presents

NEXTET
The New Music Ensemble for the 21st Century

Virko Balej, music director and conductor

PROGRAM

Carlos Carrasco
(b. 1980)
Sonata for solo violin (2011)
Offertorium
Monuments to the Gods
Finale
Dmytro Nehrych, violin

Travis Richards
(b. 1987)
Leptonic Generations (2012)
Dmytro Nehrych, violin
Jae Ahn-Benton, piano

Jae Ahn-Benton
(b. 1991)
Toccata in D Minor for cello and piano, Op. 80 (2010)
Chang Yue, violoncello
Jae Ahn-Benton, piano

Justin Marquis
(b. 1989)
Antonov (2012) for baritone saxophone
Justin Marquis, baritone saxophone

Beth Mehocic
(b. 1953)
Before We End (2013)
A tone poem for double reed ensemble
and synthesized sound (one movement)

Tuesday, April 9, 2013 7:30 p.m.
Dr. Arturo Rando-Grillot Recital Hall
Lee and Thomas Beam Music Center
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
BIOGRAPHIES AND PROGRAM NOTES

"Leptonic Generation" for Violin and Piano explores the world of Leptons. There are six types, or flavours, of leptons that form three generations, the electronic leptons, muonic leptons, and the tauonic leptons. The heavier muons and taus rapidly change into electrons through a process of particle decay, therefore making electrons stable and the most common charged leptons in the universe. In this composition, the main theme is the most common along with its accompaniment. There are two other themes with accompaniment that evolve and change into the main theme. The overall form of the piece also reflects the different flavours and generations of leptons.” --- Travis Richards

Toccata in D minor for cello and piano was one of the composer's first attempts to think outside of solo piano. It is heavily influenced by Alberto Ginastera's Pampeana No. 2 for cello and piano. Composed just in 5 days, it is meant to be a cello showpiece, filled with much adrenaline. Jae Ahn-Benton has been playing the piano since age 5. He developed an interest in composing at age 10 and has been writing on his own ever since. His latest works include 24 Preludes for Piano, Sonata in F Minor for bassoon and piano, and "Curse and Ritual" for ten instruments.

The Antonov (An-225) holds Guinness World Records for largest aircraft in service, weight, and airlifted payload. It was designed to airlift extremely large cargo for the Soviet Space Program and currently is used to transport other large jetliners around the world. Even with its large size, the Antonov is able to take off and land anywhere, even without a runway. I believe the power of this plane could be expressed musically with the baritone saxophone, it also having a larger size but not at all limited in its abilities.

Justin Marquis is a first year graduate student pursuing an MM in Theory and Composition. He received his BA in music from Kent State University last May, studying composition with Dr. Frank Wiley and studying saxophone with Dr. Jeff Heisler. Justin has premiered two major works while at KSU; Yellowstone for wind ensemble and Salah for orchestra. Currently, Justin is contracted with Western Brown High School in Mt. Orab, OH to write original music for their marching band's competitive season.

Before We End—“So what can you do with 9 oboes and 4 bassoons? You write a Tone Poem. I decided to write a piece that explored tone color and timbre modulations between the double reeds and synthesized sound. When the piece was finished it inspired me to write a poem and each stanza represented a section of the work.” --Beth Mehocic, 2013

"Before We End"

As We begin, we wander through this crazed maze of life, hoping to find some kind of meaning, some kind of order amidst the chaos, before we end, to begin again.
Beth Mehocic (USA), composer, poet, visual artist, filmmaker and author received her M.M. and Ph.D. in music composition from Michigan State University, East Lansing and is currently the Music Director/Composer-in-Residence and full professor for the Department of Dance at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Dr. Mehocic has written over one hundred works for orchestra, concert band, chamber music, dance ensembles, theatre and film and her works have been performed throughout the United States, Japan, China and Europe. She has produced works in several Las Vegas Hotels including The Mirage, Caesar's Palace and the Las Vegas Hilton.

From 2006–2012, several of her music compositions written for choreography have been performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Edinburgh, Scotland, the Adaliade Fringe Festival, Adalaine, Australia and for joint concerts between UNLV and the Korea National Sport University, Seoul, Korea. Her video dance poem Perpetual Motion with original music, choreographed by Carole Rae was also performed in Seoul, Korea.

Shadows, a dance poem with her original music, and her video dance poem, Hands were presented at the International Taishan Congress of Cultures and the 19th World Congress of Poets in Tai’an City, Shaanong Province, China for which she was awarded a “Gold Medal in Innovation” for digital poetry, dance and music by the Peoples Republic of China. Perpetual Motion is in the Jerome Robbins Dance Library of the NYC Library at Lincoln Center.

As a multimedia performing artist, her music, poetry, visual art and dance were presented in her one-woman exhibit entitled Poetic Visions which was on tour in the Clark County Library Galleries in Las Vegas.

She has received several grants from The Nevada State Council on the Arts as well as receiving a grant for her participation in the China Conference. Her other grants include awards from New Music Across America, the Southwest Gas Corp., The Western States Arts Foundation and Meet-the-Composer as well as awards in music composition from ASCAP.

Her article "Learning to Dance with Live Music" was published by Dance Teacher Now and her article "Chamber Music in Las Vegas" was featured in the directory edition of Chamber Music America.

She was proclaimed "Distinguished Composer" of the City of Las Vegas by Former Mayor Jan Laverty Jones and received commissions from New Music Across America, the Sierra Woodwind Quintet, the University of Utah for a musical score to a documentary film that commemorated fifty years of dance history at that university as well as commissions from Artists Embassy International and the Natica Angilly Poetic Dance Theater.

She was awarded the First Performing Artist's Fellowship in Music Composition from the State of Nevada and became a founding member for the International Guild of Musicians in Dance, the first guild in western history devoted to the advancement of concert dance music and musical education of dancers. She was also the founding editor for the Guild's Journal for three years.

**FINAL NEXTET CONCERT OF THE SEASON: May 7, 2013** and will feature student string quartets and as a special event, Sonatine for flute and piano by Pierre Boulez, performed by Anastasia Petanova and Timothy Hoft.