

7th Annual OH MY EARS New Music Festival

METALS

Phoenix College, Sessions Recital Hall | Saturday, Feb 22, 2020; 7:30pm

MATTHEW LAU

Vermont Counterpoint (1982) arr. for Vibraphone, Glockenspiel, & Tape by Steve Reich (b.1936)

Loops for Vibraphone & Live Electronics (2019) by Von Hansen (b. 1984) *American Premier*

Anything Worthwhile Is Perishable

Gr@w£ix

This program showcases two works with electronics by 2 American composers—Steve Reich and Von Hansen. Written 1982, Reich wrote Vermont Counterpoint for flutes, alto flutes, piccolo, and 1 solo part all pre-recorded on tape, plus a live solo part. This version here is arranged for vibraphone. Commissioned by Matthew Lau in 2019, Loops is written for vibraphone & live electronics by Von Hansen. Loops is an exploration of repetition at varying timescales. First movement titled Anything Worthwhile is Perishable uses randomized echoes and manipulated repetitions to create a lush soundscape. Second movement Gr@w£ix (Grawlix) uses live loops in a similar way to DJs and other live performers. This process continues any number of times to stack material and create the effect of multiple players from just one person. Gr@w£ix is inspired by electronic dance music in the 80s fused with a contemporary percussion style.

EX NUSQUAM

Idaho Songs by Nathan Scalise, Jordan Bowman, and Madeleine Bowman

“She-Devil Mountain, A Nez Perce Legend”

“Rest Stop”

“Oh, My Cabin”

“Thanksgiving in Weiser”

“Big Sky”

SPECTRUM ENSEMBLE

Golden Gate by Kevin Rosacia

Ah yes, the three genders by Alex Temple

Dorothy Fragments by Derek Tywoniuk

Spectrum Ensemble is proud to bring selections from A New Light to the OME New Music Festival. This program features several of the wide-ranging, intriguing pieces we commissioned and performed in our first year as a new music ensemble championing the works of talented Queer composers at various points in their careers. UNT undergraduate Kevin Rosacia’s energetic romp, “Golden Gate” - his ‘coming out’ work - brings us great joy to perform. Following that will be “Ah yes, the three genders” by ASU’s own composition professor, Alex Temple. We premiered this piece at the 2019 Percussive Arts Society International Convention, and we are excited to perform it in Alex’s backyard in Phoenix! Last we perform “Dorothy Fragments” by Derek Tywoniuk, a great composer who recently received his doctorate in composition from UCLA. “Dorothy Fragments” is an examination of Queer/drag culture through the multiple lenses of music, theater, storytelling, and dancing.

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BIOS:

Hailed by the Aspen Times for his “soulful and technically impressive solo” at his vibraphone concerto debut at the Aspen Music Festival, percussionist **DR. MATTHEW LAU** performs a wide range of repertoire with an absolute commitment to communicating the meaning and essence of percussion music to its audience, from arrangement of Bach’s Violin Sonata on marimba to avantgarde contemporary pieces by Franco Donatoni and Iannis Xenakis. A finalist at the 2016 Italy Percussive Arts Society Competition Vibraphone Category, Matthew enjoys an international career, 2019 engagements include countries like USA, Argentina, Taiwan, Spain, Australia, and Russia. Matthew obtained his Doctor of Musical Arts in contemporary percussion performance from Stony Brook University under the guidance of Eduardo Leandro. He holds a Master of Music from New York University. Matthew is an artist endorser of Marimba One, Black Swamp Percussion, and Elite Mallets (Spain), where his signature mallets are manufactured.

EX NUSQUAM (approximately Latin for “from nowhere”), is a new music art song duo that primarily presents original music centered on places in various parts of rural America. Formed in 2018 by Idaho native Jordan Bowman, soprano/composer, and Cape Cod (MA) native Nathan Scalise, composer/pianist, the duo has performed at SongSLAM events in Toronto and New York City, winning first prize in New York with “Big Sky” from Idaho Songs. Formerly based in Binghamton, NY, they have also performed in multiple concerts around New York’s Southern Tier, presenting music about Idaho, upstate Pennsylvania, and Cape Cod.

SPECTRUM ENSEMBLE is a new music ensemble championing the work of talented LGBTQ+ artists. Based in Denton, TX, the ensemble commissions and performs new music by Queer composers at different points in their careers. As a young musician coming to terms with their identity, Jaime Esposito felt a distinct lack of LGBTQ+ role models in music. Jaime found that many other Queer musicians felt the same, and after discussing the idea with Stephen Hall - a friend from their undergraduate studies at Northwestern University - they decided to create Spectrum Ensemble together. Still in its infancy, Spectrum Ensemble enjoyed a successful first year: commissioning five new works; presenting its debut concert in Denton TX; going on a tour promoting Queer representation at universities and art series throughout Texas and Oklahoma; and performing at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention. Spectrum Ensemble has three objectives: commission and perform great music of high caliber; increase representation of Queer artists in the concert music world; support LGBTQ+ advocacy organizations by donation part of concert proceeds.

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BLACK HOUSE NEW MUSIC WORKSHOP PREMIERES

Black House's 18th new music workshop will be part of the 2020 Oh My Ears festival in Phoenix, Arizona. The goal of the Black House workshops is to create a supportive laboratory for musicians to connect and support each other while creating new music. Participation in the workshop is completely free. This workshop will give musicians attending the Oh My Ears New Music Festival an opportunity to work together premiering newly composed music in an informal and fun way.

Black House Collective provides musicians and composers the opportunity to collaborate, develop and support each other and the creation of new music. Through its workshops, composition competitions, festivals and productions, Black House has established itself as a voice of young new music. Black House Collective and artistic director Hunter Long have been recognized through grants from the Ann & Gordon Getty Foundation, Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, Charlotte Street Foundation, and the Arts Council of Metropolitan Kansas City.

Conductor

Brandon Rolle - Los Angeles, CA

Premiere Titles/Composers

Up and Down and Sideways - Blair Boyd - Chicago, IL

Breathe into the River - Akshaya Avril Tucker - Ashfield, MA

Engenderment - Elizabeth Bayer - Phoenix, AZ

bottom of the ocean she dwells - Hunter Long - Costa Mesa, CA

Performers

Bb/A Clarinet - Emily Mehigh-Bb/A Clarinet - Chicago, IL

Bass Clarinet - Josh Bennett - Phoenix, AZ

Soprano/Alto Sax - Sarah Hetrick - Austin, TX

Trumpet - Kenken Gorder - Austin TX

Recorders - Hunter Long - Costa Mesa, CA

Violin - Meghan Ruel - Ottawa, Canada

Violin - Megyn Neff - Phoenix, AZ

Bass - Will Yager - Iowa City, IA

Bass - Annick Odom - Den Haag, NL

Electric Guitar/Guitar - Diego Miranda - Phoenix, AZ

Percussion - Matthew Lau - Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Percussion - Salina Kuo - Philadelphia, PA