

Excessive Noise: Fine Arts Library Concert Series

Friday, February 10th 2012, 8 PM

Fine Arts Library at University of Texas at Austin

Chamber Symphony no. 2 (2011-12)

Russell Podgorsek (b. 1980)

I. Rondo a Calvino

II. Aria

Kenzie Slottow, flute; Nicholas Councilor, clarinet; Katie Clark, bassoon;
Marina Brankovic, violin; Renata van der Vyver, viola; Frank Jenkins, cello;
Reese Foster, percussion; Hermes Camacho, conductor

Synchronicity in Purple Minor (2011)

Joel Love (b. 1982)

Polina Nazaykinskaya, violin; Ksenia Zhuleva, viola

DSCH

Polina Nazaykinskaya (b. 1987)

Polina Nazaykinskaya, violin

Elegia Para un Hombre Afable (2011)

Carlos Rios (b. 1988)

Meekyoung Lee, flute; Thales Smith, guitar

String Quartet in F Major (1902-3)

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

I. *Allegro moderato, tres doux*

IV. *Vif et agite*

Aiana String Quartet

Roseminna Watson, Hanna Hurwitz, violins; Mario Anton Andreu, viola; Jillian Bloom, cello

Chamber Symphony no. 2 is in three movements (of which you will hear two today). The first movement, entitled “Rondo a Calvino” is inspired by the structure of Italo Calvino’s book *If on a winter’s night a traveler...* Calvino embeds a number of colorful small stories inside of a frame story that spans the entire book. As such, you will hear this piece begin with slow music that returns throughout the whole work, interspersed with faster “colorful” passages. The most interesting aspect of the book to me is the interconnected content between the stories, even though on the surface they are very different. The second movement, called “Aria”, is a song in which the woodwinds “sing” a long melody over a clockwork-like accompaniment. Two darker contrasting sections separate the iterations of the song.

Russell Podgorsek, violist and composer, is currently a DMA student at the University of Texas at Austin and a graduate of both the Hartt School of Music (CT) and the University of Dayton (OH). His works have been commissioned by the Salisbury Symphony Orchestra and the Sudbury Youth Orchestra. Russell is a founding member of the Miklos Quartet, whose unique approach to music of all styles and perspectives has brought them on numerous tours and residencies throughout the Northeast and Midwest. As a member of the percussive duo he performed a number of his own works including "Songs for the Sane" and "A Contest for the Future" at the Woodstock Fringe Festival in Woodstock, New York. He has been awarded a number of grants and fellowships including a Creative Connections Award (formerly Meet the Composer).

Synchronicity in Purple Minor is a response to the painting by Stanton MacDonald-Wright called *Synchromy in Purple Minor*. MacDonald-Wright co-founded an important art movement called Synchromism, which analogizes color and sound as similar phenomena that can be manipulated in similar ways.

There are three main musical ideas that are prominent throughout the work. First, the quickly oscillating third ostinato which resembles the “dancing” of the painting’s colors and their bleeding into one another as the harmonies change. The second major element is the unison string technique, which resembles the color concentrations in the painting. The final technique, a quasi-Doppler effect, is created by juxtaposing contrasting volume dynamics with quickly alternating pitches and musical lines, which simulates the way the colors of the painting seem to “pop out” from the surface. All of these elements are stated in the introduction and developed throughout the work, eventually arriving at a Synchronicity.

Joel Love (ASCAP) is a composer who enjoys writing for a variety of genre. In his music, he explores the aesthetic of beauty, the connection between music and spirituality, and seeks to collaborate with artists from other disciplines.

Recently, his collaboration with Prince V. Thomas, *On Joy, On Sorrow*, was featured in a 3-month installation at the Houston Center for Photography. The Houston Chronicle commented that it is “a beautiful piece that feels cleansing to watch.”

Last year, the New York Youth Symphony awarded Joel a Citation for Compositional Excellence for his submission, *Real Fiction*. In 2009, Da Camera of Houston presented Joel with an Aspiring Artist Award and the commission of *Just One Person*.

One of Joel’s recent films, *Stitched*, was an official selection at the 2011 Carmel Art and Film Festival. The score for the short film *Kidfellas* won “Best Musical Score” at Houston’s 2011 48-Hour Film Project.

DSCH for violin solo was written in 2006 for the final round of the Dmitriy Kabalevsky composers competition in Russia. The piece is inspired by the 8th quartet by D. Shostakovich.

Polina Nazaykinskaya was born in Togliatti, Russia on January 20, 1987 and has been studying music since the age of 4. After graduating with honors from the Music Academic Gymnasium (with concentration in the violin and flute), she pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Moscow State Conservatory Music College in Russia with concentrations in violin and composition. In 2010 Polina earned her Masters of Music Degree in Theory and Composition with honors from the Yale School of Music. Her teachers at Yale were Christopher Theofanidis, Ezra Laderman. Currently Polina is pursuing a Doctorate degree in Composition at the University of Texas at Austin Butler School of Music where she is studying with Yevgeniy Sharlat and Russell Pinkston.

A rising young composer, Ms. Nazaykinskaya won numerous awards including the first Place at the Dimitriy Kabalevsky Competition in 2006 and the first place at the Vyacheslav Zolotarev International Composers Competition in 2008; She also received an honorary mention at the ASCAP in 2010; and was awarded a grand prize at “Future songs of the city” in 2010. She is one of the winners in the opera category at the Contemporary Americana Festival in 2010. Also she is one of the winners in the first Russian YouTube composers competition. Polina Nazaykinskaya was nominated to the “Orpheus Project 440” in New York. Her orchestra piece “Winter Bells” was selected for the Minnesota Composers Institute 2010. Her music has been performed at various festivals such as the Music Academy of the West (USA, 2007), the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival (USA, 2009), the New Music New Haven (USA, 2008-2010), the Classic Music Festival (Russia, 2005-2008), the Cadiza Festival (Spain, 2006), the Highpoint Festival in Woodstock (USA, 2010) as well as others throughout Europe and the United States.

Elegia Para un Hombre Afable was composed during this past winter break in memory of my late grandfather, my first and deeply admired music teacher.

Carlos Rios is a second-year music student working towards his Bachelor of Music in Composition. He is currently taking composition lessons with Yevgeniy Sharlat, and classical guitar lessons with Chad Ibison.

The **Aiana String Quartet**, praised by the Durango Herald as “spirited, precise and full of energy,” has performed both in the US and abroad, and is consistently lauded by audiences for their highly emotional interpretations. The quartet was recently awarded the 2011 Coleman-Barstow Prize for Strings at the Coleman International Chamber Music Competition, and is very pleased to be the newly appointed Young Professional Quartet in Residence at the University of Texas in Austin, where they are under the mentorship of the Miró Quartet. In the artistically rich city of Austin, the Aiana SQ hopes to further explore their passion for new music and interdisciplinary work as a quartet.

Individually, the quartet’s members have performed live with the Janice Garrett & Dancers dance company, premiered concertos at various venues such as Carnegie Hall, performed at the Cervantino and SpazioMusica Festivals, and worked closely with artists including John Corigliano, John Williams and Garth Knox. Experienced as educators as well as performers, the Aiana SQ is dedicated to sharing music through outreach concerts. During their time in San Diego from 2010-2011 as the Scholarship Quartet in Residence at San Diego State University in Association with Mainly Mozart, they served as Guest Artist coaches in chamber music at the Canyon Crest Academy. This past spring they toured Tijuana, Mexico with Mainly Mozart, bringing the music of Beethoven, Bartók, Mozart and Brahms to the ears of hundreds of children in ten low-income elementary schools.

The quartet spent the past summer as fellows at the 2011 Aspen Institute for Advanced Quartet Studies where they worked closely with members of the Takács, American, Calder, Emerson, Cleveland and Juilliard Quartets, and performed on several faculty concerts. During a quick trip to LA in August, the Aiana was the featured string quartet at the 2011 International Clarinet Convention where they were invited to perform with several artists including Ricardo Morales and Joaquin Valdepeñas, principal clarinetists of the New York Philharmonic and Toronto Orchestras respectively. The upcoming season for the Aiana SQ will include many performances in and around Austin, TX but will also take them back to California in November for an appearance with the Redlands Chamber Music Society, and again in April for several performances with the Consortium of Southern California Chamber Music Presenters as winners of the 2011 Beverly Hills Auditions.