



Johnstone Fund Announces 10th Season

COLUMBUS (August 12, 2022) — The Johnstone Fund for New Music proudly presents its 2022-23 season. This marks a decade of the free “New Music at Short North Stage” concert series. All performances take place at Short North Stage from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Short North Stage is located at 1187 North High Street in the Short North. Seating is available on a first-come first-served basis and performances are recommended for ages 9 and older. Parking is available at the lot just south of the theater and at nearby meters, and assistance is available through the ParkColumbus app.

“We are so excited to reach the tenth anniversary of this wonderful celebration of New Music,” said Zoe and Jack Johnstone, co-founders of the Johnstone Fund for New Music. “We’re grateful to everyone who has contributed to making this an important feature of the Columbus music scene: Musicians, composers, audiences, and our hosts at Short North Stage. Thank you all!”

Arx Duo: “Percussive Natures”

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

Comprised of Garrett Arney and Mari Yoshinaga, arx duo (arxduo.com) is dedicated to expanding the percussion chamber music repertoire through the creation and presentation of new works, the educating and inspiring of young artists, and the offering of engaging performances highlighting new works and artists from all over the world. The duo has worked with collaborators and composers including the Dover String Quartet, Aeolus String Quartet, Henry Kramer, Jason Treuting, Steven Mackey, Juri Seo, Jonathan Bailey Holland, and Ted Hearne. arx duo has held guest faculty positions at Peabody Conservatory and Michigan State University, and has taught at the Curtis Institute of Music Young Artist Summer Program. Mari and Garrett have also conducted extended residencies for the composition departments of Princeton University and the Boston Conservatory.

“Percussive Natures” is a combination of ebbing-and-flowing pieces that explore forms of nature through percussion. Peter Klatzow’s “Ambient Resonances” introduces the sound and mixture of the Marimba and Vibraphone, two of the program’s larger and most used instruments. These instruments also are featured in Juri Seo’s “Sonata,” written for arx duo in 2022. It focuses on three elements of nature: Fire, Life, and Water. The duo also explores Nick Diberadino’s “Particle Heuristics,” displaying the energy of particles moving together and apart, as both players perform on one instrument. Alyssa Weinberg’s “Ember” displays the small sounds of metallic percussion, combined in a unique way.

Shepherdess with Special Guest Dara Hankins

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Shepherdess (shepherdessduo.com) is a voice and violin duo featuring mezzo Kayleigh Butcher and violinist Hajnal Pivnick. Based in New York City, Shepherdess aims to disseminate works by living composers and to amplify new voices within the contemporary classical musical landscape. The duo draws inspiration from American folk influences, instrumental and vocal extended techniques, and the intersection of social justice and music.

NYC-based cellist Dara Hankins (darahankins.com) believes in promoting equity through music. She has performed with Yo-Yo Ma, Branford Marsalis, Joshua Bell, Kirk Whalum, Big Chief Donald Harrison, and Lalah Hathaway.

This program features recent commissions by Yaz Lancaster, The Honourable Elizabeth A. Baker, Charles Peck, and Evan Williams, as well as works by Marcos Balter, Mary Kouyoumdjian, and Annika Socolofsky.

Kathleen Supové: “NEXT DOOR”

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Pianist Kathleen Supové (supove.com) received the John Cage Award from ASCAP in 2012. She presents an annual series of solo concerts entitled THE EXPLODING PIANO, and has performed with Disklaviers, laptop orchestras, robots, and XReality. Her upcoming projects include a collection of commissioned works based on Migration; Guy & Doll, a piano-electronics duo with Guy Barash; Anti-Depressant, a violin-piano duo with Jennifer Choi; an opera based on the life of Hedy Lamarr; and Shocking Red, a song collection with Michelle Shocked, based on paintings of Mark Kostabi.

This program contemplates the ambiguity of “next door.” As we migrate through our volatile world, we share space with other beings — yet we also open doors for them and ourselves, into the next world to come.

Ensemble Terrain

Tuesday, February 14, 2022

Ensemble Terrain is a new-music “supergroup” consisting of vocalists Theo Bleckmann (theobleckmann.com) and Jodie Landau (jodielandau.com), cellist Ashley Bathgate (ashletbathgate.com), and composer/producer Jacob Cooper (jacobcoopermusic.com). The group was formed as a touring outfit following the release of Cooper’s album “Terrain” (New Amsterdam Records, 2020).

This concert will feature works from “Terrain,” as well as arrangements of works by Meredith Monk, David Lang, and Supertramp.

Hub New Music: “to hear the things we cannot see”

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Hub New Music (hubnewmusic.org) is a winds and strings quartet forging new paths in 21st-century repertoire. Featuring Michael Avitabile, (flutes), Gleb Kanasevich (clarinets), Meg Rohrer (violin), and Jesse Christeson (cello), the ensemble’s ambitious commissioning projects celebrate the rich diversity of today’s classical music landscape. Since forming in 2013, Hub has fiercely advocated for the music of our time through commissioning, performance, recording, and education.

This program centers around a recently commissioned work by Nina C. Young, to hear the things we cannot see. A collaboration with poet Rosie Stockton, Young uses recordings of Rosie reading their poetry as a fifth instrument in the ensemble. In creating the score for this piece, Young analyzed the spectrum and envelope of Stockton’s voice in recordings of the poet reading their work. Recordings filter through the quartet’s playing to unite spaces past and present, and are triggered using MaxMSP. Hub’s program features additional works by Dai Wei, James Diaz, and Angélica Negrón (commissioned for Hub’s 10th anniversary in 2023).

Transient Canvas: “Turn Your Hand”

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Boston-based contemporary duo Transient Canvas (transientcanvas.com) is on a mission to revolutionize the modern concert experience. Since 2011, bass clarinetist Amy Advocat and marimbist Matt Sharrock have relished the creative potential of working with living composers, having amassed a repertoire of more than 90 commissioned works. They have worked with hundreds of student composers from all over the world, and have hosted an annual paid Composer Fellowship Program that is free and open to composers of all ages since 2017. They have recently performed at the Festival of New American Music, New Music Miami, and the Alba Music Festival, and their recent educational residencies include the University of Utah, University of California Santa Barbara, St. Olaf College, and Longy's Divergent Studio.

“Turn Your Hand” is dedicated to the remarkable resiliency of artistic creation in difficult times, featuring music written since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. “Ton yo han mek fashan” is a Jamaican proverb that can mean to make the most of a difficult situation (“turn your hand [and] make fashion”). No piece was directly inspired by the pandemic, but every one of them provides a unique snapshot into our collective psyche from the past few years. This concert features music written for TC by Brittany J. Green, Yaz Lancaster, Yi-Ting Lu, Sid Richardson, and finishes with Jamaican pianist/composer Mikhail Johnson’s Ton yo han mek fashan.

andPlay: “Open Fields”

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

andPlay (andplayduo.com) is committed to expanding the violin/viola duo repertoire by commissioning new works and actively collaborating with living artists. The New-York-City-based duo of Maya Bennardo (violin) and Hannah Levinson (viola) has commissioned more than 40 works since first performing in 2012. andPlay has collaborated with numerous composers, including Scott Wollschleger, Victoria Cheah, Clara Iannotta, Lester St. Louis, Bethany Younge, and Sky Macklay.

andPlay will perform a new program of string-playing composer/performers including works by Lester St. Louis, Mariel Roberts, and Maya Bennardo. These three composers bring a unique and intimate knowledge of the instruments to their new works for violin/viola duo, and they paint sonic landscapes meant to be lived in and relished.

CODE (Columbus Ohio Discovery Ensemble): “Breathe”

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

CODE (codenewmusic.weebly.com) is Central Ohio’s local new music ensemble dedicated to the promotion, performance, and perception of contemporary concert music within our community.

Featuring music by composers from Ohio or who studied here, “Breathe” includes an exciting, genre-shifting set of works and a world premiere by HyeKyung Lee (Denison University composition faculty). The concert’s namesake, “Breathe” by Evan Williams for saxophone and percussion, explores the complexity, rhythm, and energy of human breath. Marilyn Shrude’s introspective “Within the Wall” is a personal reflection on the process of making a fresco, evoking the “difficulty and loneliness of being an artist and the doubt that often plagues anyone in creative pursuits.” Dan VanHassel’s “Even Exchange” unfolds contrasting blocks of shifting patterns and percussive interplays of sound.

About The Johnstone Fund for New Music

The Johnstone Fund for New Music was founded by Columbus community leaders Jack and Zoe Johnstone in 2008. It supports the continuing growth and vitality of contemporary classical music by funding the creation and performance of new works for a growing audience in Central Ohio.

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