

Presents

The Composers' Workshop

May 23, 2008

7:30 PM

BRECHEMIN AUDITORIUM

PROGRAM

I AM NOT MY THOUGHTS for pendulum..... RICHARD JOHNSON

VERSO LIBRO (2007) for surround sound DOUG NIEMELA

TRIO DON CRAIG

Jeremy Jolley & Robert Blatt, *guitar*

METAMORPHOSIS: an Intermedia Study DON CRAIG

Eunsu Kang, *video*

THE TREE WITH THE LIGHTS IN IT for surround sound..... RICHARD JOHNSON

RETRO for Viola and live computer (2008) DOUG NIEMELA

Brianna Atwell, *viola* / Computer: foo

I AM NOT MY THOUGHTS

RICHARD JOHNSON is a graduate student in composition at the University of Washington, studying with Juan Pampin.

VERSO LIBRO: Using computer technology and a hand manipulated tape deck, recorded bits of traffic reports, dialog, and guitar are molded into a comparison of locations. Using time progression, the work melds "tape pieces" of past computer music with current direct digital synthesis. This, along side abstract audio depictions taken from physically distant places, projects a view of time, change, and distance. Thanks to Charlie Atwell for the use of a large multitrack tape deck.

DOUG NIEMELA: Contemporary music composer working with hybrid constructions of acoustic and computer based sound. Graduate student at the University of Washington, Seattle. Particular interests in surround sound composition and live electronic ensembles. Bachelor of Arts, Interdisciplinary Humani-

ties (art history, world literature), University of Maryland, College Park; Bass/Arranging studies with Bruce Gertz and Dick Lowell, Berklee College of Music, Boston, Massachusetts; Graphic artist, San Francisco, CA and Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, WA; Graduate music composition student, University of Washington School of Music, Seattle. Composition studies with Ken Benshoof, Juan Pampin, and Richard Karpen. Performances and works in Washington DC, Boston, San Francisco, Seattle.

TRIO: *TRIO* is a work for two guitars and interactive score. The third member of the trio alters the score as it is being performed. Some aspects of the score are fixed and others can be varied at every performance. The projection of the score will allow the audience to view the score as it is being played.

DONALD CRAIG is a graduate student in Music Composition at the University of Washington. He earned his double degree in Music and Arts from the University of Washington in June, 2000. He was awarded his Master of Music in 2003. He has studied with Joel Durand, Kenneth Benshoof and Richard Karpen. He is presently studying with Juan Pampin. He also plays guitar and has studied with Steven Novacek.

METAMORPHOSIS: an Intermedia Study: The video portion of this piece was created by Eunsu Kang, media artist, as a part of *Metamorphosis*, a site specific video installation with ambisonic sound. Along with Kang's life-long interest in "aliens" who do not have a communication method that would work in the boundary of normative normality, her video often shows a body transmitting images or sounds without human vocal organs. In *Metamorphosis*, the body in the video, which is incorporeal, gives an illusion of materialistic three dimensional existence on top of a powder screen made of salt on the floor. The body transforms into sound spinning around in the space, which physically embraces the audience. The flat image imitating the real world becomes sound which seems illusory but actually has more physical presence that touches the audience.

The composer, Donald Craig was intrigued by the rhythm of the video and choose to do a preliminary study for his doctoral thesis work focusing on an intermedia fusion of video and audio. The sound materials are either additive synthesis or filtered noise controlled by spectral envelope. Often the spectra are vocal in nature. The spatial aspect of the sound moves between a point source at the image and a diffuse all-encompassing atmosphere.

Eunsu Kang is an international media artist from Seoul, Korea. For last ten or more years, she has been known as a visual artist, a movie director and a graphic designer and has been invited to numerous shows around the world. She was awarded her first and second solo exhibitions for her video installations. Her third solo exhibition was held on cellular phones with wireless internet connections. She is also a winner of the Insa Web/Mobile Art Project Award in 2003, the Korean National Juried Project for 2000: the Year of New Arts and the Korean National Fund for Emerging Artists which supported her collaborative international telematic project, *Seonang* in 2005. She was introduced as one of the most promising young artists in the book, *Young Korean Artists 45: Interviews* in 2006. Her life as an innovative artist in Seoul, a very crowded metropolis of the country with high speed internet access everywhere, and her MFA and MA in Media Arts and Technology degrees gave her chances to explore various materials and technologies. Currently she is focusing on more genuine use of sound, body and space to enhance immersive art experiences as a PhD student at the Center for Digital Arts and Experimental Media (DXARTS) in the University of Washington. Her current research interests center on the use of non-verbal languages as a part of cyborg communication and interactive audiovisual installations representing questions, but not necessarily pursuing answers.

RETRO: A short jaunt for solo viola and live computer. The piece sprang from the idea of creating a "sonic bubble" from within which the player could musically prod the boundaries of the sphere. The sounds grew out of a discarded section of another work in progress - sounds regarded as too "retro" for that aim. I worked more and wrote the piece further into its retro sounding world, to perhaps pay homage to those early 1970's rock bands that 'wowed' us with their newfangled synthesizers. This is that time, with computers, on a bit of steroids.