

For Immediate Release

Contact: Peter McDowell; Peter@petermcdowell.com; 773.484.8811

Photos and CDs available upon request.

COMPOSER BIOS - MATTHEW MCCRIGHT - 9/25/2010 MERKIN HALL

Click on each name below to reach the composer's web site.

Kirsten Broberg

Kirsten Broberg's music has been programmed by Kronos Quartet, International Contemporary Ensemble, Ensemble Dal Niente, New Millennium Orchestra and pianist Matthew McCright, to name just a few who have interpreted her compositions. Broberg has received awards and grants including the Fromm Foundation Commissioning Grant—a \$10,000 award from Harvard University, and two Encore Grants from the American Composers Forum. Her composition instructors include Augusta Read Thomas, Jason Eckardt, Jay Alan Yim and Judith Zaimont. She has also worked with Oliver Knussen, Kaija Saariaho, Bernard Rands, Tristan Murail and Brian Ferneyhough. Her solo piano piece, "c o n s t e l l a t i o n s," recorded by Matthew McCright, was released by Innova Records in May 2009. Kirsten earned her Music B.A. and minor in creative writing from Concordia College, M.A. in music composition from the University of Minnesota, and her doctorate in music composition at Northwestern University with honors.

Paul Cantrell

Paul Cantrell is a composer and pianist. Born in Colorado and living in Minneapolis, his music is shaped by the vast-and-minute scale of the mountain landscape, and the stark extremes of Minnesota's seasons. Described as "gossamer and dreamlike" and "visceral and uninhibited," his work is united by an intimate physical connection to the piano, and an unabashed lyricism. Presenting his music in a variety of nontraditional venues, he strives to bring poetry to the contemporary and adventure to the traditional. His web site, In the Hands, is one of the internet's most popular sources of Creative Commons piano music recordings. He is known for his house concert series, Zo, and for his annual "Keys Please" collaboration with Carei Thomas and Todd Harper, a staple of the Twin Cities new music calendar. He studied music with Donald Betts and Carleton Macy at Macalester College.

James Marentic

James (Jim) Marentic is a composer who straddles the line between the jazz and classical worlds. He earned a masters degree in composition from California State University. While living in Los Angeles, he was a member of the Pacific Composers Forum. Two of his works ("Into the Labyrinth" and "Ode to Time") were performed at the Los Angeles County Museum Sunday concerts. He has received three National Endowment for the Arts grants in Composition. In New York City, he recorded the jazz album "Nimbus," which has become an underground favorite, earning such accolades as "the kind of album they don't make anymore." While a member of the BMI Jazz Composers Workshop, he composed and conducted two jazz works ("Uqbar" and "Meridians") at Merkin Hall. He is currently an adjunct instructor at the McNally Smith College of Music in Saint Paul where he teaches saxophone.

Daniel Nass

Daniel Nass (b. 1975, Minnesota) holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Theory and Composition from Saint Olaf College, a Master of Music in Composition from the University of Missouri—Kansas City, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Composition from the University of Texas at Austin. Past teachers include James Mobberley, Chen Yi, Kevin Puts, Donald Grantham, and Russell Pinkston. A member of ASCAP, SCI, and the American Composers Forum, Daniel has received various awards and recognitions, including ASCAP awards, as well as invitations to SEAMUS and SCI national conferences, the 2002 Seoul International Computer Music Festival, and the 2003 International Computer Music Conference in Singapore. Recent commissions include the Wicked Sister Dance Theatre, the Augsburg College Theatre Department, pianist Matthew McCright, and the Young New Yorkers' Chorus.

Justin Rubin

Dr. Justin Rubin is Professor of Music and Chair of the Composition Program at the University of Minnesota Duluth. He recently released his first CD, *Nostalgia*, that includes chamber works featuring the bassoon on the Innova label. In 2009 he was inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers and honored with the Morse-Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education that represents the highest recognition by the University of its most distinguished scholar-teachers. A graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, Purchase College, and the University of Arizona, Rubin is also active as a performer on both organ and piano. His diverse concert repertoire (ranging from the early Baroque, to Schubert, to Xenakis) has informed an eclectic compositional style. His renewed interest in traditional tonal structures through a prism of modern techniques has led to his mature approach to writing, such as the present composition.

Adam Wernick

St. Paul, Minnesota based, Adam Wernick has been professionally composing music and designing sound for 25 years. He received his Music B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania. He has been commissioned for chamber music, concerti, voice and orchestral work and is known for his theatrical collaborations, which have been showcased at Guthrie Theater, Shakespeare Theatre Company, Denver Center Theater Company, Manhattan Theater Club, The Kennedy Center and The Royal Shakespeare Company. Adam composes theatrical music in many genres - classical, jazz, rock/pop, electronica, Javanese gamelan, Russian balalaika, Japanese kabuki, American musical theater - even Austrian yodeling. Adam's work has been funded by The McKnight Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Independence Foundation, Philadelphia Music Project, The Presser Foundation, The Henson Foundation and ASCAP. His compositions have been performed by Twenty-First Century Consort, Network for New Music, Orchestra 2001, and the American Composers Forum.