
PROGRAM

Two Reflections on an Autumnal Garden (2015) Ramsey Sadaka
I. Flowers (b. 1991)

II. Sculpture: Odalisque
Linda Jenkins, flute/alto flute
Melanie Haskins, violin
Kasey Calebaugh, viola
Chas Barnard, cello
Wing in Crystal Chu, vibraphone
Li Tao, piano
Ramsey Sadaka, conductor

Waltz: The Clearing (2014) Brandon Vance
(b. 1984)

Eliot Grasso, flute
Brandon Vance, fiddle
Glen Waddell, guitar

Mass Extinction Event (2016) Benjamin J. Penwell
(b. 1989)

Benjamin J. Penwell, electronics
Tim Mansell, percussion

The Moon and the Waters (2016) Justin Ralls
(b. 1987)

Aaron Kahn, trumpet
Justin Ralls, percussion/pre-recorded soundscape

Hypnagogic Harmonium (2016) Martin Quiroga jr.
(b. 1987)

Jenkins, flute
Michael Kaveney, viola
Alessandro Andrade da Fonseca, piano

Conclusion (2016) Justin Graff
(b. 1995)

Melanie Haskins and Izabel Austin, violins
Kasey Calebaugh, viola
Elizabeth Gergel and Ramsey Sadaka, cellos

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Jigs (2012)

Eliot Grasso

Eliot wrote “The Empty Bookcase” for his son, James. James has been an avid book-lover from his earliest days, settling for no less than a thorough investigation of every item in his library before setting each one squarely on the floor. Eliot and Kate would often enter James’s room to find him smiling up from a book-covered floor (and an empty bookcase). Eliot composed “The Lights of Limerick” for his father Mark. It was a brisk morning before the sun had risen, and Eliot was waiting to meet his father at the Limerick train station in 2006. The fluorescent bulbs near the station cast a pallid yellow haze into the early morning. Eliot wrote “The Pepper Man” for friend and fellow musicologist Dr. Mark Samples. One evening, the Grasso and Samples families had gathered for dinner, with children running amok at the table. Mark saved the evening by improvising a song about pepper, which involved sneezing intermittently during verses. The kids loved it, and it has remained in his repertoire ever since.

山水歌集 Shan Shui (2015)

Li Tao

Shan Shui is a song cycle based on three poems by Li Bai (701-762), who was the greatest poet in Chinese history. These poems are all related to mountains (the meaning of shan), which are also one of the main themes of Li Bai’s works. There are four pieces in the song cycle and each piece can be performed alone or in other combinations.

Alone with Everybody (2015)

Nicholas Pietromonaco

Bukowski is one of America’s more transgressive poets whose words capture the grittier side of humanity but not for the sake of grit. With intense graphic imagery and focus on our human behaviors I’ve found that he instead builds pathways of empathy. Alone with Everybody tells us that we are looking for something that doesn’t exist. I attempt to represent the feelings behind this through various text painting and atmospheric drones while also musically commenting on the subject myself towards the end. The opening repetitive figure for me sets the portrait of a weathered man at a bar stewing in his intoxication, anger, and contempt... contempt for love and romance.

Deez Notes (2016)

Nikolai Valov

These are two short pieces for piano that are based on the same pitch collection and motif (Ab – G – Bb). The compositional idea behind the pieces are that they are based entirely on transformations of deez notes, and explore two contrasting possible metamorphoses that this cell can generate.

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