



College of Fine Arts

presents

NEXTET

The New Music Ensemble for the 21st Century

Virko Baley, music director and conductor

Ken Ueno, composer-in-residence

Julia Bentley, singer-in-residence

Vocalise

An evening of vocal music (but not only)

PROGRAM

Joshua Fishbein
(b. 1984)

English Romantic Songs (2009)
Music, when soft voices die (P. B. Shelley)
Asleep! O sleep a little while, white pearl! (John Keats)

Timothy Hoft, piano

Justin Marquis
(b. 1989)

Dreams (poem by Paul Laurence Dunbar) (2014)

Enzu Chang
(b. 1981)

Sijo III (Hwang Chin-i) (2014)

Daniel A. Watabayashi
(b. 1991)

Against Idleness and Mischief (Issac Watts) (2014)

Ryan Kelly, piano

Britta Epling
(b. 1992)

Night Scenes (2014)
Silent Evening
From Shadows
Midnight Escapade

Sharon Nakama, oboe
Katharine Smith, cello
Jae Ahn-Benton, piano

Tianci Zheng
(b. 1993)

Music, when soft voices die (P. B. Shelley) (2014)

Richard Belgard
(b. 1971)

The Age Demanded (Ezra Pond) (2014)

Maxwell R. Lafontant *Memories Lost* (Tyler Hagy) (2011, rev. 2014)
(b. 1990)
Jae Ahn-Benton, piano

INTERMISSION

Virko Baley *From the Emily Dickinson Songbook* (2000)
(b. 1938) Love Can Do All But Rraise the Dead
Oh, Honey of an Hour
There is a Solitude of Space
Timothy Hoft, piano

Jennifer Bellor *Songs of Ethereality* (revised 2014)
(b. 1983) 1. Air and Angels (John Donne)
2. The Distant (Yannis Ritsos)
3. Perhaps Not to Be (Pablo Neruda)
Timothy Hoft, piano

Ken Ueno WATT - for baritone saxophone, percussion,
(b. 1971) and electronic sounds (2000)
Justin Marquis, baritone sax
Caleb Pickering, percussion

Ken Ueno *I pulse, when you breathe* (Ken Ueno) (2008)
Carmella Cao, alto flute

Ken Ueno *The Aleph*
Ken Ueno, singer

Monday, December 1, 2014 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Arturo Rando-Grill Recital Hall
Lee and Thomas Beam Music Center
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

PROGRAM NOTES AND BIOGRAPHIES

A recipient of the Rome Prize and the Berlin Prize, **Ken Ueno**, is a composer/vocalist who is currently an Associate Professor at UC Berkeley. Ensembles and performers who have played Ken's music include Kim Kashkashian and Robyn Schulkowsky, Mayumi Miyata, Teodoro Anzellotti, Aki Takahashi, Wendy Richman, Greg Oakes, BMOP, Alarm Will Sound, SFCMP, the Nieuw Ensemble, and Frances-Marie Uitti. His music has been performed at such venues as Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, MusikTriennale Köln Festival, the Muziekgebouw, Ars Musica, Warsaw Autumn, Other Minds, the Hopkins Center, Spoleto USA, Steim, and at the Norfolk Music Festival. Ken's piece for the Hilliard Ensemble, *Shiroi Ishi*, has been featured in their repertoire for over ten years, with performances at such venues as Queen Elizabeth Hall in England, the Vienna Konzerthaus, and was aired on Italian national radio, RAI 3. Another work, *Pharmakon*, was performed dozens of times nationally by Eighth Blackbird during their 2001-2003 seasons. A portrait concert of Ken's was featured on MaerzMusik in Berlin in 2011. As a vocalist, he specializes in extended techniques and has collaborated in improvisations with Ryuichi Sakamoto, Joey Baron, Ikue Mori, Robyn Schulkowsky, Joan Jeanrenaud, Tim Feeney, and David Wessel amongst others. Recently, he performed his vocal concerto with the Warsaw Philharmonic. Ken holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University. A monograph CD of three orchestral concertos was released on the BMOP/sound label. For more information, please visit - <http://kenueno.com>

Since completing apprenticeships with the Santa Fe Opera and the Chicago Lyric Opera, mezzo-soprano **Julia Bentley** has appeared in leading operatic roles (*Carmen*, *Rosina*, *Dorabella*, *Despina*, and both *Rossini* and *Massenet Cinderellas*) from Anchorage to New York, and has been featured as a soloist with orchestras led by George Manahan, Raymond Leppard, Oliver Knussen, Robert Shaw and Pierre Boulez. She performs in Chicago with Mostly Music, CUBE, the Contemporary Chamber Players, the Orion Ensemble, Pinotage, the New Budapest Orpheum Society, Ensemble Noamnesia, Fulcrum Point, the Chicago Chamber Musicians, Chicago Opera Theater, Concertante di Chicago, the Newberry Consort, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Lyric Opera and the MusicNOW series at Symphony Center with conductor Cliff Colnot. She has appeared to critical acclaim at Weill Hall with Pierre Boulez as the soloist in *Le Marteau Sans Maître*, and recorded on the Albany, Cedille and Tintagel labels. Recent engagements have included performances of *La Damnation de Faust* with the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, *Pierrot Lunaire* with eighth blackbird, *La Cenerentola* with Sacramento Opera, *Little Women* with the Dayton Opera, and the Bach B Minor Mass with the Apollo Chorus as well as chamber music series in Chicago, Philadelphia, New York and the National Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. After leading the Composer Focus project at the DePaul University School of Music for six years, she is currently teaching voice at Concordia University, and the graduate Art Song Seminar at North Park University. She coaches privately, specializing in audition preparation and advanced vocal literature. This season features first-time collaborations with Sarah Rothenberg, the Emerson Quartet and the Spektral Quartet, as well as continuing escapades with pianist Kuang-Hao Huang.

An accomplished singer and pianist, **Joshua Fishbein** (b. 1984) composes both vocal and instrumental music. Currently, Fishbein is a Visiting Lecturer in Composition and Theory at UNLV. His music has won awards from organizations such as The American Prize, the American Choral Directors Association, BMI, the Belvedere Chamber Music Festival, the Boston Metro Opera, the Cantate Chamber Singers, Chorus Austin, the Delaware Valley Chorale, The Esoterics, the Guild of Temple Musicians, the National Lutheran Choir, and others.

Recently, Fishbein passed his final oral defense for the Ph.D. in Composition at UCLA. He completed his M.M. at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music with additional studies at the University of Maryland. Also a conductor, he held conducting positions with the UCLA Early Music Ensemble, the San Francisco Conservatory Chorus, and the Schola Adventus of San Francisco. Fishbein earned undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Composition at Carnegie Mellon University, where he won the Harry G. Archer Prize in orchestral composition.

A native of Baltimore, Fishbein studied piano and music theory at the Peabody Preparatory. His teachers include Roger Bourland, Paul Chihara, David Conte, Richard Danielpour, Nancy Galbraith, Ian Krouse, David Lefkowitz, and Lawrence Moss. E.C. Schirmer Music Company and Transcontinental Music Publications publish Fishbein's choral music.

Jennifer Bellor is a versatile composer who enjoys collaborating with classical and jazz musicians, singers, dancers, librettists, and visual artists. Her works have been featured by Washington National Opera, Seattle Jazz Women's Orchestra, ACO Jazz Composers Orchestra Institute readings in New York City, North American Saxophone Alliance Conference, Aspen Music Festival, Eastman New Jazz Ensemble, Eastman Wind Ensemble, Eastman Saxophone Project, California State University East Bay Wind Symphony, Ritsos Project in Greece, and many others in the United States and abroad.

She received a 2013 DownBeat Award for her composition *Midnight Swim* for big band in the original composition/orchestrated work category at the graduate college level. Additionally, she was commissioned by Washington National Opera's American Opera Initiative to write a 20-minute opera, *Duffy's Cut*, which premiered at the Kennedy Center in November 2013. Her writing was praised as showing a "flair for full-bodied, operatic sound," (Washington Post), and "using contrasting rhythms and clever harmonies to an intriguing effect" (Huffington Post). Her composition *Noir* for big band won the 2nd Annual Seattle Women's Jazz Orchestra composition contest, and was performed in Seattle on November 4, 2014, featuring Grace Kelly on alto saxophone.

Jennifer received a Ph.D in music composition at Eastman School of Music, a Master of Music degree in composition at Syracuse University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in music at Cornell University. Her principal teachers included David Liptak, Robert Morris, Andrew Waggoner, Sally Lamb McCune, and Steven Stucky. Jennifer is Visiting Lecturer at University of Nevada, Las Vegas where she teaches courses in music composition and theory.

NEXTET is pleased to announce our Spring 2015 season. All concerts will be at Dr. Arturo Rando-Grillot Recital Hall at 7:30 PM.

January 20, 2015 **Timothy Hoft**, pianist performing the second in his series devoted to Ukrainian and Ukrainian-American compositions.

February 12, 2015 Music of **Diego Vega**, a concert devoted to works chosen for this event by the composer.

March 3, 2015 **Folk Songs**, a new work by Pulitzer Prize winning composer **Bernard Rands** with Julia Bentley as soloist, plus a work by Italian composer Sciarrino.

April 13, 2015 Composer-in-residence **Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon**, the **Duo-Damiana** (Molly Alice Barth, flute & Dieter Hennings, guitar) and UNLV alumni and winner of the ASCAP Morton Gould award for 2014, Jason Buchanan.

April 18, 2015 **Timothy Hoft**, pianist performing the third in his series devoted to Ukrainian and Ukrainian-American compositions.

May 4, 2015 **Michael Hersch**, composer-in-residence and guest violoncellist **Daniel Gaisford**. Final concert of the season.