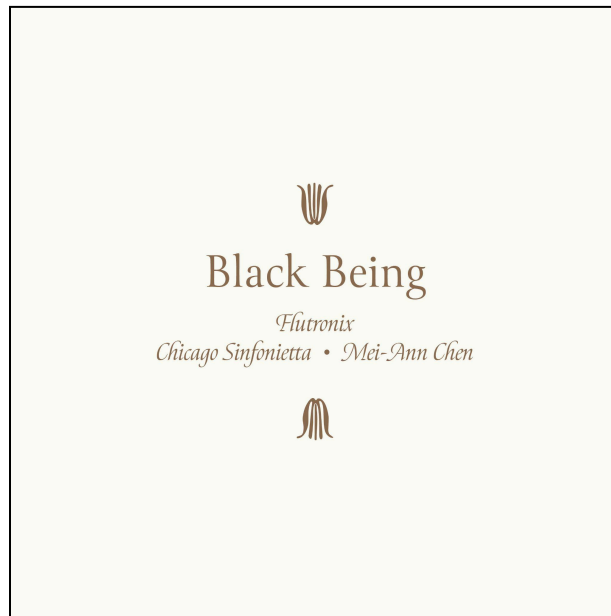


For Immediate Release



FLUTRONIX'S *BLACK BEING*, AN ELECTRO-ACOUSTIC SONG CYCLE EXPLORING THE BLACK FEMALE EXPERIENCE, TO BE RELEASED ON CEDILLE RECORDS, FEBRUARY 13



Composed and performed by flutists Nathalie Joachim and Allison Loggins-Hull, Black Being features the Chicago Sinfonietta conducted by Mei-Ann Chen

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS ([BLANK], 2025) — Grammy-nominated flutist, vocalist, and composer **Nathalie Joachim**, praised as “a fresh and invigorating cross-cultural voice” (*The Nation*), and composer, flutist, and producer **Allison Loggins-Hull**, declared a “powerhouse” performer by *The Washington Post*, join forces as **Flutronix** in ***Black Being***, a groundbreaking electro-acoustic song cycle, composed and performed by the duo, that celebrates the multifaceted nature of Black female identity. Also featuring the **Chicago Sinfonietta** conducted by **Mei-Ann Chen**, ***Black Being*** will be released exclusively in digital format on Cedille Records on **February 13**.

Black Being is a genre-defying work that fuses Flutronix’s dynamic flute lines with chamber orchestra and electronics, set to commissioned poetry by North Carolina Poet Laureate **Jaki**

Shelton Green, whom they first encountered during their residency at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, from 2018 to 2020. Through music and words sung by Joachim, the work explores the intricate layers of Black womanhood, reflecting themes of strength, sacrifice, beauty, fear, and survival. Green describes her contribution, saying, “I dare not try to define what Black womanhood is... but I didn’t want it to dwell in the ‘oh-woe’ Black woman syndrome. It’s not about carrying the weight; it’s about how we’ve carried it and how we’ve thrown it off. We’re lighter, and we are light.”

The song cycle unfolds in four movements, each with its own emotional arc. The opening section, “Angels,” evokes the horrors of human bondage with Loggins-Hull’s haunting flute lines and Joachim’s vocoder recitations. In “Water Babies,” the narrative confronts the harrowing imagery of people thrown overboard from slave ships, continuing the exploration of historical trauma. “Moon Pies and Stardust” turns toward nostalgia and communal joy, celebrating simple pleasures and shared space, while the final movement, “Black Lights,” brings a triumphant affirmation of the resilience, richness, and diversity of Black womanhood. Throughout the work, the refrain “we keep coming” serves as a powerful anchor, emphasizing continuity and perseverance. Joachim reflects, “So often, we get stuck into tropes of only being allowed to be this or that kind of Black person. *Black Being* acknowledges our universality without making us a monolith... For us to be able to really claim space means something very different.”

With a talent for crafting unique sonic worlds, Flutronix’s musical palette highlights expressive vocals and vocoder, with electronics seamlessly integrated into the colors of a chamber orchestra. As a result, *Black Being* transcends genre boundaries and, through superlative recording engineering, guides listeners into a sonically stunning sound universe that fluidly shifts between intimacy and power, using texture, timbre, and resonance to reflect the complexities of Black womanhood.

Originally commissioned by and performed at the Arts Club of Chicago as a chamber work in October 2021, *Black Being* was named among the top 10 classical music events of the year by the *Chicago Tribune*, which praised it as “the most stunning live performance.” The chamber orchestra version, heard on this recording, was co-commissioned by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and Chicago Sinfonietta and was performed with the latter under Mei-Ann Chen in January 2025.

“I am honored to be involved in one of the most powerful and unique works by two of the most creative minds of our day,” stated Maestra Chen. “*Black Being* has captured Black womanhood in an impactful album that I hope will have lasting influence!”

Black Being marks Flutronix’s first full album with Cedille Records and their third full-length studio album. The album was produced by Elaine Martone (Sonarc Music) and engineered by Dan Nichols, and recorded on January 21–23, 2025, in the Mary Patricia Gannon Concert Hall at DePaul University.

ABOUT NATHALIE JOACHIM

Nathalie Joachim is a Grammy-nominated performer and composer. The Haitian-American artist is hailed for being “a fresh and invigorating cross-cultural voice”. (*The Nation*). Her creative practice centers an authentic commitment to storytelling and human connectivity while advocating for social change and cultural awareness, gaining her the reputation of being “powerful and unpretentious.” (*The New York Times*)

Joachim’s 2025-26 season includes several appearances at Opera Philadelphia as their Composer-in-Residence, including her contribution to the company’s world premiere opera *Complications in Sue*. She presents material from her upcoming opera *Le présent éternel* at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York City in November 2025 and joins the New York Philharmonic for an expanded version of the work in May 2026 as the featured artist in the orchestra’s Sound On series. Joachim also appears at Carnegie Hall and The Juilliard School as an Arnhold Creative Associate, premieres her new multimedia work *Solitude + S P A C E* at Princeton Sound Kitchen and the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and joins DeCoda for performances of *Fanm d’Ayiti* in San Francisco and at Stanford University. Further world premieres this season include works written for London Sinfonietta/Holland Festival and the Jacksonville Symphony.

Ms. Joachim is Assistant Professor of Composition at Princeton University and is regularly commissioned to write for orchestra, instrumental and vocal ensembles, dance, and interdisciplinary theater. Her landmark project, *Fanm d’Ayiti*, an evening-length work for flute, voice, string quartet and electronics, celebrates and explores her personal Haitian heritage and received a GRAMMY nomination for Best World Music Album. Joachim’s sophomore album, *Ki moun ou ye* - an intimate examination of ancestral connection and self - was co-released by Nonesuch Records and New Amsterdam Records in 2024, and deemed “one of the year’s most creatively and personally ambitious albums.” (*SPIN Magazine*). Joachim is a recent Scholar-in-Residence at the Museum of Modern Art, and a United States Artist Fellow. She is an alumnus of The Juilliard School and The New School. www.nathaliejoachim.com

ABOUT ALLISON LOGGINS-HULL

Celebrated as a musical “powerhouse” (*The Washington Post*), Allison Loggins-Hull is a composer, flutist, and producer whose work defies genre, ranging from symphonic music to film scores, chamber music, and electronic music.

Her signature style of composing for orchestra is characterized by unique sonic effects that echo contemporary music production techniques. Her works are profoundly influenced by Black American music, creating a vibrant and kaleidoscopic sonic palette. Thematically, her compositions are deeply rooted in the experiences of community, culture, and life, offering a rich and evocative musical narrative. Her artistic reflections on Black stories, music, and experience have led to works aligned with Afrofuturism, a movement that imagines alternate realities and a liberated future viewed through the lens of Black cultures.

Her recent and upcoming highlights include premieres performed by the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, The Cleveland Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Toronto Symphony, The Knights, Third Coast Percussion, Apollo Chamber Players, and the National Orchestral Institute.

Loggins-Hull has served as Resident Artistic Partner to the New Jersey Symphony since September 2024. The 2024-2025 season marked the last of her three years as the Lewis Composer Fellow with The Cleveland Orchestra, an engagement that focused on the narratives and history of Cleveland through the prism of one of the world's great orchestras, culminating in three world premieres and two portrait albums due in 2026. She also received a 2025 Fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Loggins-Hull has performed as an accompanist to major pop acts, including Lizzo and Frank Ocean. She has performed on multiple blockbuster film scores and composed the score for *Bring Them Back*, an award-winning documentary executive-produced by Debbie Allen about the legendary dancer Maurice Hines.

Loggins-Hull lives in Montclair, NJ with her family. She is represented by Pink Noise Agency, a BIG Arts Group company. www.allisonloggins.com

ABOUT JAKI SHELTON GREEN

Jaki Shelton Green, ninth Poet Laureate of North Carolina is the first African American and third woman to be appointed as the North Carolina Poet Laureate. She is a 2019 Academy of American Poet Laureate Fellow, 2014 NC Literary Hall of Fame Inductee, 2009 NC Piedmont Laureate appointment, 2003 recipient of the North Carolina Award for Literature. Jaki Shelton Green teaches Documentary Poetry at Duke University Center for Documentary Studies and was appointed the 2021 Frank B. Hanes Writer in Residence at UNC Chapel Hill. Additionally, she received the George School Outstanding Alumni Award in 2021. Her publications include: *Dead on Arrival*, *Masks*, *Dead on Arrival and New Poems*, *Conjure Blues*, *singing a tree into dance*, *breath of the song*, published by Blair Publishers; *Feeding the Light* and *i want to undie you* published by Jacar Press; and *i want to undie you* English /Italian bilingual edition published by Lebeg Publishers. On Juneteenth 2020, she released her first LP, the poetry album, *The River Speaks of Thirst*, produced by Soul City Sounds and Clearly Records. Jaki Shelton Green is the owner of SistaWRITE providing writing retreats for women writers in Sedona Arizona, Martha's Vineyard, Ocracoke North Carolina, Northern Morocco, and Tullamore Ireland.

ABOUT MEI-ANN CHEN

Bold, passionate, and innovative, Taiwanese American conductor Mei-Ann Chen is renowned as one of the most versatile and dynamic conductors on the podium today, praised for the energy and enthusiasm with which she infuses orchestras and performances. Music Director of the

MacArthur Award-winning Chicago Sinfonietta since 2011, her contract has been unanimously extended through the end of the 2028 - 2029 season. Named Artistic Advisor of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra (MA) in March 2024, Chen has been Chief Conductor of Austria's Recreation – Grosses Orchester Graz at Styriarte since fall 2021, following two seasons as the orchestra's first-ever Principal Guest Conductor, making her the first female Asian conductor to hold this position with an Austrian orchestra. She has served as the first-ever Artistic Partner of Houston's ROCO since 2019 and, since 2022, as an Artistic Partner with Northwest Sinfonietta (WA). In the recording field, she has made recordings for Cedille Records, Innova Recordings, and Naxos. A passionate advocate for music education, Ms. Chen dedicates significant time in mentoring young conductors through various programs, including the Chicago Sinfonietta Freeman Conducting Fellowship program and the Taki Alsop Fellowship, and conducts ensembles at important educational institutions, both nationally and abroad. Highly regarded as a compelling communicator and a creative leader both on and off the podium, and a sought-after guest conductor, she has appeared with distinguished orchestras throughout the Americas, Europe, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and Scandinavia, and continues to expand her relationships with orchestras worldwide (over 160 orchestras to date). www.meiannchen.com

ABOUT THE CHICAGO SINFONIETTA

Groundbreaking. Dynamic. Daring. A tenured orchestra and acclaimed cultural leader that champions diversity, equity, and inclusion by creating community through curated symphonic experiences, the award-winning Chicago Sinfonietta is a source of community through music, as well as ensuring and inspiring a continued investment in diversity and inclusivity in the genre of classical music to promote fairness and equity. With core values built around being culturally responsive and advocates of inclusivity in all aspects of the 38-year-old organization's work, the Chicago Sinfonietta's unrelenting commitment to being at the forefront of innovation drives its high standard of symphonic experiences. The Chicago Sinfonietta takes pride in leading by example with immersive audience engagement activities, impactful career development, education, and extensive community outreach programs.

ABOUT CEDILLE RECORDS

Launched in November 1989 by James Ginsburg, Grammy Award-winning Cedille Records (pronounced say-DEE) is dedicated to showcasing and promoting the most noteworthy classical artists in and from the Chicago area. A nonprofit record label, Cedille's mission is to produce and disseminate audiophile recordings presenting the finest classical music performers and composers in and from Chicago. The recordings further the careers and legacies of these Chicago artists as Cedille invests in not only the recordings but in the artists represented on them. The label's catalog of more than 200 front-line albums brims with attractive, off-the-beaten-path repertoire from the Baroque era to the present day, including world premieres of well over 400 classical compositions. Works from the classical canon, when they do appear, are usually heard in particularly imaginative pairings. Cedille never removes albums from its catalog and each recording is a permanent documentation of the artists' work. With more than

180 Chicago artists and ensembles, over 80 making their professional recording debuts on the label, Cedille brings the area's most significant classical music artists to a worldwide listening public. Cedille recordings are available on CD, as MP3 and hi-resolution FLAC downloads, and on all major streaming platforms. Learn more Cedille Records and explore the label's catalog at cedillerecords.org.

Black Being

CEDILLE RECORDS — CDR 90000 241

Flutronix

Nathalie Joachim

Allison Loggins-Hull

Mei-Ann Chen

Chicago Sinfonietta

TRACK LISTING

Flutronix

Mei-Ann Chen

Chicago Sinfonietta

NATHALIE JOACHIM & ALLISON LOGGINS-HULL

Black Being (40:13)

- 1 Angels (11:32)
- 2 Water Babies (9:07)
- 3 Moonpies and Stardust (11:34)
- 4 Black Lights (7:59)

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

Black Being was produced by Elaine Martone (Sonarc Music) and engineered by Dan Nichols, Mark Alletag, and Brandon Johnson. The album was recorded on January 21–23, 2025, in the Mary Patricia Gannon Concert Hall at DePaul University.

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