

Meet Randall Davidson, composer/producer

Born in Pueblo, Colo., Randall Davidson studied with Dominick Argento, Eric Stokes, Susan McClary, and Paul Fetler at the U of Minnesota School of Music and with Alf Houkom, Olivier Messiaen, and Ned Rorem at Cornell College. He also trained with Sandy Goehr in London. He then settled in Minneapolis, devoting himself to composition. He was one of three founding members in the 1970s of the Minnesota Composers Forum.

Davidson's catalogue includes choral works, an opera, chamber and orchestral works as well as television commercials, incidental music for theater, a major sound installation to inaugurate the Minnesota Children's Museum, and music for rock, jazz, and wind ensembles. Davidson enjoyed a long collaborative relationship with the radio humorist and writer Garrison Keillor, composing such works as *The Young Lutheran's Guide to the Orchestra* and a humorous oratorio, *The History of Evil: Bible Families*. In addition, Davidson is a classically-trained cellist and self-trained improviser with a preference for contemporary idioms and Renaissance music.

Davidson has served on boards of Meet the Composer and New Music USA, and president of the American Music Center. An educator and advocate throughout his career, Davidson presents lectures, seminars, workshops, panel discussions, and pre-concert talks.

Excited to join the discussion component as artist-curator, Randall Davidson aims to bring art into the picture to help us better understand the impact of past policies and future ideas on people's lives.

Randall Davidson will serve as artist-curator for the four fall C&B discussions.

All Cairns & Beacons presentations and discussion sessions are free.

The Zoom presentations and discussions will allow audiences to either attend in-person at one of five partner Michigan libraries or to view the presentations virtually via Zoom.



For more information, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/cairnsandbeacons

UPCOMING

Winter-Spring Series 2024

The Supreme Court: Past and Present

Presentation: January 11, 2024

Discussion: January 18, 2024

What's Ahead for the Republican Party?

Presentation: February 1, 2024

Discussion: February 8, 2024

What's Ahead for the Democratic Party?

Presentation: March 7, 2024

Discussion: March 14, 2024

Innovative Research & Projects

Presentation: April 4, 2024

Discussion: April 11, 2024



CONTACT

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PARTNER LIBRARIES



MAKING CONNECTIONS.
MAKING CHANGE.

FALL 2023 SERIES

Finding our way forward...



Out of Covid-19 we emerged, apprehensive but hopeful, stunned by what we had failed to notice before Covid, that our nation had not lived up to its promises.

We are left with the stark reality of all that we once were and a new awareness of what we are capable of. Overwhelmed, we ask the question, "how can we, as individuals, possibly have an impact?"

What we do doesn't need to be big. One step at a time is enough and individuals committed to being "pebbles in an avalanche of change"* have and will change the world.

Through live presentations, respectful dialog, and open access to articles and books, you will have an opportunity to hear and share new ideas.

Together, we will critique our past ways and policies, explore what's working and what's not, while considering new paths (cairns) and new goals (beacons) that we seek for ourselves as we move on from the pandemic.

Cairns & Beacons: Finding Our Way in a Post-Pandemic World is for all who want to continue to learn and grow while forging relationships and building stronger communities.

Join us for lively conversations as we wrestle with powerful and sometimes curious ideas, connect with an invaluable community of others, and enjoy the journey together.

* Henderson, Rebecca. *Reimagining Capitalism in a World on Fire*

Thinking our way to a post-pandemic democracy

Why is thinking important?
Which ways of thinking develop
independence, creativity, and
individual responsibility? Are
these connected to 'good' acts?
Is there a relation between not
thinking and irresponsibility,
"just following orders," not
wandering from the status quo,
and "keeping my head down"?
Are there connections between
these and 'bad,' even 'evil' acts?

Reimagining capitalism globally: what global "guaranteed income" projects have to teach us

For more than 10 years, the public
giving circle GiveDirectly has
provided guaranteed income to the
poor in diverse countries. Rather
than abusing funds, the global poor
have put the funds to good use,
raising their own prosperity while
demonstrating values capitalist
economies promote--personal
responsibility, working hard, and
building strong communities.

Reimagining American capitalism: an economic system that works for America's poor and working poor

With contributions from both the
politically Right and Left, the nation
has begun to create an economic
system that works for America's poor
and working poor. What's being done?
What are helpful results to date?
What problems are emerging?

Free markets: from Ronald Reagan to Barack Obama

What began as a Republican
movement under Ronald Reagan
to improve the economy by freeing
up markets, "free market" economics
or "neoliberalism" came to be backed
also by Democrats like Bill Clinton
and Barack Obama. What were the
successes in managing the economy
this way? Why are people from both
political parties questioning it now?
Is a death knell on the horizon or
is it premature?

ZOOM PRESENTER

Elizabeth Minnich
Philosopher, Author, Educator



AUTHOR

*The Evil of Banality: On the Life and
Death Importance of Thinking*

PRESENTATION

September 14, 2023, 7:00 pm

DISCUSSION

September 21, 2023, 7:00 pm

ZOOM PRESENTER

Miriam Laker
M.D., Director, Researcher



Board Member, CALP Network,
research in humanitarian cash
and voucher assistance

PRESENTATION

October 5, 2023, 7:00 pm

DISCUSSION

October 12, 2023, 7:00 pm

ZOOM PRESENTER

Michael Tomasky
Author, Editor



AUTHOR

*The Middle Out: The Rise of
Progressive Economics and a
Return to Shared Prosperity*

PRESENTATION

November 2, 2023, 7:00 pm

DISCUSSION

November 9, 2023, 7:00 pm

ZOOM PRESENTER

Gary Gerstle
US Historian, Author, Educator



AUTHOR

*The Rise and Fall of the Neoliberal
Order: America and the World in
the Free Market Era*

DISCUSSION

December 7, 2023, 7:00 pm*

PRESENTATION

December 14, 2023, 7:00 pm*

*Note: For this session, Discussion precedes Presentation