

*Presents*

# The Composers' Workshop

December 5, 2008

7:30 PM

BRECHEMIN AUDITORIUM

## PROGRAM

*THE SCION OF THE WASHINGTON ELM*..... MICHELLE MCKENZIE

Liz Kohl, *piano*

*TAKE A MOMENT*..... RICHARD JOHNSON

computer recording

*MERELLE* (mixed choir)..... JOSEPH SCHULTZ

*Soprano:* Maria Mannisto, Margaret Obenza

*Alto:* Markdavin Obenza, Sarra Sharif, Joshua Haberman

*Tenor:* Darin Jones, Orrin Doyle, Jordan Petersen

*Bass:* Willimark Obenza, Matteus Vaga

*FRAGILE COSMOLOGY*..... RICHARD JOHNSON

Bonnie Whiting Smith, *percussion*

*RETRO*, for cello and live computer (2008)..... DOUG NIEMELA

Julian Schwartz, *cello*

*HAGSHAMA*..... MICHELLE MCKENZIE

Yulia Orekhova, *piano* / Michelle McKenzie, *violin*

MICHELLE MCKENZIE is recently accepted into the undergraduate composition program at the University of Washington. She is currently studying under Prof. Huck Hodge.

*THE SCION OF THE WASHINGTON ELM:* This work was inspired by the renowned French composer Olivier Messiaen. It is a tribute to the elm near the SOM, because of its amazing beauty and history. As legend says, this descendant is the 4th generation from the elm under which General George Washington first commanded his troops in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Thank you Liz, for your work in this solo!

*HAGSHAMA:* This piece is based from the imagery of Isaiah 55:8-13 of the Bible. Hagshama is a Hebrew title; the literal translation is 'rain as fulfillment.' I give credit to Orit Hilewicz, a graduate music theory student here who researched through the Hebrew bible for me and found possible titles. Rain as it flourishes the earth signifies God's promise of redemption to His people which is in Christ. I thank Yulia for giving her time for this work.

RICHARD JOHNSON is a composer studying with Richard Karpen at the University of Washington. Previous teachers include Juan Pampin, Salvatore Macchia and Martin Boykan. Richard has been a resident at the MacDowell Colony and the Ucross Foundation and has received grants from the American Composers Forum and the Eric Stokes Fund.

JOSEPH SCHULTZ is an undergraduate at the University of Washington, studying music composition with Joel Durand. He has played the drum set and guitar for fifteen years in various ensembles. There was a twelve-year stint during which Joseph played tuba in high school and college orchestras and marching bands, but that is long behind him.

DOUG NIEMELA

Born in Gainesville, Florida. Bachelor of Arts, Interdisciplinary Humanities (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.

Program Note:

Using sounds echoing 1970s pop analog synthesis, the performer interacts with a live computer program responding to elements of the performers actions. Though a score is provided, the performer must respond to variations offered by the program. Playing technique variations create new pitch and time based reactions from the computer.