

Presents

The Composers' Workshop

May 29, 2009

7:30pm

Brechemin Auditorium

PROGRAM

NICODEMUS..... MICHELLE MCKENZIE

Andrew Marlin, *bassoon* / Justin Henderlight, *oboe*
Ruth Mar, *harp* / Amber Archibald, *viola*
Michelle McKenzie, *conductor*

ESSAI SUR UNE DIALECTIQUE DANS LE CONTINU JEREMY JOLLEY

Cliff Dunn, *flute* / Brianna Atwell, *viola*
Chaz Rogers, *guitar* / Bonnie Whiting Smith, *percussion*

METAMORPHOSIS: AN INTERMEDIA STUDY DONALD CRAIG

single-channel video with multi channel sound
Eunsu Kang, *video*
Diana Garcia-Snyder, *dance*

EACH LIFE CONVERGES TO SOME CENTRE..... KATYA SOUDEK

Cecile Farmer, *voice* / Katya Soudek, *piano*

SYMPHONY BY NUMBERS DONALD CRAIG

intermedia work for computer-realized sound and animation

MICHELLE MCKENZIE was accepted into the UW composition department in Autumn 2008. She is a recipient of a scholarship from this division for the academic year of 2009-10. Currently she studies under Professor Huck Hodge (who is awesome!)

“*NICODEMUS* begins with a somber melodic line within a small range of the bassoon. It is confronted by quick, almost whimsical gestures from the oboe, it having its own melody. Initially there is contrast between the two voices, but each gradually works into the other's idea. The main theme enters in the viola; it simultaneously takes itself to long stretches in the oboe, while cuts short in the harp. Programatically speaking, it is the story of the eminent Jewish leader who encounters Christ: his lifestyle before their meeting, the Teacher's words (recurrences of the thematic idea), and Nicodemus' ministry to Jesus at His burial. I thank Marlin, Justin, Ruth, and Amber for their time and collaboration in this piece.”

JEREMY JOLLEY graduated from the undergraduate music composition program of the University of Washington in 2007 during which he also studied classic guitar with Steven Novacek. Jolley is currently working towards his Masters in composition under the tutelage of Joël-François Durand.

“*ESSAI SUR UNE DIALECTIQUE DANS LE CONTINU* explores a dialectic between fragmented and continuous discourses, as well as between noise and pitch, in its structure and content through a continuous process of compression and expansion of the temporal values. Punctuated and infiltrated by fragmented gestures, a continuous metamorphosis of noise material, manifested through the activation of the Corpus of the instruments, is presented through a global compression of time into pitch, in turn revealing their Vox.”

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.

The video portion of *METAMORPHOSIS: AN INTERMEDIA STUDY*, 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 work often shows a body transmitting images or sounds without human vocal organs.

Composer Donald Craig was intrigued by the rhythm of the video when he experienced Eunsu Kang's video installation, Metamorphosis 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.

KATYA SOUDEK grew up in Federal Way and began composing around age ten at the piano. While at Thomas Jefferson High School, she was principal clarinet of the concert band and arranged numerous works for various ensembles. Previously a member of the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association on clarinet, Katya also attended the Seattle Conservatory of Music where she studied piano and composition with Mark Salman. Katya is now a composition major studying with Joël-François Durand at the UW.

“There is one thing that unites us all: trying to achieve something in our lives and the resulting struggles that essentially shape us. *EACH LIFE CONVERGES TO SOME CENTRE* was inspired by and uses the poem of the same name by Emily Dickinson. It describes how one's life converges toward a desired goal. There are many attempts, progressively aiming higher and higher trying to reach that sometimes unreachable goal. In the end, one realizes that it is all a cycle destined to never end...”

DONALD CRAIG: “*SYMPHONY BY NUMBERS* is a work of intermedia, or visual music. It uses abstract animation combined with computer music to create an art that is neither music nor visual art alone but alloy of both, where neither can be considered to be accompaniment to the other. The intention is to create a work that fails if it cannot be both seen and heard. The compositional technique owes much to compositional practices of music: rhythm, motivic development, counterpoint, cadential resolution, dissonance, consonance, hocketing, and isorhythm. It is in a number of movements that are fairly independent and distinct but contribute to the integrity of the whole, much like a symphony. Each movement has its own visual and sonic material with the occasional reference to other movements. This work is the dissertation for my Doctor of Musical Arts degree.”

