



Western Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

FRIDAYS AT 12:30 SERIES UNYIELDING ROOTS

Friday, February 7, 2025

12:30 p.m., von Kuster Hall and [via livestream](#)
Kathryn Patricia Cobbler, *composer and violist*

Unyielding Roots

Katherine Patricia Cobbler

- I. Overture: Weathering the Ocean Seas
- II. Memory Keepers
- III. Mirror-Mirror
- IV. Roots Ceded in Joy

Music and Poetry composed by Kathryn Patricia Cobbler

This musical work reflects upon elements of the Caribbean immigrant and African diaspora experience. It explores a multicultural lens and definitions of beauty against a North American colonial landscape. *Unyielding Roots* will invite audiences to celebrate their family lineage and how it has helped to contribute to their unique voices within their communities and cultural spaces.

Memory Keepers

A different shore to call home,
Roots that extend across the ocean
Like constellations, they guide us.

These roots are strong.

Braided and twisted curls are our memory keepers—
A woven legacy,
Roots that extend across the ocean

These roots are strong— Oh, how much they teach us.

Castor oil, shea, and cocoa soothe our locks and skin,
Cornrows, cane rows, patterns of organized beauty
They are markings of our legacy,

These roots are strong.

These are our ancestor's stories: A woven legacy
They bound them, enslaved them, and tried to keep
them,

But they knew who they were,

A different shore to call home,
How shall we commemorate our history?
Like constellations they guide us,

With full lips we speak our stories,
Through our eyes we share our view of the world.

Roots that extend across the ocean
Like constellations, they guide us.

These roots are strong.

Mirror Mirror

Silhouettes that curve and sway,
hair that extends its beauty at all angles

Dark skin, chocolate brown eyes,
the mirror of the magazine does not match them.

Flipping through the pages...
Women porcelain and fair...
Limbs long and slender grace these images.

These are memories from childhood.

Silhouettes that curve and sway,
We are making history.
Imprinting new figures, new faces,

Piece by piece,

Slowly...

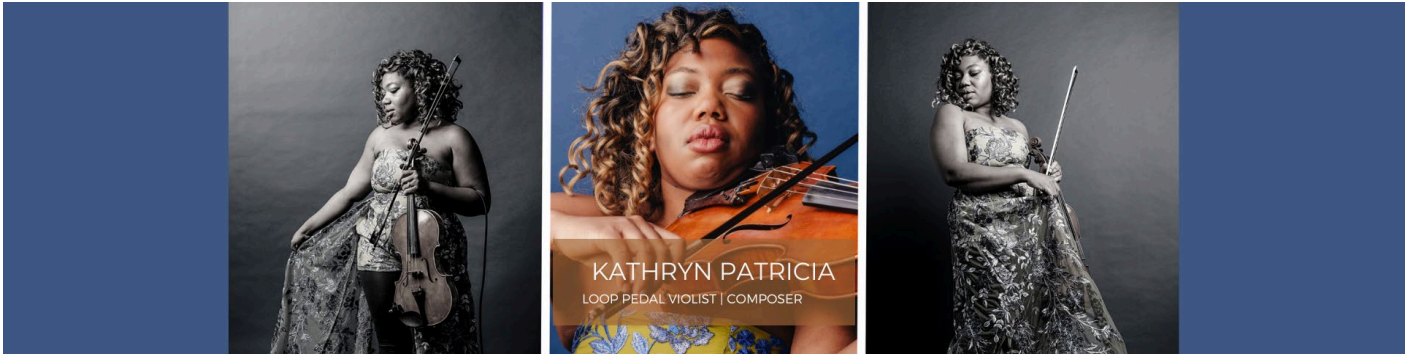
I see my image mirrored back at me.

Silhouettes that curve and sway,
Now we see them in full colour.
Our afros, twists, weaves, locks and braids,
Beautiful in all their forms.

We are making history,

We are making history.

BIOGRAPHY



Hailing from Canada's Capital region, Loop pedal violist, visual artist, composer, and educator **Kathryn Patricia Cobbler** has crafted a singular niche in music improvisation and classical performance. She obsesses over creating uniquely arresting soundscapes, whether in solo recitals, composing and performing for art installations, and more. Named a CBC Trailblazer in 2021 and a recipient of one of Ottawa Arts Council's Emerging Artist awards, she has been featured in Canada's most notable Concert Series, Chamberfest, Music and Beyond, NUMUS Concert series to name a few.

Named one of '3 Classical Musicians You Should Know' in 2022, by SHIFTER Magazine and the NAC, Kathryn is a seasoned performer, speaker, presenter and workshop facilitator. As a performing artist and educator, Ms. Cobbler is a performance instructor at Carleton University and an artist on the MASC Artist roster. As a composer, Kathryn has been featured in the Boston based Concert series, Castle of Our Skin's Black Composers Miniature Challenge, which resulted in the world premier of her piece A Home Called 'Wander' for solo viola and spoken word. Most recently, Kathryn Patricia was commissioned by the National Art Gallery of Canada to compose a piece of music for their exhibit, Uninvited: Canadian Women Artists in the Modern Moment.

Kathryn Patricia Cobbler holds degrees in viola performance from Western University (B.M.) the University of Ottawa (M.M.) and was a 2022 fellow of the Global Leaders Institute. She is currently a PhD student in Critical Studies in Improvisation through the University of Guelph. Kathryn Patricia performs on a viola by luthier Sibylle Ruppert and a Boss RC-600 loop pedal.

<https://www.kathrynpatricia.com>

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