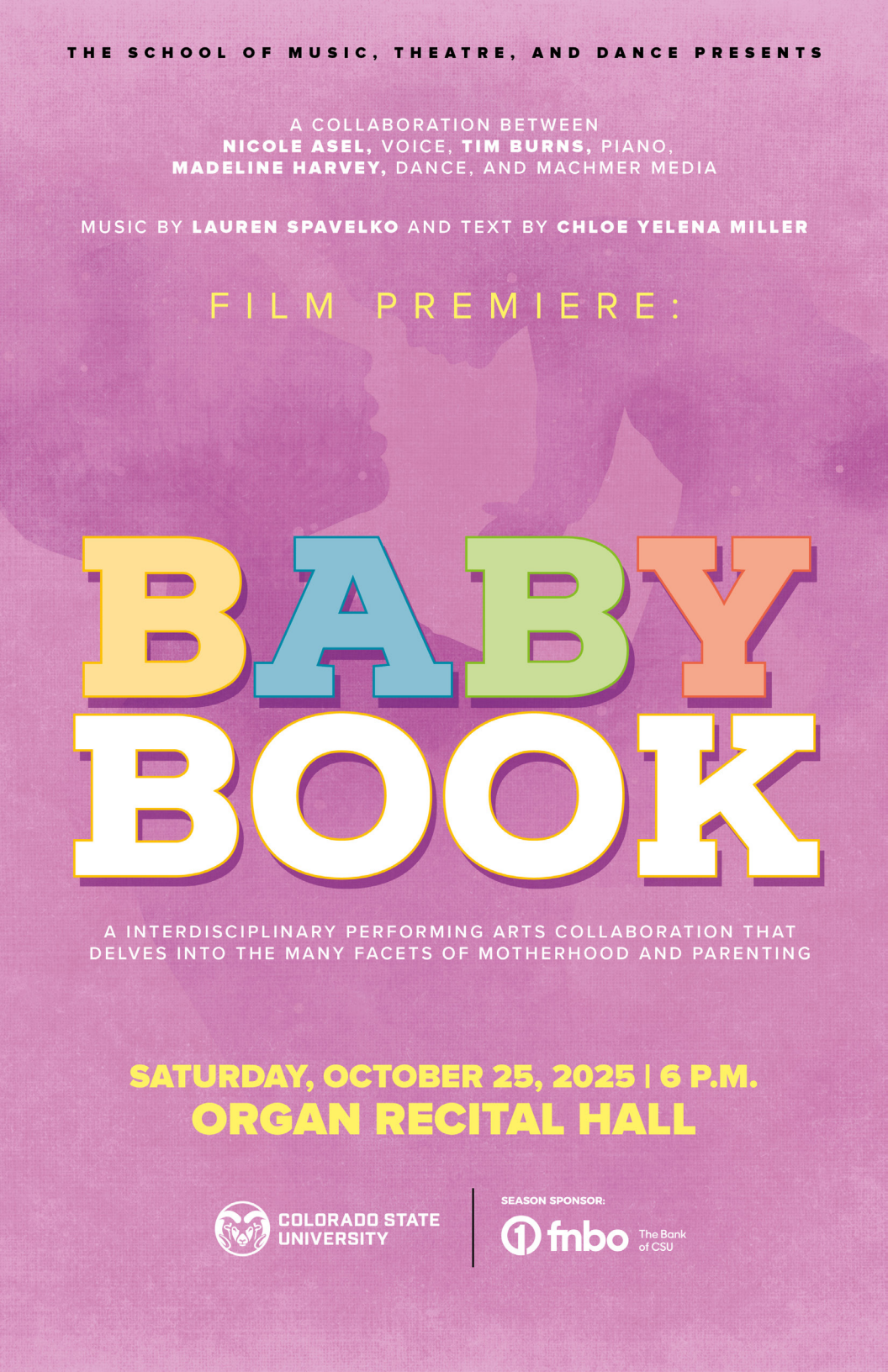


THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE PRESENTS

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN  
NICOLE ASEL, VOICE, TIM BURNS, PIANO,  
MADELINE HARVEY, DANCE, AND MACHMER MEDIA

MUSIC BY LAUREN SPAVELKO AND TEXT BY CHLOE YELENA MILLER

FILM PREMIERE:



# BABY BOOK

A INTERDISCIPLINARY PERFORMING ARTS COLLABORATION THAT  
DELVES INTO THE MANY FACETS OF MOTHERHOOD AND PARENTING

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025 | 6 P.M.**  
**ORGAN RECITAL HALL**



COLORADO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

SEASON SPONSOR:



**FILM SCREENING: *BABY BOOK***  
**A MACHMER MEDIA FILM**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025 | 6 P.M. | ORGAN RECITAL HALL**

Lauren Spavelko, composer  
Chloe Yelena Miller, poet  
Nicole Asel, mezzo-soprano  
Tim Burns, pianist  
Madeline Jazz Harvey, choreographer

**Artist Panel Moderated by Dean Kjerstin Thorson**

**Audience Q&A**

**Content sensitivity warning**

Film imagery includes artistic depictions of grief related to pregnancy loss which could be upsetting to some viewers.

We encourage audience members to read the film's text by form  
Chloe Yelena Miller's lyric poetry collection, *Viable*, before the film begins.

**Objects**

To mourn a woman,  
Carry her picture, wear her lapel pin.  
There's nothing to wear, carry  
After a miscarriage.

In Japan, mothers mourn  
lost "water children."  
Gardens of small statues  
in red knitted hats, bibs.

Hands in my pockets,  
I stand at the edge of the Tidal Basin,  
wilted cherry blossoms above and below.

## **Children's Pool Game**

Even with closed eyes, we can find each other again.

I'll shout Marco!  
You'll shout Polo!  
Ok?  
Marco!

## **Quickening**

*Week 22*

Quickening of the morning light.  
Quickening of my heartbeat on the stairs.

And your quickening  
Flutters of joints –or whole body.

All while I reach for something.  
While I stretch out on my left side.

The smallest of miracles,  
These human movements.

## **Great Aunt Dora To You (Before You)**

*Week 30*

She'd been waiting for you.  
She'd sit in the blue chair, under the window,  
elbows out as if cradling you.  
Swing her arms back and forth.  
Talk about how she'd hold you,  
teach you to walk between our knees.  
Ask me when you'll come; urged,  
"hurry up!"

I promise to tell you all about her.  
How she prepared meatballs,  
two spoons to turn them.  
How she knew you'd be smart,  
handsome and  
ever so kind.

Oh, how she loved beginnings.

## **Looking Out**

*eleven weeks old*

Strips of early day  
across the floor. Blinds half open  
like your eyes  
as you extend –  
swaddled arms break free.

We face each other  
as I carry you for our walk.  
We stop under the hilltop tree,  
sky peaks through the green layers.  
In a few years, we'll sit at those picnic tables,  
I tell you, and eat mozzarella sandwiches.

You close your eyes,  
Lean towards me.  
Our hearts face each other

## **Searching**

*eight weeks old*

For years, I looked  
For you, around corners, between  
small hours of morning.  
And now, here you are in my arms,  
limbs heavy  
and sodden with sleep.

You weigh less awake,  
head bobbing, as you push your legs  
against my lap, hands against my chest,  
to look behind me,  
out the window –  
towards the sunshine.

**Featuring:**

Adrienne and Amina  
Nicole Asel  
Elise Asel-Lindsey  
Alainah Clotiaux  
Derek, Emily, Paisley, and Alex  
Adrienne Frisbee  
Aliya Harvey  
Levi Harvey  
Madeline Jazz Harvey  
Matthew Harvey  
Eden Irrgang  
James and Lee  
Elise Kulovany  
Anna-Noel Imbriaco  
Avacyn Lemmon  
Nicole Lemmon  
Nissa Lemmon  
John Lindsey  
Jess & Alma Juniper Loveall  
Lisa Morgan  
Oliver Myers  
Autum Palmer  
Hazel Palmer  
The Regans  
Ellie Schroeder  
The Lohwater Family  
The Moores:  
Lucina and Luna  
Mikayla Zavattaro

**Additional Collaborators:**

**Sound Engineering:** Aiden Debie

**Production Assistant (Looking Out):** Kimberly Mayorga

**Lighting Design (Quickening):** Matthew Bishop

**Costume consultant:** Elise Kulovany

**Custom kids' threads** by Sew Valiant

**With Generous Support from:**

Ann Gill Faculty Development Award

Art Song Colorado

City of Fort Collins Fort Fund Special Event Grant

Colorado State University, Professional Development Awards

Colorado State University, Undergraduate Research Academy Grants

Engagement Scholarship Consortium, Engaged Scholarship  
Research/Creative Activities Grant

Scott Shrake and Grace Gallagher

School of Music, Theatre, and Dance

**BIOGRAPHIES**



Mezzo-soprano, **NICOLE ASEL**, serves as Associate Professor of Voice at Colorado State University where she teaches Voice and Vocal Pedagogy. A finalist in the 2010 Rocky Mountain Regional Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions, Nicole is a devoted operatic performer and recitalist who has a passion for new American opera and art song and has been active in creating and promoting new works. She has collaborated with some of today's most accomplished

living composers including Mark Adamo, Kirke Mechem, Robert Livingston Aldridge, Hershel Garfein, Daniel Kellogg, and Robert Spillman.

She holds a D.M.A. in Voice Performance and Pedagogy from The University of Colorado at Boulder, an M.M. from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and a B.M. from Ithaca College. Previously, she was on faculty at Sam Houston State University and The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley where she taught voice, diction and opera.

Recent performances include mezzo-soprano soloist in Mahler's *Third Symphony* with the Colorado State University Symphony Orchestra, alto soloist in Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the Fort Collins Symphony, mezzo-soprano soloist in Händel's *Messiah* with Pro Musica

Chamber Ensemble, and Rufus Wainwright's *Songs for Lulu* in Vancouver, BC. Her recording of Robert Livingston Aldridge's *Love Songs* with pianist Robert Spillman, released by the Centaur label, is available on all streaming platforms.

Nicole lives in Fort Collins with her partner, John Lindsey and their magical daughter, Elise.



Pianist **TIMOTHY BURNS** is a versatile performer and collaborator with degrees in piano performance, music theory pedagogy, and collaborative piano from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, studying with Carol Schanely-Cahn, David Allen Wehr, and Jean Barr. Dr. Burns serves as supervisor of piano accompanying at Colorado State University.

Dr. Burns has performed throughout the United States and Canada. As an avid supporter for new and current music, Dr. Burns has performed works by current composers such as Mari Esabel Valverde, Margaret Brouwer, Mathjis van Dijk, Baljinder Sekhon, and James M. David. Recent performances include concert tours with saxophonist Peter Sommer, with clarinetist Wesley Ferreira, and as trio member with violinist John Michael Vaida and cellist Theodore Buchholz.

Dr. Burns currently resides in Broomfield, Colorado with his wife and collaborative pianist, Suyeon Kim, and his son, Stephen.



**MADELINE JAZZ HARVEY** is a dance educator, choreographer, and performer specializing in classical and contemporary ballet. She began her performance career at age fourteen as an apprentice with Charlotte Ballet, under the direction of Patricia McBride and Jean Pierre Bonnefoux. In 2010, Madeline joined Hernan Justo's Carolina Ballet Theatre where she served as a principal dancer, resident choreographer, and outreach coordinator. Madeline performed with

Judy Bejarano's IMPACT Dance Company from 2018-2025.

Madeline, Associate Professor of Dance and recipient of the 2025 CLA Excellence in Undergraduate Mentorship Award at Colorado State University, has been teaching and choreographing since 2006. She holds an MFA in Choreography from Jacksonville University and a BA and Professional Training Certificate in Dance from the University of North Carolina, where she received the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Madeline values collaboration and is honored to have co-created works with composers, psychologists, visual artists, and community members. Her research explores dance and parenting. She is co-founder of the Arts and Parenting Collective and Principal Investigator for *Movement Through Parenthood*, a research study which examines the impact of dance on emotional availability and wellbeing during pregnancy and beyond. She is honored to be one of the 2025 recipients of the Ann Gill Faculty Development Award from Colorado State University. She is grateful for the loving support of her partner, Matthew, and their two children, Aliya and Levi.



**JACOB MACHMER** and **TESSA REHBEIN MACHMER** are former professional dancers turned creative entrepreneurs based in Fort Collins, Colorado. Together they own **MACHMER MEDIA**, a photography and videography company, and *fökæl studio*, a creative photography space in the heart of Old Town. Tessa holds a BFA in Dance from the University of Arizona, and Jacob holds a BS in Biomedical Sciences from Colorado State University as well as an MFA in Dance from UC Irvine. Their background as performing artists informs their visual storytelling, blending movement, emotion, and artistry into their work behind the camera.



**DR. KJERSTIN THORSON** is an internationally recognized political communication scholar. She began her role as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts on August 1, 2024, having most recently served as Brandt Endowed Professor of Political Communication and Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives at Michigan State University's College of Communication Arts & Sciences.

Thorson graduated with a BA in English from Macalester College, an MA in Journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a PhD in Mass Communication from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research examines digital platforms and their impact on our civic lives and civic culture. Thorson's scholarship has been supported by the NSF, the Social Science Research Council, and the Spencer Foundation.

Under Thorson's leadership as Associate Dean at Michigan State University, the College of Communication Arts and Sciences grew its portfolio of revenue generating partnerships, created a college-wide Center for Teaching and Learning, launched the *Ignite the Future*

family of programs to support student success for first-generation and historically marginalized students, and expanded MSU's esports initiative. Thorson prioritizes culture and climate in her approach to strategic initiatives, with prior work to establish formal promotion pathways for non-tenure track faculty, developing a college climate survey, and creating culture-building events in support of staff, faculty, and students

Thorson is the recipient of multiple research and teaching awards, including Michigan State University's Teacher-Scholar Award. She was a 2022-2023 Fellow of the Big 10 Academic Alliance Leadership Program.

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