

PROGRAM NOTES

CARD GAMES BY PAUL SAFAR “Card Games” is a structured improvisation/improvised dance piece using flash cards with musical guides. A handful of these cards, containing names of various scales, modes, etc. will be picked from a stack by audience members and placed upon the piano music rack. The music will then be guided both by the random musical frameworks of the cards and the interaction of dancer and musicians.

CAROLS, BELLS AND WHISTLES BY TED CLIFFORD This is an improvised exploration of the various motifs in “Carol of the Bells”. There are a series of musical vignettes, based on an ostinato pattern or musical idea. This pattern is improvised over and the pattern itself evolves toward the next section. Thus the piece will have an overall arc to it but can then out quite differently each performance.

UNTITLED IMPRESSIONS BY ART RESNICK This music happens in the moment and then it’s gone forever.

THE KANGAROO AND THE DUCK BY DANIEL BRUGH “The Kangaroo and the Duck” is a nonsense poem that is a conversation between a duck and a kangaroo. The fixed media represents the nonsense nature of the poem. The two pianists represent the conversation between the two animals. The soprano conveys a simple message that polite and courteous behavior can win hearts and help us to fulfill our desire.

VAIN AND ABEL (OP. 73) BY GARY NOLAND This is the story of two brothers who are archrivals. The younger of the two is a virtuoso typist whose talents are recognized by the superficial culture to which he belongs. As a result of his 500-word-per-minute typing speed, he becomes a national celebrity. The older brother is a serious writer who spends his entire life producing a single voluminous tome of carefully measured prose. The accomplishments of both brothers are inevitably compared to each other by caviling critics, who are quick to condemn the writer for not being as “productive” or “facile” as his younger brother, the typist.

X CHROMOSOME BY JENNIFER WRIGHT Invited by my charming friend Dan to be the token female composer on an all-male concert (“We need a girl! But, I mean, we also love your work!”), naturally I decided to contribute a piece entitled “X Chromosome”. Rather than doing something obvious and uninteresting like exploring the nature of femininity, I was intrigued by the “X” and its suggestions of intersection and the synchronicity of chance meetings. In this X-periment, each of the five toy pianists creates his/her own part within the structure by combining, repeating, or ignoring isolated notated musical snippets at will. The catch is that each performer must choose and maintain a tempo that is unrelated to the others. At the crossroads of intention, whim and chance, the energy of this piece will emerge as individual lines phase in and out of the texture – overlapping, causing unintended interactions, and possibly lining up with one another occasionally – like children on playground swings.

MEET THE COMPOSERS

PAUL SAFAR is a versatile composer/performer and private piano instructor living and working in Eugene, Oregon. Having received his B.Mus from the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio, Paul draws upon his classical music training while often incorporating stylistic elements from jazz and rock. He works regularly with soprano Nancy Wood and thrives on collaborative projects. In addition to numerous chamber music and vocal works, Paul has written one orchestral piece, a “Concerto for Electric Guitar”. Paul was the OMTA composer of the year for 2013-14. He finds free improv an odd mix of thrilling and utterly terrifying.

TED CLIFFORD is a Portland area composer, performer and arranger of various styles, and currently a board member with Cascadia Composers. He began studying the piano at an early age and has performed in local & touring ensembles as a keyboardist off and on for some time. He earned his B.A. in music from St. Cloud State University in Minnesota and has continued his music education through independent studies over the past 15 years, most recently studying composition with Tomas Svoboda.

ART RESNICK is a professional jazz pianist and composer who has toured and recorded with some of the best known jazz dignitaries in the world. He has performed and recorded with Freddy Hubbard, Nat Adderly, Benny Golson, James Moody, Eddie Harris, Harry ‘sweets’ Edison, Bobby Shew, and many others. He also has been on 13 recordings and has two as leader. While teaching classes at San Diego state university, Art earned a Bachelor’s of Music degree in classical piano performance. He has studied with R. Murray Schafer, Robert Shallenberg, Bob Priest and Tomas Svoboda. He is the OMTA Composer of the Year for 2015.

DANIEL BRUGH is the recipient of the Close Award in 1984 and earned a Bachelors of Music degree from the University of Oregon where he studied piano with Victor Steinhart and composition with Dr. Harold Owen and Dr. Derek Healey. After earning his degree, Dan continued to study composition with Dr. Walter Saul. Currently he teaches piano and music composition in Beaverton, Oregon. He was the 2009/2010 OMTA Composer of the Year.

GARY NOLAND’S catalogue consists of over 400 works, which include piano, vocal, chamber, experimental and electronic pieces, full-length plays in verse, “chamber novels,” and graphically notated scores. His compositions have been performed and broadcast in many locations throughout the United States, as well as in Europe, Asia, and Australia. He founded the Seventh Species concert series in San Francisco in 1990, and has since produced over 50 concerts of contemporary concert hall music on the West Coast. Gary is a founding member of Cascadia Composers. He has taught music at Harvard and the University of Oregon and currently teaches piano, theory, and composition as an independent instructor in Portland. Six CDs of his compositions are available on North Pacific Music, and approximately 250 of his works are now available for listening and viewing on YouTube.

JENNIFER WRIGHT is a pianist, teacher, composer and artist of various stripes. She holds two degrees in classical piano performance (B.M., Hartt School of Music, Connecticut; M.M., Trinity College of Music, London, England) and studied for two years at the Stuttgart Music Conservatory in Germany. Jennifer has served on the Board of Directors of Cascadia Composers and is a proud member of the “Crazy Jane Composers”. Her wild and wooly works, including her recent experiments with her deconstructed “Skeleton Piano”, have been performed at the Portland International Piano Festival, March Music Moderne, Crazy Jane concerts, Cascadia Composers concerts, and on recital series in the U.S., the U.K. and Finland.

PERFORMERS

TERRY WERGELAND began his keyboard studies on the organ at age five, trumpet at eleven, and as a teenager began composing music. After graduating from the music department at U.C. Berkeley, he moved to the Seattle area. He served as organist/choir director of Woodland Park Presbyterian Church for five years and, as a member of the Scottish band Keltoi, taught himself to play the accordion. These days, his musical activities are divided between teaching private piano lessons, playing in small bands for folk dances and studying classical piano performance with Judith Cohen.

SUSANNA JOY MEYER studied dance at the University of Washington, and has traveled around the world studying and performing dance and music. Now based in Eugene, Susanna enjoys improvisation and collaboration with musicians as a dancer and a singer, and has developed and teaches a music and dance improv class to young children.

LANG SCHWARTZWALD has worked as a freelance artist and graphic designer for over 15 years, and has performed as a live painter for over 40 different shows, including the Everyone Orchestra and Surrounded by Ninjas. Lang also produced the Human Canvas Project for 2 years at Pacific University where he earned his Bachelors in Studio Arts, and his Masters in Teaching with an emphasis in Art Education. He currently is advancing his career in Digital Art, including web design, user interaction and 3D rendering.

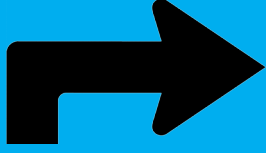
BETH MADSEN BRADFORD has been praised by critics for her “lovely, vibrant tone” and “gutsy” portrayals of some of opera’s greatest characters. Beth was selected as a semifinalist in the 2012 Oratorio Society of New York Solo Competition and has appeared with Portland Opera, Oregon Symphony, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Tacoma Opera, Skagit Opera, Aspen Opera Theater Center, Juneau Symphony, and Opera Theater Oregon, among others. She received training with the International Vocal Arts Institute, the Des Moines Metro Opera Apprentice Program and Aspen Opera Theater Center.

COLLEEN ADENT is a versatile soloist, arranger, and accompanist who began her formal musical training at the age of four. She enjoys performing classically and is equally adept at improvisational playing, and welcomes the opportunity to improvise whenever the opportunity presents itself! Colleen has published Fount Of Every Blessing, a collection of original hymn arrangements with Fred Bock Music Co., and those arrangements can be heard on her CD, Count It All Joy. She and her husband reside in Vancouver, WA, where she maintains a private teaching studio.

BIG THANKS TO:

CASCADIA COMPOSERS FOR FINANCIAL & OPERATIONAL SUPPORT: DANIEL BRUGH FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT & ORGANIZING A WHOLE MESS OF STUFF: JENNIFER WRIGHT FOR DESIGNING THE SUPERCOOL POSTERS & PROGRAMS: LANG SCHWARTZWALD FOR DONATING HIS STILL-WET LIVE PAINTING TO OUR SILENT AUCTION IN SUPPORT OF CASCADIA COMPOSERS: TIM O'BRIEN FOR STAGE MANAGING: TRISTAN BLISS, NICK YANDELL & JEFF WINSLOW FOR LENDING A HAND.

Start Here



Card Games
BY PAUL SAFAR

PAUL SAFAR &
TERRY WERGELAND, Pianos
SUSANNA JOY MEYER, dance



CAROLS, BELLS and WHISTLES
BY TED CLIFFORD

Ted CLIFFORD &
JENNIFER WRIGHT, Pianos



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Cascadia Composers
is a chapter of the
National Association
of Composers USA

THE END!
HAVE A
COOKIE!



X CHROMOSOME
BY JENNIFER WRIGHT

JENNIFER WRIGHT, PAUL SAFAR,
DANIEL BRUGH, TED CLIFFORD &
COLLEEN ADENT, TOY PIANOS

COMPOSERS at PLAY

new art music that has some
SERIOUS FUN WITH IMPROVISATION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014 @ 7 PM

The COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER
3350 SE FRANCIS ST. PORTLAND, OR 97202



LEGO PIANO BY MATTHEW ERICSON
LEGO MINIFIGURE BY MATHIEU POSTOL
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UNFILLED IMPRESSIONS
BY ART RESNICK

ART RESNICK, PIANO
LANG SCHWARZTZWALD,
LIVE PAINTING



VAIN & ABEL (OP. 73)
BY GARY NOLAND

GARY NOLAND, PIANO & NARRATION;
TERRY WERGELAND, ACCORDION,
PIANO & TRUMPET

WEIRD POINTS
COLLECT 2



THE KANGAROO and the DUCK
BY DANIEL BRUGH

DANIEL BRUGH, FIXED MEDIA & PIANO;
COLLEEN ADENT, PIANO;
BETH MADSEN BRADFORD, VOICE

