Winter 3-5-2010

Marshall University Music Department Presents the 2010 SCI National Student Conference: Concert Three

Marshall University

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Personal Name
Marshall University, Steven Hall, Ann Bingham, Martin W. Saunders, Stephen Lawson, George Palton, Elizabeth Reed Smith, and Steve Barnett

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DEPARTMENT of MUSIC

presents the

2010 SCI National Student Conference:

Concert Three

Friday, March 5, 2010
Smith Recital Hall
8:00 p.m.

This program is presented by the College of Fine Arts through the Department of Music, with the support of student activity funds. For more information about this or other music events, please call (304) 696-3117, or view our website at www.marshall.edu/cofa/music.
SCI/ASCAP Student Commission Contest:

Since its inception in 1998, the SCI/ASCAP Student Commission Competition has awarded thirty-three commissions. Many of the commissioned works have also been published in the SCI Journal of Music Scores and the SCI CD Series. In its present form, it is hoped that the contest speaks to the heart of our profession by encouraging emerging composers to work in close conjunction with performers and performance groups all over the US. Only the generous annual support of our co-sponsor, ASCAP, makes this contest possible.

The SCI/ASCAP Student Commission Composition Commission evolved from the Society's long involvement with composition contests. Our first contest, open to all member composers, was jointly sponsored by the Arizona Cello Society in the 70s. In the 80s, SCI and SESAC initiated a contest exclusively for students, and, in the 90s, the contest emerged as it is today, with the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers as co-sponsor. It has remained a student contest, but with the emphasis on the commissioning and performance of new pieces. In 2009, in order both to increase the prize money and the attractiveness of the contest, it was decided that two prizes should be awarded instead of three. The Society looks forward to future SCI/ASCAP contests and to the SCI national and regional conferences in which the works of young, talented composers will be presented in a nurturing and professional venue.

Composers and Program Notes:

Kyle Gullings is a versatile composer of stage, vocal, and chamber works. A 2008 ASCAP/SCI Regional Winner, he has received performances at the College Music Society's Mid-Atlantic 2009 Regional Conference, the Kennedy Center's Page to Stage Festival and the John Duffy Composers Institute. He has been performed by the Chicago Miniaturist Ensemble and the Catholic University of America Women's Chorus. Mr. Gullings is A.B.D., pursuing his DMA in Composition at Catholic University of America, where in 2007 he was the first recipient of CUA's Stage Music Emphasis masters degree. He lives in Washington, DC, with his wife Natalie.

Matthew Jackfert, son of Jennifer Jackfert and the late Dr. Kent Jackfert, is currently studying undergraduate composition at West Virginia University under Dr. John Beall. Although he began his undergraduate career as a Biology major, his love and passion for music

José Luis Hurtado
Winner of the 2009 José Tocavén Lavín Medal in recognition of his artistic trajectory and the 2008 Rodolfo Halffter Instrumenta Ibero-American Composition Prize, José Luis Hurtado is part of a new generation of Mexican composers. His music has been performed in Asia, Europe, Canada, USA, and Latin America by ensembles and soloists such as Boston Modern Orchestra Project (BMOP), International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), Juilliard Ensemble, New York Miniaturist Ensemble (NYME), Seattle Chamber Players, Callithumpian Consort, The Ikarus Chamber Players, Talea Ensemble, SEM Ensemble, The North/South Consonance Chamber Orchestra, Interensemble, Concorde Ensemble, Ensemble 3, Ensemble Onix, Orquesta Uninorte, Orquesta Sinfónica de Guanajuato, Orquesta Sinfónica de San Luis Potosí, Camerata de las Américas, Quatuor Molinari, Pierrot Lunaire Ensemble Wien, Tony Arnold, Garth Knox, Le Nouvel Ensemble Moderne and the Arditti String Quartet among others.

He has been the recipient of Kompositionspreis der Stadt Wolkersdorf (Austria), The Harvard University Green Prize for Excellence in Composition (USA), The Adelbert W. Sprague Prize (USA), The George Arthur Knight Prize (USA), The Julián Carrillo Composition Prize (Mexico), El Premio Estatal de Composición del Festival Internacional de Música Contemporánea de Michoacán (Mexico), 2nd prize in the Troisième Concours International de composition du Quatuor Molinari (Canada), 2nd prize in the Ariel Piano Composition Competition, Third Prize Winner of the National SCI/ASCAP Composition Competition, and finalist of The Earplay Composition Competition, The Look & Listen Festival Composition Competition and The Jeunesse International Composition Competition (Romania). Grants include those from the National Endowment for the Arts of Mexico and the American Music Center.

In addition to his compositional career, he is highly active as a pianist and music promoter. He is the pianist of Nueva Música Dúo (Contemporary Vn & Pno duo), founding member of altavoz (Latin-American composers collaborative in the U.S.), artistic director of Morelia Nueva Música (Mexican cycle of concerts dedicated to the performance of contemporary music) and former director of The Harvard Group for New Music.

Hurtado holds degrees in piano performance and composition from the Conservatorio de las Rosas (Morelia, Mexico), a Master of Music in Composition from Universidad Veracruzana (Xalapa, Mexico) and a Ph.D. from Harvard University where he studied under Mario Davidovsky, Harrison Birtwistle, Chaya Czernowin, Magnus Lindberg, Brian Ferneyhough and Helmut Lachenmann.
forced him to switch to study in composition. Jackfert's orchestral work, Ripples, was played by the Pittsburgh Symphony in Pittsburgh this past February. Also, Jackfert's wind sextet, Microscopes, has recently been performed for a masterclass headlined by Pittsburgh Symphony Composer of the Year, Richard Danielpour.

Program Note:
The dark and brooding sections in Matthew Jackfert's, Arise, are each conquered by brightness and warmth in dramatic fashion. After the turmoil, the piece ends softly and calmly to show that the darkness has been vanquished, never to return. Several years before Arise came to be, Jackfert wrote a triumphant melody that stuck with him; this can be heard at the piece's victorious climax.

Eric Nathan (b. 1983) is currently a doctoral student in composition at Cornell University studying with Steven Stucky, Roberto Sierra and Kevin Serme. He has studied at Indiana University (M.M.), Yale College (B.A.), The Juilliard School Pre-College Division, and has received fellowships to the Aspen Music Festival and School and the Wellesley Composers Conference. His works have received awards including the Aspen Music Festival and School's Jacob Druckman Prize (2010), William Schuman Prize in the B.M.I Student Composer Awards (2008), an ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award (2008), and First Prize in the 2008 SCI/ASCAP National Student Commission Competition. His music has been performed by ensembles such as the American Composers Orchestra (in their Underwood New Music Readings), Aspen Contemporary Ensemble, Daejeon Philharmonic Orchestra of South Korea, Indiana University New Music Ensemble, SUNY Purchase Contemporary Ensemble and the Syracuse Society for New Music.

Program Note:
"Wing Over Wing" is a song cycle focused on a central theme of flight. I was immediately attracted to the imagery and gestures in Whitman's poem, "The Dalliance of the Eagles." In searching for other texts for the piece, I had such a wonderful time reading through poems by other authors that I was inspired to try my hand at poetry myself. Two of my original poems appear in the song cycle. "Wing Over Wing" was commissioned by the Society of Composers Inc. and the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP).

II. The Dalliance of the Eagles
excerpted from the following poem:
"The Dalliance of the Eagles"
from Leaves of Grass (1900) by Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

III. Shuddering leaves silent

"Shuddering leaves silent" (2009) by Eric Nathan (b. 1983)

The Aspens, silent shaking,
Trembling, flickering, beating in wind,
Shuddering leaves silent.

IV. Eyes tight, tales tucked

"Eyes tight, tales tucked" (2009) by Eric Nathan (b. 1983)

Eyes tight, tales tucked,
My baby
Eyes, tales, tight, tucked, thumping beats of sleep.
My baby, now old
Eyes tight, tales told
I sing to you as you fly -
Sleep and sing, sleep and sing -
Sleep, sing, fly, sleep, sing, fly and soar!

Clint Needham born in 1981 in Texarkana, Texas, is currently a Jacobs School of Music Doctoral Fellow in composition at Indiana University. He received his Bachelors degree in composition from Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory and his Masters degree from Indiana University. He has also studied at the Aspen Music Festival as a Susan and Ford Schuman Composition Fellow.

Recent performances of Clint's music have been given by the American Brass Quintet, American Composers Orchestra, Aspen Concert Orchestra, Aspen Contemporary Ensemble, Cabrillo Festival
Greg Simon is a composer and jazz trumpeter, holds a B.A. from the University of Puget Sound and is currently pursuing a Master's Degree at the University of Colorado, Boulder. He currently studies composition with Richard Toensing; he has also studied with Daniel Kellogg, Carter Pann and Robert Hutchinson, and has worked in masterclass with Alan Fletcher, Michael Daugherty, Mark Anthony Turnage, Martin Bresnick, Forrest Pierce, Marilyn Shriver, and Dana Wilson. He has also studied with Kevin Puts and Robert Aldridge at the Brevard Music Institute. His works have been commissioned and/or performed by the Adelphian Concert Choir, the Tasman String Quartet, the Fifth House Ensemble of Chicago, and others. His work Three Portraits won the 2008 Edward Levy prize in composition; the resulting commission, Piano Quintet No. 1: Scenes from Childhood, won an honorable mention in the Fifth House Ensemble's Young Composer Competition. More recently, Greg has been honored with the George Lynn Prize for his work for wind ensemble Foolish Fire, commissioned by Loveland High School. Upcoming commissions include works for Erik Steiglmer (professor of saxophone at Pacific Lutheran University) and Terry Sawchuck (professor of trumpet at the University of Colorado).

Program Note:
The 30-kilometer area immediately surrounding the Chernobyl nuclear power plant has been uninhabitable by humans due to radiation since the explosion of Reactor IV at 1:23 on April 26, 1986. This area, sometimes called the "Dead Zone," will remain dangerous for generations, with some estimating 900 years of unsafe radiation levels. In the wake of the disaster, the Dead Zone killed hundreds of firefighters sent in to extinguish the flames. Most of the thousands of evacuees experience or have experienced health problems brought on by radiation sickness. Now the only inhabitants are abandoned vehicles and wildlife also suffering radiation effects. Reactor IV has been entombed in a concrete sarcophagus in hopes of controlling the radioactive material inside. At the foot of the sarcophagus is a statue of the Greek Titan Prometheus, known for stealing fire from the gods and giving it to the humans.