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MEDIA CONTACT

Laura Ward
860.540.4725
laura@lauraward.co

EMBARK ON A MUSICAL JOURNEY: EXCURSIONS, A FIVE-MOVEMENT WORK FOR SOLO PIANO BY VIRGINIA JOHNSTON *Experience Enriqueta Somarriba's captivating performance*

March 25, 2024 | Maplewood, New Jersey – Just in time for Piano Day on March 28, Virginia (Ginny) Johnston announces the release of her composition, *Excursions*, inviting listeners to embark on a captivating musical journey. Comprised of five distinct movements for solo piano, the piece showcases Johnston's versatility as a composer. Recorded with unparalleled artistry by pianist Enriqueta Somarriba, *Excursions* promises to enchant and enthrall listeners with its breathtaking beauty and emotional depth.

“With *Excursions*, I aimed to use both tonal and atonal harmonic palettes, fused with a lot of rhythmic energy, to evoke a range of emotions — including humor and playfulness,” said Johnston. “I wanted to find a harmonic palette that offers an ‘emotional cleanse’ and allows listeners to feel connected to and affected by the music.”

The first movement, "With Energy," is a joyful tribute to the timeless spirit of perseverance embodied by the beloved story of "The Little Engine That Could." Its almost child-like opening melody and sudden contrasts of character and dynamics suggest a youthful energy.

In contrast, the second movement, "At A Distance," takes listeners on a reflective exploration of space and time. It evokes a sense of introspection and contemplation before the lightly energetic third movement, "With Liberty," offers a unique opportunity for artistic expression, granting the performer much freedom in tempo and character.

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The slow “Passacaglia” movement, based on a ten-note pitch series, showcases a different compositional approach. Initially introduced in the bass voice, this atonal motif gradually weaves its way through the upper voices, creating a rich tapestry of sound and rhythm.

Finally, the fifth movement, "Rhythmic Dance," invites listeners to embrace the infectious energy of dance with its exuberant playfulness and slightly irregular melodies. The piece comes full circle, ending with the same whimsical sense of joy and energy with which it began.

In addition to *Excursions*, Johnston has just released three other recordings of her works – Introduction & Variation for Clarinet and Harp, Suite for Brass Trio, and Suite for Clarinet and Piano – all of which are available for streaming on [SoundCloud](#). Sheet music for Johnston's compositions can be purchased on [J.W. Pepper](#) and [Ethos Publications](#).

About Virginia (Ginny) Johnston

Virginia Johnston is a clarinetist, composer, conductor, vocalist, songwriter, drummer, improv comedy performer, and actor. A Syracuse University and Boston University graduate, Johnston is well known for her diverse musical talents and innovative compositions, praised for their originality and emotional depth. Her compositions span a wide range of styles and genres, reflecting her eclectic musical background. An accomplished performer, Johnston is passionate about bringing music to life on stage and in the recording studio.

To learn more about Virginia Johnston's work and stay informed about her future projects, please visit [GinJohnMusic.com](#) and follow her on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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