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PRESS RELEASE

THE CHICAGO CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY COMPOSITION ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL CONCERT SEASON WITH 40 WORLD PREMIERES AND NEW RESIDENT ENSEMBLE

The University of Chicago's recently established Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition (CCCC) announces its inaugural concert series for the 2018-19 season. Ten concerts will be presented, including 40 world premieres, seven guest composers who have been commissioned for new compositions, three guest ensembles, a new resident ensemble, and a series of open rehearsals.

In its sixth decade of presenting contemporary music, beginning with the Contemporary Chamber Players under Ralph Shapey in 1964 and continuing as Contempo in 2002 under Shulamit Ran and in 2015 under Marta Ptaszyńska, the University of Chicago begins a new chapter with the Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition's new concert series.

Led by composer and University of Chicago professor **Augusta Read Thomas**, the CCCC provides a collaborative environment for the creation, performance, and study of music as well as the career advancement of emerging and established composers, performers, and scholars.

The Center brings together exemplary professional and student composers and performers to collaborate and share their talents, creating and presenting innovative works that will influence the field of contemporary music. Thomas and a curatorial board of University of Chicago faculty and staff, including **Seth Brodsky, Anthony Cheung, Jennifer Iverson, Amy Iwano, Travis Jackson, Sam Pluta, and Barbara Schubert**, have curated the concert season.

"The University of Chicago's distinguished tradition of creating and presenting contemporary music is inspiring," said Thomas. "The most generous way I can think to honor any rich tradition is to work vigorously to continue to keep it thriving, dynamic, and growing with artistic vision, diversity, talented artists, and passion."

A key component of the Center's performance series is the newly formed Grossman Ensemble, supported by the Sanford J. Grossman Charitable Trust. The ensemble comprises 13 of the nation's leading contemporary music specialists. Members of the Grossman Ensemble include **Tim Munro**, flute; **Andrew Nogal**, oboe; **Katie Schoepflin**, clarinet; **Taimur Sullivan**, saxophone;

Matthew Oliphant, horn; **Greg Beyer**, percussion; **John Corkill**, percussion; **Ben Melsky**, harp; **Daniel Pesca**, piano; and **Spektral Quartet**. The ensemble is co-directed by Thomas, Cheung, and Pluta.

Over the course of the season, the Grossman Ensemble will participate in three performances at the Logan Center for the Arts, each with a focus on the process of creating new work. Eight rehearsals will lead up to each performance, enabling composers to write, workshop, and review new works in close collaboration with the ensemble. The public will be invited to attend an open rehearsal before each concert, allowing them unprecedented access to the creative process. The ensemble will workshop and perform 12 world premieres by University of Chicago faculty, students, and guest composers in the inaugural concert season.

“I’m thrilled to be a part of the Center’s resident ensemble and concert series,” said Daniel Pesca, pianist of the Grossman Ensemble. “The ensemble’s working process and ethos is uniquely collaborative, reimagining the performer-composer relationship in a visionary way. This model is sure to yield exceptional results!”

The inaugural concert season brings the works of several composers to the CCCC. Seven composers have been commissioned to create new works, including **Steve Lehman**, whose most recent album was called the #1 Jazz Album of the year by NPR Music and the *Los Angeles Times*; **David Rakowski**, Professor of Composition at Brandeis University and two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist and recipient of Barlow Prize, Guggenheim, Fulbright, Koussevitzky, and Fromm awards, and who is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters; Eastman School of Music Composition Professor **Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez**, recipient of Barlow Prize, Guggenheim, Fulbright, Koussevitzky, Fromm, and American Academy of Arts and Letters awards; acclaimed soprano **Kate Soper**, a Pulitzer Prize finalist whose works have been commissioned by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the American Composers Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, Tanglewood Music Center, and more; widely lauded and awarded **Chen Yi**, a Distinguished Professor at the University of Missouri Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance, known for blending Chinese and Western traditions in her music; and University of Chicago Andrew MacLeish Distinguished Service Professor Emerita **Shulamit Ran**.

David Dzubay, Professor of Music, Chair of the Composition Department, and director of the New Music Ensemble at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in Bloomington, will create a new work and conduct the Grossman Ensemble in the final performance of the season. The Center’s 2018-19 Composition Fellow, whose appointment will be announced this spring, will create at least two new works during his or her fellowship, in addition to coaching musicians and teaching a course in the University’s Department of Music.

Les Mondes des Rondes et des Carre, a 2015 work by Japanese composer **Misato Mochizuki**, and *Feld*, a recent work by German composer and conductor **Enno Poppe** are also performed in the series. Mochizuki was the first prize winner for composition at the Conservatoire National Supérieur in Paris in 1995 and is equally active as composer in Europe and Japan. Poppe has led the Berlin-based ensemble *mosaik* since 1998, and has presented his orchestral, chamber, and operatic works throughout Europe.

The CCCC welcomes the genre-bending percussion and piano quartet **Yarn/Wire**, Chicago-based saxophone quartet **~Nois**, and the **Tyshawn Sorey Trio** as guest ensembles for 2018-19.

Two experimental music concerts, co-presented by the Chicago Integrated Media Experimental Studio (CHIME) in the Department of Music, the Arts, Science, and Culture Initiative, and the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, are included in the 2018-19 season. The Tyshawn Sorey Trio, led by 2017 MacArthur Fellow Tyshawn Sorey, present works at the crossroads of classical music and jazz, and experimental music and academia. The second concert, titled *Augmented Pianos*, explores the synergy of pianos and technology, as musicians work with pianos and audio equipment to push the sonic capabilities of the instrument.

“What I love about our programming next year is its breadth,” said Sam Pluta, Assistant Professor of Composition at UChicago. “From the incredible composers being performed by the Grossman Ensemble and Yarn/Wire, to concerts focused on composer/performers in the Experimental Series, we are approaching contemporary composition from all angles.”

Two additional concerts will be completely produced by the University’s Graduate Student composers to give them firsthand experience with artistic programming, concert production, and promotion of their own work.

The Center is also presenting the World Premieres of nine orchestral compositions by UChicago PhD composition students, which will be presented in a public performance in the winter of 2019.

“There’s nothing quite like the CCCC’s scope of activities, even among organizations and ensembles solely dedicated to new music. It has an international reach, with composers and guest ensembles that hail from multiple countries and cultures and across generations, and it covers a wide aesthetic spectrum, from notated large ensemble acoustic works of all stripes to electronic and improvised music,” said Anthony Cheung, Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Chicago. “The Grossman Ensemble’s dedication to commissioning and premieres is particularly notable, as it is simultaneously contributing to the new repertoire of our time. And the CCCC also celebrates the local, with members of the Grossman Ensemble selected from the most accomplished specialists of contemporary music in and near Chicago, and an advisory board comprised of composers and scholars at the University of Chicago. Its revolving door of renowned guest ensembles, postdoctoral researchers, and guest composers ensures a fresh approach and new partnerships each year.”

The Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition, launched in 2017, has been supported in part by generous gifts from Kay Bucksbaum and Gay Stanek. Internationally recognized composer Aaron Helgeson is serving as the Center’s Composition Fellow for the 2017-18 season. For more information, visit centerforcontemporarycomposition.uchicago.edu.

2018-19 CONCERT SERIES, CHICAGO CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY COMPOSITION

Saturday, October 13, 2018 / 7:30 PM / Logan Center Performance Hall

Yarn/Wire

The genre-bending percussion and piano quartet, described as “fascinating and exciting, with playing that is precise and full of purpose . . .” (George Grella, *Brooklyn Rail*), performs works by Misato Mochizuki and Enno Poppe, and brand new music by Will Myers and David Clay Mettens.

Thursday, November 8, 2018 / 7:30 PM / Logan Center Performance Penthouse

Tyshawn Sorey Trio

Composer/drummer Tyshawn Sorey is widely considered to be among the most important young artists at the intersection between composed and improvised music. He is one of the most in-demand drummers on the modern jazz scene -- known for his impossibly virtuosic technique and his mind-boggling ability to effortlessly master even the most difficult written scores -- but is also one of a rare breed of jazz musicians who is pursuing composition as seriously as performance.

Friday, December 7, 2018 / 7:30 PM / Logan Center Performance Hall

Grossman Ensemble

Ben Bolter, conductor

Ben Bolter made his orchestral conducting debut with the National Symphony Orchestra at age 25, when the *Washington Post* praised his performance: “Bolter spotlighted the showiest aspects...and made it look easy.” He conducts the newly formed Grossman Ensemble in its debut performance with a program of world premiere works by Sam Pluta, David Rakowski, Shulamit Ran, and the 2018-19 CCCC Composition Fellow.

Friday, March 15, 2019 / 7:30 PM / Logan Center Performance Hall

Grossman Ensemble

James Baker, conductor

The Grossman Ensemble presents works by Chen Yi, Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez, and University of Chicago graduate composers Rodrigo Bussad and Jack Hughes. James Baker, Music Director and Conductor of the Composers Conference at Wellesley College and director of the Percussion Ensemble at Mannes College of Music, conducts the performance.

Thursday, May 2, 2019 / 7:30 PM / Logan Center Performance Hall

Augmented Pianos

Explores the synergy of pianos and technology, as musicians work with pianos and audio equipment to push the sonic capabilities of the instrument.

Friday, June 7, 2019 / 7:30 PM / Logan Center Performance Hall

Grossman Ensemble

David Dzubay, conductor

In the final concert of the season, the Grossman Ensemble presents four world premiere works by Kate Soper, Steve Lehman, Joungbum Lee, and David Dzubay, who will also conduct the concert.

2018-19 GROSSMAN ENSEMBLE OPEN REHEARSALS

Saturday, November 10, 2018 / 9 AM – 4 PM / Logan Center Performance Hall

Experience the creative process between composers and performers as the Grossman Ensemble rehearses and workshops new pieces by Sam Pluta, David Rakowski, Shulamit Ran, and the 2018-19 CCCC Composition Fellow.

Saturday, February 16, 2019 / 9 AM – 4 PM / Logan Center Performance Hall

Experience the creative process between composers and performers as the Grossman Ensemble rehearses and workshops new pieces by Chen Yi, Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez, Rodrigo Bussad, and Jack Hughes.

Saturday, May 11, 2019 / 9 AM – 4 PM / Logan Center Performance Hall

Experience the creative process between composers and performers as the Grossman Ensemble rehearses and workshops new pieces by Kate Soper, Steve Lehman, Joungbum Lee, and David Dzubay.

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCES

More details to be announced later in 2018

Spektral Quartet and guests

World Premieres by Maria Kaoutzani, Joungbum Lee, David Clay Mettens, and Will Myers

~Nois Saxophone Quartet

World Premieres by Jack Hughes, Alison Yun-Fei Jiang, Ted Moore, and Rodrigo Bussad

Concert featuring the works of UChicago Undergraduate and Masters composers

Concert featuring the premiere of nine orchestral works by UChicago composers

TICKETS

Four of the season's concerts (October 13/ December 7/ March 15/ June 7) have been combined to create a subscription package. CCCC subscriptions cost \$45.

Ticket information and an order form are available online at centerforcontemporarycomposition.uchicago.edu.

Patrons may also call 773.702.ARTS (2787) or visit the UChicago Arts Box Office at Logan Center for the Arts, 915 E. 60th Street, Tuesday through Saturday, 12–6 p.m.

ABOUT THE CHICAGO CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY COMPOSITON

The Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition at the University of Chicago is a dynamic, collaborative, and interdisciplinary environment for the creation, performance and study of new music and for the advancement of the careers of emerging and established composers, performers, and scholars. Distinguished by its formation within an uncompromising, relentlessly searching, and ceaselessly innovative scholarly environment that celebrates excellence and presents new possibilities for intellectual dialogue, the Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition comprises ten integrated entities: annual concert series with the resident Grossman Ensemble, CHIME, visiting ensembles, distinguished guest composers, performances, recordings, research, graduate student-led projects, workshops, and postdoctoral fellowships.

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