

Music From Cascadia's Frontiers

Delgani String Quartet

with guests Nancy Wood, Paul Safar & Greg Steinke



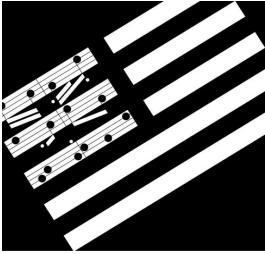
Sat. Oct. 14 @ 7:30 pm
Community Music Center
3350 SE Francis St, Portland, OR

Sun. Oct. 15 @ 3 pm
First Christian Church
1166 Oak St, Eugene, OR

music by
Tomas Svoboda
Yalil Guerra
Joshua Hey
Greg A. Steinke
Andrew Robinson
Paul Safar

CASCADIA
COMPOSERS

cascadiacomposers.com



National
Association of
Composers
U
S
A



Cascadia Composers

Mission Statement

Cascadia Composers engages our community through the creation, performance, and promotion of contemporary musical art, while providing resources and opportunities to Cascadia composers.

Cascadia Composers serves northern Oregon and southern Washington and was founded in 2008.

Website: www.CascadiaComposers.org

Governing Board

Ted Clifford, President

Dan Brugh, Vice President

Jeff Winslow, Secretary/Treasurer • Texu Kim, Webmaster

Matthew Andrews, Stage Management • David S. Bernstein, Cynthia Gerdes,

Jan Mittelstaedt, Greg A Steinke, Linda Woody, at large

Tomas Svoboda, Honorary Member

Cascadia Composers is a chapter of the National Association of Composers/USA (NACUSA). NACUSA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Founded by Henry Hadley in 1933, it is one of the oldest organizations devoted to the promotion and performance of American concert hall music. Many of America's most distinguished composers have been among its members.

These concerts and presentations are made possible by dues from NACUSA (National Association of Composers/USA), other grants and donors, and fundraisers sponsored by Cascadia.



Program cover design by Jennifer Wright

CASCADIA COMPOSERS

(Cascadia Chapter of the National Association of Composers/USA)

presents

Music from Cascadia's Frontiers

Delgani String Quartet and Guest Performers

Jannie Wei and Wyatt True, violins

Kimberlee Uwate, viola; Eric Alterman, violoncello

Saturday, October 14th @ 7:30 pm
Community Music Center
3350 SE Francis St., Portland, OR

Sunday, October 15th @ 3:00 pm
First Christian Church
1166 Oak St., Eugene, OR

Program

From *STRING QUARTET NO. 4*

Andrew Robinson

I. Vivace; II. Andante

From *SUSPENDED (Image Music XXVII A)** (version for English Horn) Greg A Steinke
"The sky is afire—" – *Con Energico* — "The roar seems. . ." – *Scherzando*

Greg A Steinke, *English horn*

From *A QUARTET IN RED, BLACK, AND BLUE*

Paul Safar

(Text by Nancy Wood)
I. "Capriccio"; III. "Blue"

Nancy Wood and Paul Safar, *vocalists*

A MIL GUERRAS SOLO (A Thousand Wars Alone)

Yalil Guerra

I. Allegretto; II. Adagio-Allegretto-Adagio; III. Allegretto

Intermission

lens flare from Alpha Centauri

Joshua Hey

STRING QUARTET NO. 6, Op. 185

Tomas Svoboda

I. Poco Allegro; II. Presto; III. Lento Moderato

* Premiere Performance

Program Notes

From *STRING QUARTET NO. 4* for String Quartet by Andrew Robinson

The first movement opens with an ostinato constructed with a quick glissandi motive, presented by the cello and joined tentatively, at first, by the viola. The two instruments weave their parts together to form a single blanket of sound. The melodic material played by the two violins similarly weave their respective parts into a single melody. The places are then traded, with the violins taking up the ostinato, and the viola and cello claiming the melody. The parts grow less structured and transition into a grand parade of chords, followed by a brief passage of counterpoint and conclude with a half cadence.

The second movement, forms the centerpiece of the quartet. The prominent solo passage of the first violin is followed by a quiet but lively allegretto with the cello providing rhythm. When not assisting the cello with rhythm, the viola and second violin assist the first violin with melody. The movement concludes with a return of the material of the opening solo – performed now by the cello.

From *SUSPENDED (Image Music XXVII A)* version for English Horn and Strings by Greg A Steinke

The composer has long wanted to use this poem as a basis for a composition; its form also guides the form of the piece that is in five general sections of varying tempi. It is dedicated to the memory of the victims and to the hopes of the survivors of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The bassoon version of *Suspended* had a premiere performance on January 19, 2014 at Round Top, TX at the Meg Quigley Bassoon Symposium and a subsequent performance in making the CD recording in May, 2014. Two sections of the piece will be heard in this performance. It is based upon:

SUSPENDED*

The sky is afire--
Flames leap upward
From horizon to horizon.

The roar seems beyond bearing
As the holocaust hangs suspended.

The snow covers the red earth
With searing embers flying
Before the ferocious winds.

Flames like the purple
Mountains encased in black shadows.

Like those shadows
Which lie between
The spoken word
And silence.

*K'os Naahaabii
(Don Jordan)

from NOTES FROM THE CENTER OF THE EARTH
© 1974, Blue Oak Press, Auburn, CA, 53–54.
By Permission.

From A QUARTET IN RED, BLACK, AND BLUE by Paul Safar

This piece was written at a time that I was interested in the “feelings” of color and sound. Somehow during this time period I felt my mood to be predominately “blue”, a calm melancholy, which snuck into the last movement of this quartet. The first movement had more of a fiery red feel, so the title of the piece came about using those colors and as an allusion to the United States, especially during a very polarized Presidential Election time with “blue” and “red” states. The third movement was written to text by Nancy Wood after the death of someone close to her.

Blue by Nancy Wood (text used with permission)

blue

blue like blue pools and rain

and blue dew

like blue tears that fall and blue songs

that get sung too soon too soon

like blue moons that disappear when stars are few

like blue eyes in the clouds watching

like blue eyes watching

A MIL GUERRAS SOLO (A Thousand Wars Alone) by Yalil Guerra

A Mil Guerras Solo is Guerra's first string quartet and was dedicated to the Latin Grammy Winner Havana String Quartet. The work was premiered by this ensemble at the San Nicolas Church (Göttingen University), Göttingen, Germany (2011). This composition has three movements and is

written in a pan tonal language. One notes the presence of Cuban music influence with bolero-like melodies that are masked with counterpoint lines. The rhythmic elements of Cuban music cells such as the danzón, son and mambo are present also.

lens flare from Alpha Centauri by Joshua Hey

lens flare from Alpha Centauri is comprised of 5 short movements, each played attacca to form one continuous whole. The title conjures a symbolic web associated with the cinematographic technique as applied to the closest star system to our sun: dislocation, darkness, infinity, cold, the expressivity of distortion, space, light, weightlessness...

String Quartet No. 6, Op. 185 by Tomas Svoboda

Inspired by the book *Testimony: The Memoirs of Dmitri Shostakovich*, String Quartet No. 6 (2005) expresses the individual's struggle to create and survive in overwhelmingly adverse conditions. The opening atonal viola solo represents the lonely voice of the individual. As the viola continues its sorrowful outpouring, the other voices enter softly and hold a tonally ambiguous chord, quickly establishing the tense, conflicting relationship, characteristic of the entire work. Ghostly episodes in a fragmented valse style recall stylistic idiosyncrasies of Shostakovich's music. In an intense, climactic passage, the opening atonal theme reappears in inversion, slowly breaking up and growing quiet until only the sinister voices around it are heard. In the brutal second movement short, driving phrases, punctuated by rests, create the tension and disorientation of an uncontrollable onrush of historical events. In the abruptly contrasting middle section the individual voice struggles desperately and quietly to find security, but is gradually overwhelmed by the relentless forces that build to a furious conclusion. The last movement opens with the solo viola once again sounding over a static chord. As the movement progresses the solo voice is transferred to each voice of the ensemble, gradually fragmenting and disappearing as silence takes over and the voice of a great artist is lost.

Composer Biographies

Yalil Guerra

Yalil Guerra was born in Havana, Cuba, April 27th, 1973. He is the son of the famous Cuban vocal duo Rosell y Cary. Guerra obtained a Bachelor Degree in classical Guitar at the *Escuela Nacional de Música* in Havana in 1991. At the age of 16, he won the International Competition and Festival of Classical Guitar Award in Krakow, Poland, as well as receiving the Special Prize (1990), thus becoming the youngest Cuban awarded a prize in an international contest. Additionally, in 1991 he won a full scholarship and studied at the *Instituto Superior de Música*, Cuba. In 1993 he moved to Spain and obtained a Master's Degree in Classical Guitar at the *Conservatorio Superior de Música de Madrid*. Since 2008, he has been studying composition privately with Aurelio de la Vega. In 2012, Guerra won a Latin Grammy award in the Best Classical Contemporary Composition category for *Sedución*. He's been nominated six times for this category, and nominated for the Best Classical Album category as well. In 2014, he received the CINTAS Foundation Fellowship in Music Composition. In 2015 Guerra obtained a Master's Degree in Film Scoring at the Shepherd University, Los Angeles. His art music includes compositions for orchestra, chamber ensembles and soloists, the majority of them having been premiered in the Americas and in Europe. He works for Univision Networks, and is part of the Music Faculty Department at Shepherd University and College of the Canyons; he is also President of NACUSA LA Chapter.

Joshua Hey

Joshua Hey is a Philadelphia-based composer and Ph.D. fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. Commissions and performances include the Daedalus Quartet, PRISM, Omaha Symphony, Quatuor Bozzini, and Bearthoven. His work has been presented through MATA, Time of Music—Musiikin aika, June in Buffalo, the American Conservatory in Fontainebleau, and as composer-in-residence at ICon Arts in Sibiu, Romania. He was an ASCAP Morton Gould finalist and awarded a residency through the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. In 2014-15, he was a visiting scholar at the Sibelius Academy on a Jane and Aatos Erkkö fellowship from the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

Andrew Robinson

I received my BM in music composition from Willamette University in 1975. My compositions as an undergraduate included works for woodwind quintet, string quintet, improvisational contemporary ensemble, and tape collage. Having decided to earn my living outside the field of music, it is only recently in my retirement that I have returned to writing music. In 2016, I embarked on a project of completing several string quartets in a traditional lyric style.

Paul Safar

Paul Safar is a versatile composer/performer and music educator living and working in Eugene, Oregon. In addition to a busy private piano teaching studio, Paul also performs as an accompanist to the soprano Nancy Wood. Paul and Nancy are the co-founders and artistic directors of Cherry Blossom Musical Arts, a performing arts non profit organization that produces original, collaborative, live performances. Having received his B.Mus from the College-Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, Ohio, Paul draws upon his classical music training while often incorporating various popular styles like jazz and rock. He has had his chamber music performed in New York City's CAMI Hall, choir music in Seattle

and a folk opera in Ohio. His most recent large scale work is a “Concerto for Electric Guitar and Chamber Orchestra”. Paul is a member of Cascadia Composers, the northwest chapter of NACUSA as well as BMI. Paul was awarded the Oregon Music Teachers Association Composer of the Year Award in 2013 and has received commissions from the Delgani String Quartet and the Oregon Parks Department.

Greg A Steinke

Dr. Greg A Steinke is retired, former Joseph Naumes Endowed Chair of Music/Art and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Marylhurst University, Marylhurst, Oregon; Associate Director, Ernest Bloch Music Festival ('93–97) and Director, Composers Symposium ('90–97) (Newport, OR); served as the National Chairman of the Society of Composers, Inc. (1988–97). Composer of chamber and symphonic music and author with published/recorded works and performances across the U. S. and internationally; speaker on interdisciplinary arts, and oboist specializing in contemporary music. Dr. Steinke is the current national president of NACUSA and also serves on the NACUSA Cascadia Chapter Board. Recent composition honors: OMTA Composer of the year 2012–13; winner – '15 of 10th NACUSA Texas Composition Competition for *TIP TOP TAP BALLROOM BONANZA* ver. for Flute and Contrabass; Honorable Mention from Flute New Music Consortium 2015 Composition Contest for *IN MEMORIAM SACAJAWEA* for Flute Quartet; Honorable Mention from Cortona Prize 2016 for *From ARGART* for Soprano and Piano ('16); Semi-Finalist in International Composition Competition “Maurice Ravel” Cat. B ('15), Cat. C ('16); *INQUIETUDE* for Solo Flute selected for RMN Classical CD (London), ('16), *VAN GOGH VIGNETTES* for Flute Duet selected by Phasma Music Foundation for CD release via the Naxos Music Group in Europe ('18).

Tomas Svoboda

Tomas Svoboda (b. Dec. 6, 1939) is a renowned American composer of Czech heritage. Born in Paris of Czech parents, he spent his early childhood in Boston where he began his musical education on the piano at the age of three. After his family's return to Prague in 1946, Tomas continued his musical studies, entering the Prague Conservatory of Music as its youngest student. Unable to take formal classes in composition during his first years at the conservatory, Svoboda nevertheless, at age 16, composed his Symphony No. 1 (of Nature), Op. 20. The following year at Smetana Hall in Prague, this symphony was premiered by the prestigious FOK Prague Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Dr. Václav Smetáček. In 1962 Svoboda graduated in percussion, composition and conducting. During his study of composition with Prof. Miloslav Kabelác, numerous performances and radio broadcasts of his music brought wide national recognition to Svoboda and clearly established him as Czechoslovakia's most important young composer. In 1964, the Svoboda family emigrated to the United States. At the University of Southern California, Svoboda studied composition with Ingolf Dahl and Halsey Stevens, where in 1969 he earned the degree of Master of Music in composition with honors. He is now retired after 30 years as Professor Emeritus of Music at Portland State University. In 1981, Svoboda's early publication of Etude in Fugue Style for Piano, No. 4 (from Vol. 1) brought forth a cover story tribute by the highly respected Piano Quarterly. In 1985 Svoboda was given the ASCAP Foundation/Meet The Composer Award and a commission to write his Chorale in E flat for Piano Quintet, Op. 118 for Aaron Copland's 85th birthday celebration in New York. In 1987, national music educators voted Svoboda's Children's Treasure Box piano series to be among the forty most important 20th century collections for teaching piano. As a conductor Svoboda has led the Oregon Symphony Orchestra in the 1988 premiere of his Symphony No. 5 (in Unison), Op. 92, and again in the 1992 premiere of

his Symphony No. 6 for Clarinet and Orchestra, Op. 137 with soloist Yoshinori Nakao. There are to date over a thousand performances of Svoboda's music worldwide, including nearly four hundred symphonic performances, many by major orchestras such as the Philadelphia, Cleveland, San Francisco and Monte Carlo. His most well known orchestral work, Overture of the Season, Op. 89, commissioned by the Oregon Symphony, has alone received over two hundred performances. Numerous radio stations are now regularly broadcasting Svoboda's music. His many awards include a 1992 Oregon Governor's Award for the Arts. Svoboda's catalog of over 190 works includes six symphonies, two cantatas, two piano concertos and a violin concerto. In November 2003 his marimba concerto was nominated for A Grammy Award in the category of "Best Instrumental Soloist with Orchestra," Niel DePonte marimba soloist with the Oregon Symphony Orchestra.

Performer Biographies

Delgani String Quartet

Oregon's Delgani String Quartet is one of the most active chamber music ensembles in the Pacific Northwest with over 75 performances and educational programs each year. The quartet curates their own concert series in both Eugene and Salem while also appearing as guest artists throughout the state. Delgani recently completed its first east-coast tour following an invitation to perform at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC.

Programming for Delgani's 2017/2018 season, entitled "Musical Summits," includes standard repertoire by Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Dvorak, Borodin, Prokofiev, Hovhaness, and Ligeti along with contemporary works by Benjamin Krause, Elena Kats-Chernin, and Lev 'Ljova' Zhurbin. Guest violist Elizabeth Freivogel, of the award-winning Jupiter Quartet, will be joining Delgani for the season finale in May.

This season also features a new work inspired by the Oregon Cascade Range and composed by Benjamin Krause. As the musical basis for Delgani's Cascade Quartet Project, Krause's composition will be used in a documentary on the Cascades that explores the formation, preservation, and sacredness of the Range. This unique educational tool will be used in schools and museums to bring awareness to our Oregon's geographical history. This project is supported in part by a Creative Heights Grant from the Oregon Community Foundation.

Equally committed to community outreach, Delgani provides educational programs throughout the Willamette Valley. In 2016 the quartet held a residency at the Springfield Academy of Arts and Academics working with student composers on new works for string quartet. This past spring Delgani served as Artists in Residence at Umpqua Community College where they presented seminars, performances, and worked with student ensembles. Each year, Delgani manages a Summer Quartet Academy, a weeklong immersive chamber music experience is held each year in Cottage Grove, Oregon. This past summer, 17 students from Grants Pass, Eugene, and Salem attended the Academy. Delgani also hosts Adult Chamber Music Retreats for amateur enthusiasts and curates an adult education series prior to each season concert in Eugene.

Delgani was formed in 2014 with a mission to cultivate an appreciation for chamber music through distinctive performance, innovative programming, educational engagement, and collaboration. The organization operates as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and

has received foundation support from the Oregon Cultural Trust, Oregon Community Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission, Lane Arts Council, Springfield Arts Commission, and Springfield Education Foundation. Delgani is the recipient of consecutive Cultural Development Grants from OCT and a Creative Heights Grant from OCF.

The musicians of Delgani have performed throughout the United States and internationally. They collectively hold twelve degrees in string performance from various schools of music and conservatories across the nation.

Jannie Wei and Wyatt True, violins
Kimberlee Uwate, viola
Eric Alterman, violoncello

Nancy Wood, Mezzo Soprano

Nancy Wood's musical career has included everything from performing with dancers to singing in jazz clubs. She has performed works by many Cascadia composers, including works by Jeff Winslow, Tomas Svoboda, Jack Gabel, Gary Noland, David Bernstein, and Lisa Marsh. She is the grateful recipient of two song cycles composed for her by the British composer and former U of O professor, Derek Healey. Most often however, she can be found collaborating and performing with her husband Paul Safar.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special Thanks to

Jennifer Wright, program cover, postcard, and poster design
Greg A Steinke, program copy and layout

CASCADIA UPCOMING EVENTS

The Birthday Bash Boys

Friday, November 3 @ 7:30 pm | Lincoln Hall (Room 75) at Portland State University

David Bernstein and Greg Steinke with friends in a 75th year celebration of new works for strings, piano, and winds.

Nonsense: The Fantastical Musical Multiverses of Daniel Brugh

Saturday, November 18 @ 7:30 pm | PLACE Studio, 735 NW 18th Ave., Portland, OR

A concert of multiple strange and unusual synth wizardry, odd tunings, invented sounds, dance, flying fish and many more oddities from the brain of Daniel Brugh and friends.

(Free Admission!)

Cascadia Composers present

The Birthday Bash Boys

David Bernstein & Greg Steinke with friends
in a 75th year celebration of new works for the concert stage



Friday, Nov. 3, 2017 @ 7³⁰ pm

Portland State University, Lincoln Hall Room 75 @ 7:30 pm

Works for strings, piano, harp & winds
featuring The Delgani String Quartet
Tickets \$5 - 20/under 12 free



Nonsense

The Fantastical Musical Multiverses
of Daniel Brugh

Saturday
Nov. 18
2017

7:30 pm

PLACE

735 NW
18th Ave.
Portland
Oregon

Free
admission!



cascadiacomposers.org

A concert of multiple strange & unusual dimensions:

Swath wizardry, odd tunings, invented sounds, dance, flying fish
& many more oddities from the brain of Daniel Brugh & friends.