a fiction or documentary feature-length film during the two-week program.

Drawing from its support of the Film Music Program, BMI produces a composer/director roundtable each year at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, highlighting its composers who have scored films in the prestigious festival.

In addition to **Doreen Ringer-Ross**, this year’s creative advisors include award-wining composers **Blake Neely, Germaine Franco, Heather McIntosh, James Newton Howard, Kathryn Bostic, Kris Bowers, Michael Abels, Miriam Cutler, Philip Klein and Thomas Newman.** Other creative advisors include Skywalker Sound effects editors **Alyssa Nevarez, Chris Frazier** and **Dug Winningham**.In addition to music supervisor **Madonna Wade-Reed,** as well assound editors **Steve Boeddeker** and **Adam Smalley** and sound designer **Pete Horner**. Filmmakers **Catherine Hardwicke, Jacob Schulsinger, Miguel Arteta** and **So Yong Kim** are set to join the elite group of advisors.

**Artists and projects selected for the 2020 Sundance Institute Music and Sound Design Lab are:**

**Composers:**

**Aaron Parks** attended the Manhattan School of Music at 16 and two years later became the pianist in Terence Blanchard’s band. He won numerous competitions and appeared on Blue Note recordings, including the GRAMMY-winning *A Tale of God's Will* *(A Requiem for Katrina),* before making his own debut with 2008's *Invisible Cinema*. The San Jose Mercury News named his *Alive in Japan* release as their 2013 Top Jazz Album of the year. Parks also appears on soundtracks for Darnell Martin’s acclaimed *Their Eyes Were Watching* *God* as well as Spike Lee’s *Inside Man, She Hate Me* and *When the Levees Broke*. He continues to tour as the leader of the Aaron Parks Trio, his quartet Little Big (hailed by PopMatters as “what jazz can be in the new century”), as a solo pianist and a member of Terri Lyne Carrington’s Social Science.

**Ariel Marx**, an eclectic composer and multi-instrumentalist, has had her film scores premiered at Sundance, TIFF, SXSW, Tribeca, Woodstock and Criterion Channel. In addition to working with major studios such as Amazon, Netflix and HBO, Marx is releasing her new album *Luthier* this summer under Node Records. Currently, she is scoring an upcoming Netflix series, as well as Lindsay Gossling’s *Thirteen Minutes* and Paul Shoulberg’s *So Cold the River*. Recent projects include Amazon’s limited series *Ted Bundy: Falling For A Killer*; SXSW’s *Shiva Baby* directed by Emma Seligman; Matthew Balzer’s *The Catch*; Ross Marks’ *Walking With Herb*; Edward James Olmos’ *The Devil Has A Name*; HBO’s film *The Tale*, directed by Jennifer Fox; the Independent Spirit Award nominated *To Dust* directed by Shawn Snyde; Galt Niederhoffer’s *10 Things We Should Do Before We Break Up* and Sarah Pirozek's #*LIKE*.



**Jeff ‘Gitty’ Gitelman** is a GRAMMY nominated, multi-platinum selling film score composer, producer, songwriter, performer, educator and graduate of Berklee School of Music born in Soviet era Moldavia. Gitty is the lead vocalist and guitarist for his band, *The Stepkids.* He’s toured the world playing guitar for Lauryn Hill, Alicia Keys, Stevie Wonder, David Bowie, H.E.R and Adele. Gitty’s recent writing/production credits include artists John Legend, J.Cole, H.E.R, Camila Cabello, Usher, Jeremih, Anderson Paak, Earth Wind & Fire, Mary J Blige, Frank Ocean, Mac Miller and many more. His film scores include the PBS documentary *Forgiveness*, and the original Netflix movie *Take the Ten*. As an expression of his commitment to music education, in 2017 he founded Duality School of Music, dedicated to providing youth education and opportunity to developing musicians/composers in his hometown of New Haven, CT.

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**Cora (Yi-Huan) Chung** is a composer and cellist from Taiwan, she has performed with numerous professional orchestras in Asia, such as Kaohsiung Symphony Orchestra (KSO) and the Asian Youth Orchestra (AYO). Chung graduated from Columbia College in Chicago majoring in Music Composition for the Screen. Her music has been performed and recorded at the Sound of Silent Film Festival in Chicago and 20th Century Fox Studios in 2019. Additionally, the young composer has been nominated for the 2020 Peer Raben Music Award at Soundtrack Cologne.

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**DeAndre Allen-Toole** graduated from Columbia College Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Composition in 2015 and was later accepted into their graduate program. Allen-Toole was chosen as a Game Audio Network Guild Scholar before earning his Master of Fine Arts degree in 2017 and was later awarded a spot in the Television Academy Foundation's summer internship program. DeAndre has also interned for composer Mac Quayle and served as a full-time assistant to Theodore Shapiro. Recently, DeAndre has written music for composers Tyler Strickland, Jongnic Bontemps and Michael Abels, while also working on a handful of independent projects. He is a proud member of the Composers Diversity Collective and currently sits on the organization's executive committee.

**Sultana Isham** is an award-winning film composer, violinist, writer and scholar based in New Orleans. Isham is an alumna of Syracuse University and Red Bull Music Academy, her film composer credits range from avant-garde, horror, fantasy and archival. She is a member of the contemporary string ensemble, *Les Cenelles*, and an educator and published scholar on the Black presence in art music through interdisciplinary theory with a psychoanalysis of music, lineage and memory. She was a researcher and the composer for the documentary *All Skinfolk Ain't Kinfolk,* directed by Emmy-nominated Angela Tucker. Her upcoming film scores include *Sacred* directed by Luisa Dantas and *The Neutral Ground*, her feature film debut on the removal of confederate monuments, directed by CJ Hunt.

**ABOUT BMI:**

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**ABOUT Sundance Institute**

As a champion and curator of independent stories for the stage and screen, Sundance Institute provides and preserves the space for artists in film, theatre, film composing, and digital media to create and thrive. Founded in 1981 by Robert Redford, the Institute's signature Labs, granting, and mentorship programs, dedicated to developing new work, take place throughout the year in the U.S. and internationally. [Sundance Co//ab](https://collab.sundance.org/), a digital community platform, brings artists together to learn from each other and Sundance Advisors and connect in a creative space, developing and sharing works in progress. The Sundance Film Festival and other public programs connect audiences and artists to ignite new ideas, discover original voices, and build a community dedicated to independent storytelling. Sundance Institute has supported such projects as *Clemency, Never Rarely Sometimes Always*, *Zola*, *On The Record, Boys State, The Farewell, Honeyland*, *One Child Nation*, *The Souvenir, The Infiltrators, Sorry to Bother You, Won't You Be My Neighbor?, Hereditary, Call Me By Your Name, Get Out, The Big Sick, Mudbound, Fruitvale Station*, *City So Real, Top of the Lake, Between the World & Me, Wild Goose Dreams* and *Fun Home*. Join [Sundance Institute](http://www.sundance.org/) on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/sundance), [Instagram](http://instagram.com/sundanceorg), [Twitter](http://twitter.com/sundanceorg) and [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com/sff).