

# Juro Kim Feliz

composer, writer, pianist, music educator

Alternate artist name: **Grumpy Kitty Boy** (synth pop singer-songwriter)

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## EDUCATION

**Master of Music in Composition, October 2016**

McGill University Schulich School of Music

**Bachelor of Music (Composition), April 2010**

**Diploma in Creative Performing and Musical Arts (Composition), October 2008**

University of the Philippines College of Music

Additional musical training:

- Japanese koto studies with Masayo Ishigure (2022-2023), Raissa Pineda (2006-2008), Wakaba Nishijima (2003-2006).
- Piano studies with Nita Abrogar-Quinto (2005-2007), Avelina Manalo (2000-2002), Minda Amoranto (1999-2000).

## WORKSHOPS

- "Words in Music" with Kate Molleson and Peter Meanwell: Darmstadt Summer Course (August 2023: Darmstadt, Germany)
- "In-situ: Translucent Spaces" with Klaus Lang: impuls Academy (July-August 2023: Graz, Austria)
- Waterloo Region Contemporary Music Sessions (August 2017: Waterloo, ON, Canada)
- Toronto Creative Music Lab (June 2017: Toronto, Canada)
- Pivot Mentorship Program with Linda Catlin Smith: Canadian League of Composers (2016-2017: Montreal / Toronto, Canada)
- Montreal Contemporary Music Lab (June 2014, June 2016: Montreal, Canada)
- Kansas-Montreal Musical Exchange (May-June 2015: Kansas City, MO, United States / Montreal, Canada)
- Composition with Hans Thomalla, Liza Lim: Darmstadt Summer Course (July 2010: Darmstadt, Germany)

## SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (upcoming and most recent)

- Digital premiere and music release of a new work with Ensemble\_Codec (TBD 2025-2026: Italy/online).
- Italian premiere of *Kina-i-ngátan* (audio essay), presented by Empirica/MID SIDE Aps (TBD 2025: Foggia, Italy).
- Digital premiere of *Liham* with Renee Fajardo, Danlie Acebuque, and Vivian Kwok. Co-presented by Sound The Alarm: Music/Theatre (June 2025: Vancouver/online).
- Radio broadcast of *Kinalugarán* (audio essay) in "The People's Avant-Garde" on HKCR.live (November 2024: Hong Kong/online).
- Performance of *Kina-i-ngátan* with Guy Few, presented by NUMUS Concerts (September 2024: Waterloo, ON).
- World premiere of *Liham* with Renee Fajardo and Vivian Kwok. Commissioned by Renee Fajardo, presented at the MISE-EN Festival (June 2024: New York City).
- Paper presentation of "Hunting Spectres of Invisibility among the Philippine Musical Avant-garde" and a performance of *Kinalugarán* in the Western and World Symposium, hosted by Labyrinth Ontario (June 2024: The Music Gallery, Toronto).
- American premiere of *Weekend Rain* in the New Music on the Bayou Festival (June 2024: Ruston, LA).
- Paper presentation of "Kinalugarán: speaking nearby invisibility" in the Music in Difficult Times Conference (May 2024: Concordia University, Montreal).
- Canadian premieres of *Hanggang sa Takipsilim* and *Weekend Rain*, curated by Din of Shadows and The Music Gallery for "Din of Shadows VII: Museum of Quiet Sounds" (April 2024: Toronto).
- World premiere of *Kinagisnán* with Patrick de Belen. Commissioned and presented by New Music Concerts (November 2023: Toronto).
- Ecuadorian premiere of *Kinalugarán* (audio essay), presented by MUSLAB 2023 for the "Planeta Complejo" exhibition at the Museo Antropológico y de Arte Contemporáneo (October 2023: Guayaquil, Ecuador).
- Outdoor sound happening presentation for *In Situ - Translucent Spaces* at impuls Academy (August 2023: Graz, Austria)
- World premiere of *Kinaligta-án* with Wesley Shen (June 2023: Toronto).
- Music and sound design featuring Grumpy Kitty Boy music for the play *Would Virginia Woolf Contemplate Suicide if She Were Filipino?* Play written by Revan Badingham III with direction by Dennis Gupa, presented at the rEvolver Festival (May 2023: Vancouver).

- Presentation of Kinalugarán (audio essay), curated and presented by Het Paviljoen for the month-long outdoor exhibition “To Undiscovered Lands” (May 2023: Ghent, Belgium).
- Radio broadcast of Kinalugarán (audio essay) in NAISA’s “Making Waves” at WGXC 90.7 FM (April 2023: Acra, NY).
- World premiere of Kina-i-ngátan with Guy Few, featuring Goombine (Richard Scott-Moore). Commissioned by New Music Concerts (March 2023: Toronto).
- American premiere of Ni ici, ni là-bas with Julianna Eidle, presented by CAMPGround23 (March 2023: Tampa Bay, FL).
- Presentation and online radio broadcast of Hanggang sa Paglubog ng Araw in “Listening Lounge,” presented by the SONIC MATTER Festival (December 2022: Zürich/online).
- Digital premiere of O forse, l'ho già perduta poco a poco... with Wesley Shen, presented by Freesound (November 2022: Toronto/online).
- Premiere of A Study in Exile, No. 3: Home is not a place on a map with dancer Amy Hull and the Thin Edge New Music Collective. Part of the production “Anthropic Traces,” produced by Balancing on the Edge (July 2022: Toronto).
- Paper presentation of “Nomadic Sound Worlds: Towards the Transitory and the Migratory” in Diasporic Solidarities Conference 2022 (June 2022: McMaster University, Hamilton, ON/online).
- Participation as panelist in the Evergreen Club Contemporary Gamelan Symposium (June 2022: Toronto/online).
- World premiere of Kinalugarán, featuring Ramon Alfonso Soberano, Marie-Luise Calvero, and Riley Palanca. Commissioned and presented by New Music Concerts with the support of the Ontario Arts Council (April 2022: Toronto).
- World premiere of Kinamulátan with Martin Carpentier and Joseph Petric, presented by the Canadian Music Centre (April 2022: Toronto/online).
- Digital premiere of Weekend Rain, presented by Cities and Memory for “Shortwave Transmissions” (February 2022: Oxford, United Kingdom/online).
- Participation in the “MCL Talks, Season 1” video series of the Manila Composers Lab. Series includes a feature on Sa Kanyang Paglayag in Episode 4 (April 2020-September 2020: Quezon City, Philippines/online).
- Digital presentation of A Study in Exile, No. 4: Paagos in Cluster XI: Digital Edition (May-June 2020: Winnipeg/online).
- Paper presentation of “Concentric Circular Spaces: Xenakis and Maceda on Diffusing, Translating, and Decentralizing Musical Thought in Southeast Asia” in the Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies Conference (October 2019: McGill University, Montreal)
- Paper presentation of “Nomadic Sound Worlds: Towards the Transitory and the Migratory” in 'Study Day: Transnationalism and Transculturalism in Canadian Music' (September 2019: University of Ottawa, Ottawa)
- World premiere of Time moves, straightforward... in the music drama “Cries of the Earth” with Jonathan MacArthur, Meghan Cheng, Evan Bowen, and Juro Kim Feliz (July 2019: Toronto).
- Public talk about art and exile in “Encounters in Exile,” with a presentation of A Study in Exile, No. 4: Paagos. Presented by Soundstreams (June 2019: Toronto).
- World premiere of A Study in Exile, No. 4: Paagos, featuring Sandeep Bhagwati and Bänoo Zan. Commissioned and presented by dancer/choreographer Sarah Samaniego in Tangente Danse’s 2019 concert season (April 2019: Montreal).

## RESIDENCIES and AWARDS

- MacDowell Fellowship (2025: Peterborough, NH, United States)
- Highly commended / Special Mention (for *Kinalugarán*), Ars Electronica Forum Wallis (2024: Leuk, Switzerland)
- Composer-in-Residence, New Music Concerts (2022-2023: Toronto, Canada)
- Artist residency, Willapa Bay AiR (2023: Oysterville, WA, United States)
- Nomination: Excellence Award in Music and Entertainment, Golden Balangay Awards (2019: Winnipeg, Canada)
- Artist residency, Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts (2019: Nebraska City, NE, United States)
- Library residency, Canadian Music Centre Ontario (2018-2020: Toronto, Canada)
- Artist residency, Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts (2018: Saratoga, WY, United States)
- Highly commended (for *Hanggang sa Paglubog ng Araw*), Ars Electronica Forum Wallis (2018: Leuk, Switzerland)
- Finalist (for *Piano Concerto*), Music Biennale Zagreb: 5-Minute Piano Concerto Competition (2017: Zagreb, Croatia)
- McGill Contemporary Music Ensemble Composer Residency (2015: Montreal, Canada)
- First place (for *Sa Kanyang Paglingon*), Goethe Southeast Asian Young Composer Award (2009: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)

## GRANTS

- Research and Creation Grant, Canada Council for the Arts (2023: Toronto, Canada) - for the commissioned projects *Kina-i-ngátan* and *Kinahabagán*
- Music Creation Grant, Ontario Arts Council (2023: Toronto, Canada) - for the commissioned project *Kinahabagán*
- Music Recording Projects Grant, Ontario Arts Council (2023: Toronto, Canada) - for the recording of *Kinalugarán* with Alhelí Pimienta
- Music Creation and Recording Grant, Toronto Arts Council (2022: Toronto, Canada) - for the recording of *Kinalugarán* with Alhelí Pimienta

- Music Creation Grant, Ontario Arts Council (2022: Toronto, Canada) – for the commissioned project *Kinagisnán*
- Professional Development Grant, Canada Council for the Arts (2022: Toronto, Canada) – for a Japanese koto mentorship project with Masayo Ishigure
- Concept to Realization Grant, Canada Council for the Arts (2022: Toronto, Canada) – for the presentation of *Liham*
- Music Creation Grant, Ontario Arts Council (2022: Toronto, Canada) – for the commissioned project *Liham*
- Music Creation Grant, Ontario Arts Council (2021: Toronto, Canada) – for the commissioned project *Kinalugarán*

## **AFFILIATIONS**

- SOCAN (Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada)
- Babel Scores
- Canadian Music Centre
- Canadian League of Composers
- Musicworks – print magazine, current role as Contributing Editor
- Manila Composers Lab

## **WRITING and MEDIA PUBLICATIONS**

- “*Kinalugarán: Speaking Nearby Filipinx Invisibility*” (book chapter for *Making Revolution Irresistible in Socially Engaged Art*, eds. H. “Herukhuti” Sharif Williams and Otto Muller, 2025 [forthcoming])
- “The Parallel Multiverses of Kalaisan Kalaichelvan” (*Musicworks*, Winter 2025)
- “José Maceda: Reverberations Beyond the Archipelago” (*Musicworks*, Fall 2024)
- “Claiming Space: Experimental Music from the Global South” (*Musicworks*, Summer 2024; earlier version written at the IMD “Words on Music” summer course)
- “Getting a Visa towards Arts Diversity” (IMD Words on Music summer course, 2023)
- “Levy Lorenzo Maximizes the Human Algorithm” (*Musicworks*, Summer 2023)
- “Resequencing Resonances” (*Musicworks*, Fall 2022)
- “Examining the Asian Imaginary in Philippine Contemporary Music” (*Musika Jornal* 13: 2021)
- “Neither Here nor There: Musical Identity in the Global Flow” (*Musicworks*, Spring 2020)
- “Nomadic Sound Worlds,” a three-part article/podcast miniseries (Canadian Music Centre Ontario, 2018-2019)
  - “Citizenship as Invention” (2019)
  - “Noise, (Dis)enchantment, and (Re)birth” (2019)
  - “A Landscape of Memories through the Music of Hope Lee” (2018)

## **PRINT MUSIC PUBLICATIONS**

- *Kinaligta-án*, for harpsichord. 2021. (Babel Scores, 2024)
- *C'est tellement mystérieux, le pays des larmes...*, for two oboes, tuba, and piano. 2016. (Babel Scores, 2024)
- *Pangkur*, modular and spatial work. 2016-2017. Text from Javanese macapat poetry.
  - version for sextet (Babel Scores, 2021)
  - version for mixed quartet (Babel Scores, 2023)
  - version for piano-percussion duo (Babel Scores, 2023)
- *O forse, l'ho già perduta poco a poco...*, for piano. 2018. In ricordo di Avelina Manalo. (Babel Scores, 2021)
- *Ni ici, ni là-bas*, for alto flute. 2017, written for Marilène Provencher-Leduc. (Babel Scores, 2021)
- *Gandingan sa Kagiliran*, for spatialized percussion duo. 2014. Text by Anna Patricia Rodriguez. (Babel Scores, 2021)
- *Sa Kanyang Paglayag*, for viola, cello, and contrabass. 2010, revised 2013. (Babel Scores, 2020)
- *Bagatelle*, for piano. 2013. (Babel Scores, 2020)

## **MUSIC RELEASES**

- *Kinalugarán* (audio essay) in the compilation album “Deep Wireless 17” (New Adventures in Sound Art, 2023)
- *Weekend Rain* and *Hanggang sa Paglubog ng Araw* in the compilation album “Tunog Lata” (Musikolektibo, 2023)
- *Hanggang sa Takipsilim* in the compilation album “Mind & Machine, Vol. 4” (Ravello Records, 2022)
- Grumpy Kitty Boy's debut EP *Show Me The Kibbles* (No Kibbles Records, 2021)
- Grumpy Kitty Boy's debut single *Airplane Wings* (No Kibbles Records, 2020)
- *Gandingan sa Kagiliran* in the CD compilation album “Millennial Masters, Vol. 7” (Ablaze Records, 2017)

## **MUSIC THEATRE and other CREDITS**

- *Would Virginia Woolf Contemplate Suicide if She Were Filipino?* (May 2023: Vancouver) - music and sound designer. Play written by Revan Badingham III, with direction by Dennis Gupa. Presented at the rEvolver Festival.
- *Paagos* (April 2019: Montreal) – composer. Dance premiere, with choreography and solo performance by Sarah Maria Samaniego. Presented at the Tangente Danse concert season (2018-2019).

- Sa Dakong Kawala: Mga Eksenang Binaon ng Alon (October 2016: Montreal) - voice actor, music and sound designer, producer. Radio play written and directed by Riley Palanca. Premiere broadcast in *Sigaw ng Bayan* at CKUT 90.3 FM Montreal.

#### **SELECTED LIST OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC WORKS (in chronological order):**

- Sa Kanyang Paglingon. 2009. For sextet. Winner of the Goethe Southeast Asian Young Composer Award. Premiere by Ensemble Mosaik (November 2009: Kuala Lumpur).
- Visions of the Horizon. 2009-2010. Music drama for four singers, choir and chamber orchestra—with spatial configuration. Libretto by Phoebe Bitoon. Premiere by Tomy Virtucio, Malvin Macasaet, Nikka Lopez, Dominic Bulaong, and a chamber ensemble conducted by Antonius Sugeng Priyanto (February 2010: Quezon City, Philippines).
- Sa Kanyang Paglayag. 2010, revised 2013. For viola, cello and contrabass. Premiere by Dwi Ari Ramlan, Dwipa Hanggana Pratala, and Dwipa Hanggana Prabawa (October 2010: Yogyakarta, Indonesia).
- Sa Kanyang Munting Yapak. 2013. Miniature work for sextet. Premiere by dissonArt Ensemble (October 2013: Thessaloniki, Greece).
- Bagatelle. 2013. For piano. Premiere by Mikhail Lastrilla (January 2014: Quezon City, Philippines).
- Gandingan sa Kagiliran. 2014. For percussion duo—with spatial configuration. Text by Anna Patricia Rodriguez. Premiere by Christian Smith and Ryan Kelly (June 2014: Montreal). Released in "Millennial Masters, Vol. 7" (Ablaze Records, 2017).
- Wilujeng. 2014-2015. For chamber ensemble. Texts from Javanese macapat for *Ladrang Wilujeng*, and by Anna Patricia Rodriguez. Premiere by the McGill Contemporary Music Ensemble, conducted by Guillaume Bourgogne (October 2015: Montreal).
- C'est tellement mysterieux, le pays des larmes... 2016. For two oboes, tuba, and piano—with spatial configuration. Tagalog texts from the Bible. Premiere by Carly Gordon, Julia Gjebic, Michael Mansourati, and Darren Creech (June 2016: Montreal).
- Hanggang sa Paglubog ng Araw. 2016, revised 2021. Acousmatic fixed media in stereo sound. Released in "Tunog Lata" (Musikolektibo, 2023).
- Pagkukumahog. 2016. For piano.
- Piano Concerto. *Pagkukumahog // (Sa) Paglilok ng Batong Hindi Nakikita*. 2017. For piano and chamber ensemble. Premiere by Filip Fak and the Music Biennale Zagreb Festival Ensemble, conducted by Aleksandar Kalajdžić (April 2017: Zagreb, Croatia).
- Pangkur. 2016-2017. Multiple versions for piano-percussion duo, for mixed quartet, or for a mixed sextet with spatial configuration. Texts from Javanese macapat for *Ladrang Pangkur*. Premiere by the Continuum Contemporary Music, conducted by Brian Current (March 2017: Toronto).
- Ni ici, ni là-bas. 2017. For alto flute. Premiere by Marilène Provencher-Leduc (April 2017: Montreal).
- A Study in Exile (No. 1). 2017. For oboe, harp, viola, and percussion—with spatial configuration. Text by Riley Palanca. Premiere by Jean-Sébastien Blais, Grace Scheele, Sarah DeNiverville, and Austin Lamarche (June 2017: Toronto).
- A Study in Exile (No. 2). 2017. Spatially-configured theatre piece for singer-animator, alto flute (doubling piccolo), guitar, and fixed media deployed through mobile phones. Text written by Riley Palanca. Premiere by Priya Shah, Sara Constant, and Marek Orszulik (August 2017: Waterloo, ON, Canada).
- Hanggang sa Takipsilim. 2018. Acousmatic fixed media in stereo sound. Premiere at the MUSLAB Festival (September 2018: Mexico City). Released in "Mind and Machine, Vol. 4" (Ravello Records, 2022).
- A Study in Exile (No. 3): Home is not a place on a map. 2018-2022. For aerial dance, mixed quartet (with spatial configuration), and live electronics in 6.1 surround. Commissioned and premiered by the Thin Edge New Music Collective in collaboration with aerial artist Rebecca Leonard and dancer Amy Hull (July 2022: Toronto).
- In stars we'll lose our way... 2018. For soprano, mezzo soprano and mixed quartet—with spatial configuration. Text by Riley Palanca. Commissioned by the Art Song Collaborative Project. Premiere by Alondra Vega-Zaldivar, Gwenna Fairchild-Taylor, Katherine Watson, Caitlin Frasure, Alexander Smith, Joel Tangierd (July 2018: Toronto).
- O forse, l'ho già perduta poco a poco... 2018. For piano. In ricordo di Avelina Manalo. Premiere by Wesley Shen (November 2022: online).
- A Study in Exile, No. 4: Paagos. 2019. Fixed media work in 6.1 surround sound. Featuring Sandeep Bhagwati and Bānoo Zan. Text by the composer. Commissioned by dancer/choreographer Sarah Maria Samaniego. Premiere in the Tangente Danse 2019 concert season (April 2019: Montreal).
- Time moves, straightforward... 2018-2019. For tenor, violin, percussion, and live electronics. Text by the composer. Commissioned by the Art Song Collaborative Project. Premiere by Jonathan MacArthur, Meghan Cheng, Evan Bowen, and Juro Kim Feliz (July 2019: Toronto).
- Kinamulátan. 2019-2020. For bass clarinet and accordion. Commissioned and premiered by Martin Carpenter and Joseph Petric in collaboration with the Canadian Music Centre (March 2022: online).
- Kinaligta-án. 2020-2021. For harpsichord. Commissioned and premiered by Wesley Shen [June 2023: Toronto].

- **Weekend Rain**. 2021. Fixed media work in stereo. Featuring an NHK shortwave broadcast on January 1989. Poetry by the composer. Premiere in “Shortwave Transmissions” by Cities and Memory (February 2022: online). Released in “Tunog Lata” (Musikolektibo, 2023).
- **Kinalugarán**. 2021-2022. For eight flutes with spatial configuration and/or quadraphonic fixed media. Featuring Ramon Alfonso Soberano, Marie-Luise Calvero, and Riley Palanca. Poetry by the composer. Commissioned and premiered by New Music Concerts (April 2022: Toronto). Released in “Deep Wireless 17” (New Adventures in Sound Art, 2023).
- **Liham**. 2021-2023. Song cycle for low voice and piano. Text by Riley Palanca. Commissioned by Renee Fajardo. Premiere by Renee Fajardo and Vivian Kwok (June 2024: New York City).
- **Kina-i-ngátan**. 2022-2023. For trumpet and/or/without electronic fixed media in 6.1 surround sound. Featuring Goombine (Richard Scott-Moore). Commissioned by New Music Concerts. Premiere by Guy Few (March 2023: Toronto).
- **Kinagisnán**. 2023. For spoken word and ensemble. Commissioned and premiered by New Music Concerts featuring Patrick de Belen (November 2023: Toronto).
- **Kinahabagán**. 2023-2024. For alto flute doubling two chimes. Commissioned by Alhelí Pimienta (TBA 2024).

**LIST OF GRUMPY KITTY BOY SONGS (in chronological order):**

- **Never Let You Go** (2016)
- **Niagara Falls** (2018). Released in the EP *Show Me The Kibbles* (2021).
- **Bleak Little World** (2018)
- **The Smalls** (2018). Released in the EP *Show Me The Kibbles* (2021).
- **Sparrows Fly** (2018). Released in the EP *Show Me The Kibbles* (2021).
- **Dark Skies** (2018). Released in the EP *Show Me The Kibbles* (2021). Lyric video animations by Yuna Kim, direction by Juro Kim Feliz (2021).
- **Blue Eyes** (2019). Released in the EP *Show Me The Kibbles* (2021). Lyric video animations by Yuna Kim, direction by Juro Kim Feliz (2021).
- **Airplane Wings** (2019). Released as Grumpy Kitty Boy's debut single (2020). Animated music video by Yuna Kim (2020).
- **The Fallen** (2019)
- **Train Tracks** (2019). Released in the EP *Show Me The Kibbles* (2021). Lyric video animations by Yuna Kim, direction by Juro Kim Feliz (2021).
- **Between the Lines** (2019)
- **Second Option** (2019)
- **Sunset Fades Away** (2020)
- **Glass Houses** (2021)
- **Stop Hiding (On and On)** (2021)
- **Sanctuary** (2021)

## BIOGRAPHY

Hailing from the Philippines, Toronto-based composer Juro Kim Feliz (b. 1987) has collaborated with artists including the Thin Edge New Music Collective, ensemble x.y, and Liminar, garnering performances of his works in Southeast Asia, Israel, Greece, Switzerland, Italy, Croatia, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Canada and the United States. Pursuing composition studies in the University of the Philippines and McGill University under the supervision of Jonas Baes and Melissa Hui, he also sought mentorship with composers Liza Lim, Dieter Mack, Linda Catlin Smith, and the Japanese koto performer Hiroko Nagai through various consultations. Since receiving the Goethe South East Asian Young Composer Award in 2009, he appeared in several festival programs including the Yogyakarta Contemporary Music Festivals, Asian Composers League festivals, Music Biennale Zagreb, New Music on the Bayou, MATA Festival, Nief-Norf Summer Festival, and the MUSLAB Festival. His percussion duo work *Gandingan sa Kagiliran* is released in the album "Millennial Masters, Volume 7" under Ablaze Records.