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NETWORK FOR NEW MUSIC
2011-2012 CONCERT SEASON

WORD MUSIC

A season that explores what happens when music meets words

Network for New Music commissions and world premieres
by Lewis Spratlan, Thomas Whitman, Jan Krzywicki, and more

Collaborations with The Crossing, FELYX M,
the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, and Philadelphia poets

Featuring the virtuoso Network for New Music Ensemble
Conducted by Jan Krzywicki

TICKETS:
information available online at www.networkfornewmusic.org, or by phone at 215.848.7647

“This is one of the best, and best-run, ensembles anywhere in the country, and Philadelphia is lucky they're here.” –composer Gerald Levinson

PHILADELPHIA - Network for New Music, the award-winning chamber ensemble dedicated to commissioning and performing works by living composers, is pleased to announce its 2011-2012 concert season, **WORD MUSIC**.

This season, Network for New Music explores the art that happens when music meets words. Every concert in our 2011-2012 season brings together exceptional American composers and virtuoso musicians with the words of American poets, playwrights and even physicists; every performance is a different and invigorating conversation between artist and audience, with words that are sung, spoken and silent.

Each concert includes at least one world premiere, and each concert is a collaboration with artists deeply connected to words: poets, writers, and singers. In addition to inviting two Philadelphia poets to create their own new work to accompany the virtuoso solos of our ensemble musicians, Network presents first-time collaborations with two stellar chamber choirs: The Crossing, directed by Donald Nally; and FELYX_M, directed by Alan Harler.

Network's recent seasons have resulted in unprecedented audience attendance and interest; last year's exploration of music inspired by Asian themes was extraordinarily successful, with most concerts close to sold out or standing room only. **This season's concerts present world premieres by some of Philadelphia's best composers, as well as a major co-commissioned work by Pulitzer Prize-winner Lewis Spratlan.** All the performances will present pre-concert talks by composers and others, and all will include the popular Aperitif, a pre-concert performance of music by student musicians.

Here's an overview of **WORD MUSIC**, Network's 2011-2012 concert season:

The Poetry of Solo features virtuoso solos by Network for New Music's incomparable musicians, and new poetry written especially for this concert! World premieres by Ingrid Arauco, Joseph Hallman, Thomas Kraines, and Arne Running, and new poetry written and read by Philadelphia poets Jeanne McGinn and Lamont "Napalm" Dixon.

Philadelphia Voices: O My Earth presents Network's first collaboration with FELYX_M, an elite chamber choir directed by Alan Harler and drawn from the larger forces of the Mendelssohn Club. World premieres by Philadelphia composers Thomas Whitman and Jan Krzywicki.

Hesperus is Phosphorus is a long-anticipated collaboration between Network for New Music and The Crossing, directed by Donald Nally. Together, these virtuoso new-music groups have commissioned Pulitzer Prize-winner Lewis Spratlan to write an evening-length chamber work, to be premiered and recorded in June 2012.

Rope and Chasm is a gender-bending, multi-media exploration of *Also Sprach Zarathustra*, by Matthew Greenbaum. Featuring the spectacular mezzo Re'ut Ben Ze'ev, it's a stage work using video, animation and pre-recorded sound to illuminate Nietzsche's seminal work.

Founded over twenty-five years ago by Linda Reichert and Joseph Waters, Network for New Music has become one of the country's pre-eminent commissioning and performing ensembles of contemporary classical music. Artistic Director **Linda Reichert** draws in the very best composers from across the nation and the world, and programs their work with that of the best and most interesting Philadelphia composers. As performed by the brilliant Network for New Music Ensemble (many of whom are also members of The Philadelphia Orchestra), the result is

an invigorating and exceptional take on the best of contemporary music, and a window into the future's standard repertoire. Network's creative programming and spectacular musicianship has attracted world-class guest artists and composers such as Leon Fleisher, Peter Serkin, William Bolcom, Christoph Eschenbach, and many others; and Network often collaborates with artists from the worlds of dance, video, poetry, and theater. Through residencies, workshops, and outreach concerts, the ensemble nurtures the gifts and enthusiasm of students who write and play the music of the next generation.

Please see below for program information

For downloadable press releases and photos, please visit Network for New Music's website:

www.networkfornewmusic.org

click on "News & Press," and then "Materials and Downloads"

The Poetry of Solo

Network plays the World Café Live, where our superb musicians shine in solos inspired by new poetry! Have dinner by the stage, while **Philadelphia poets Jeanne McGinn and Lamont "Napalm" Dixon bring live readings** to a program of spectacular music played by members of the Network for New Music Ensemble.

Program:

Thomas Kraines, cello; 2-movement suite (Meditation and Agitato), **by the performer**

Poem: *Dumky*, from *A Darker, Sweeter String* collection, by Lee Sharkey

Burchard Tang, viola; world premiere of *Violiloquy*, by **Ingrid Arauco**

Poem: by Donald Justice

Edward Schultz, flute; world premiere of new work by **Robert Schultz** (the flutist's brother)

Poem: by Barbara Burwell (the flutist's mother)

Hirono Oka, violin; *Ricercar*, by **Louis Karchin**

Poem: new work by Jeanne McGinn, head of the Liberal Arts Dept. at the Curtis Institute of Music

Arne Running, clarinet; world premiere of new work **by the performer**

Poem: new work by Lamont "Napalm" Dixon, a performance poet on the jazz/hip-hop/blues poetry scene

Anthony Orlando, percussion; *Portentum* by **Andrew Rudin**

Poem: new work by Lamont Dixon

Elizabeth Masoudnia, English horn; world premiere of new work by **Joseph Hallman**

Poem: new work by Jeanne McGinn

Sunday, Nov. 6, 7:30 PM

World Café Live

3025 Walnut St., Philadelphia

Presented by LiveConnections.org

Also: Friday, Nov. 11, 8:00 PM, Haverford College

Philadelphia Voices: O My Earth

The gift of life, the sorrow of death, the eternal earth beneath us: these mysteries have inspired American poets and composers to create some of their greatest works. Philadelphia composers Thomas Whitman and Jan Krzywicki set the words of Walt Whitman and Kenneth Rexroth in moving new music for chamber choir and ensemble. The musicians of the Network Ensemble are joined for the first time by FELYX_M, a virtuoso chamber choir drawn from Philadelphia's Mendelssohn Club.

Program:

Thomas Whitman: new work/world premiere, setting 3 poems by Walt Whitman; for mixed chamber ensemble and chamber choir

Jan Krzywicki: Lute Music/world premiere of revised version, setting poetry by Kenneth Rexroth; for mixed chamber ensemble and chamber choir

Cynthia Folio: *Music Box*, setting poetry by Susan Albertine; for piano, chorus, music boxes

Sunday, Feb. 26, 2012, 7:30 PM

Independence Seaport Museum, Philadelphia, PA

Presented by the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society

Also: Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012, 8:00 PM, Community Music School, Trappe, PA

Hesperus is Phosphorus

Network joins the dazzling singers of The Crossing, directed by Donald Nally, in the world premiere of a major new chamber work by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Lewis Spratlan, described by the New York Times as “a master of timbres and how to blend them.” *Hesperus is Phosphorus* takes the form of a secular Vespers service; drawing on the words of American poets, playwrights, and physicists, Spratlan's beautiful new work explores growth and loss in our ever-expanding world of discovery.

Program:

Lewis Spratlan: *Hesperus is Phosphorus/world premiere*, text TBA; for mixed chamber ensemble and chamber choir

Saturday, June 2, 2012, 8:00 PM

The Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill, 8855 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia

Also: Tuesday, June 5, 2012, 7:30 PM

Park Avenue Christian Church, 1010 Park Ave. at 85th St, New York

Special Event: Rope and Chasm

Network for New Music is pleased to present the world premiere of *Rope and Chasm*, an evening-length piece for mezzo-soprano and video by **Matthew Greenbaum**. Based on Nietzsche's *Also Sprach Zarathustra*, the macabre irony of the original is captured in an intimate stage work that animates and illuminates its surreal characters. Israeli-American mezzo Re'ut Ben Ze'ev, whose "intense expression and pure voice ignites fireworks," is Zarathustra, in this gender-bending multi-media examination of a seminal work that lies at the core of modern art and philosophy.

Sunday, April 15, 2012, 7:30 PM
Rock Hall, Temple University
Philadelphia
Tickets: Free

WORD MUSIC: Stories from the City

Network often collaborates with artists from the worlds of dance, video, poetry, theatre, and visual arts. **This year we explore music for film**, as composer **Thomas Whitman** creates the score for *Beirut*, a documentary by award-winning filmmaker **Eugene Martin** (*Diary of a City Priest*, starring David Morse; *Edge City*; *The Anderson Monarchs*; etc). The film is based on oral history interviews with four generations of African American women from a troubled North Philadelphia neighborhood known as "Beirut;" Martin depicts the fierce passion these women have for their city, and their loyalty to it, despite the fact that their neighborhood is classified as one of the twelve most dangerous in the United States. Due for release in March 2012, Whitman's music for this moving film will be performed and recorded by the Network for New Music Ensemble. Watch our website for details!

Network also continues to nurture the gifts and enthusiasm of students who write and play the music of the next generation. Residencies, workshops, and outreach concerts broaden audience appreciation for the excitement and vitality of new music; and our exceptional composers and performing musicians mentor students from middle school through college, as they develop their skills in composing and performing today's music. **In addition to our multi-year residency at Haverford College, this season Network brings musicians, composer, and poet to a Northeast Philadelphia middle school.** Over several months, these artists will work with the students and guide them as they learn to write poetry and songs that express their own lives and feelings.

For more information, photos, and interviews, please contact:

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