

Makrokosmos Project 9 Presents:

Ghosts of Cascadia

Thursday, June 29th 2023 @ PICA

www.makrokosmosproject.org



PROGRAM:

5pm: Dawn of Time

John Luther Adams: *Drums of Winter*

Portland Percussion Group

George Crumb: *Processional*

Stephanie Ho, piano

6pm: Not all who wander are lost

Meredith Monk: *Trekking*

DUO Stephanie and Saar

Kirsten Volness: *Ghosts of Cascadia* (MP 2022 Commission; Oregon Premiere)

DUO Stephanie and Saar

Kirsten Volness: *Not all who wander are lost* (World Premiere)

Saar Ahuvia, piano

Adam Schoenberg: *Olive Orchard*

Stephanie Ho, piano

Adam Schoenberg: *Bounce* (Oregon Premiere)

DUO Stephanie and Saar

7pm: An Idyll for the Misbegotten

Toru Takemitsu: *Toward the Sea*

The Night ~ Moby-Dick ~ Cape Cod

Amelia Lukas, flute

Stephen Kehner, percussion

George Crumb: *An Idyll for the Misbegotten*

Amelia Lukas, flute

Portland Percussion Group

Ian Gottlieb: *Forever, My Grace*

V. ...is all the particles of dust, drifting on a desert wind

II. ...is all the stars of night, endlessly bursting with light

III. ...is the snake that eats its own tail, eternally compressing and expanding

I. ...is all the droplets of rainy skies, falling at manifold velocities
Chris Whyte, percussion
Garrett Arney, percussion

8pm: Manifest Destiny

Tomáš Svoboda: Suite for Piano Four-Hands, Op. 124

Jeff Payne, piano

Susan Smith, piano

Karen Tanaka: Three Water Dances

Yoko Greeney, piano

Tomáš Svoboda: Sonata No. 3, Op. 184

Susan Smith, piano

Michael Johanson: *Catalyst* (written for Susan Smith and Yoko Greeney)

Yoko Greeney, piano

Susan Smith, piano

9:15pm: Alpenglow

Bonnie Miksch: *I found this flower*

Pyxis Quartet

Kenji Bunch: *Trackings* (commissioned by Niel DePonte, Ronni Lacroute, Kris Kern and DePonte Creativity Partners; World Premiere)

Diaspora: Still, pensive ~ Driving ~ Slow, soulful ~ Steady ~ Joyful

Niel DePonte, percussion

Maria Garcia, piano

Pyxis Quartet

Meet the Makrokosmos Project Team:

Portland Percussion Group: www.portlandpercussiongroup.com

Pyxis Quartet: www.45thparalleldpx.org

Niel DePonte: percussion: www.nieldeponete.com

Saar Ahuvia: piano, co-Artistic Director: www.stephsaarduo.com

Stephanie Ho: piano, co-Artistic Director: www.stephsaarduo.com

Yoko Greeney: piano: www.soundstrucknw.org www.lclark.edu

Jeff Payne: piano: www.fearnomusic.org

Alan Niven: sound and videography: www.wolftraks.com

Susan Smith: piano: www.lclark.edu

Amelia Lukas: flute: www.amelialukas.com

Stephen Kehner: percussion: www.orsymphony.org

Maria Garcia: piano: www.mariagarciapiano.com

Dear Friends, welcome to *Ghosts of Cascadia*, Makrokosmos Project's 9th festival. Tonight feels like Homecoming, not the kind a dorky band geek like me avoided year after year at Wilson High School — now Ida B. Wells — but a return to celebrating what we know to be life's bests: making and sharing music with family, friends, colleagues and community.

Kirsten Volness' two-piano work *Ghosts of Cascadia* is the inspiration behind Makrokosmos Project 9's programming. Kirsten, a longtime Portland resident, composed this piece for me and Saar. This stunning work was inspired by the lost spirits and haunting beauty of the Pacific Northwest. While working on Kirsten's piece, Saar and I couldn't stop thinking about our 93-mile backpacking trip on the Wonderland Trail around Mount Rainier. The beauty we witnessed — indescribable. The alpenglow at Klapatche Park alone, unforgettably surreal and otherworldly.

Tonight we celebrate our beautiful home and our friends, past and present, the Cascades, the west, Oregon, Portland, everything we love about the Pacific Northwest. Saar and I are honored that Niel DePonte, longtime Principal Percussionist of the Oregon Symphony and music director of Oregon Ballet Theatre who helped elevate Oregon to its current internationally renowned status, is joining us with a world premiere of *Trackings* by **Kenji Bunch**. In Kenji's own words: "*Trackings* is a tribute to the influence of the African diaspora in music across the world—specifically the profound fundamental identity this influence has provided for anything we call American music. Through polyrhythms, harmonic vocabulary and percussion instruments themselves, I'm seeking to honor the often uncredited, undervalued and exploited influence of the remarkably fertile artistic region of sub-Saharan West Africa on the modern concert stage."

Along with **Kenji, Bonnie Miksch, Michael Johanson, Kirsten Volness** and the late **Tomáš Svoboda** make up our powerhouse team of Oregon composers. We pay tribute to Tomáš Svoboda, one of Oregon's greatest musical minds, who passed away on November 17, 2022 at the age of 81. Svoboda was a fantastic pianist and prolific composer; his piano writing is intense, angular, contrapuntal, relentlessly dynamic and always unpredictable.

Karen Tanaka, a resident of the Bay Area, is urban, eclectic yet approachable; she writes impeccably for piano and has contributed some of the best compositions for the medium recently. **Ian Gottlieb**, based in Los Angeles, explores the finite and the infinite: the quietly intense and introspective *Forever, My Grace* attempts to define and embody the mystical concept of infinity. Our friend **Adam Schoenberg**, also based in LA, wrote the endlessly entertaining *Bounce* to celebrate the birth of his son Luca. With our 3 esteemed Californians are 3 "zeitgeist" new music composers, **Toru Takemitsu, John Luther Adams**, and our voice of reason, **George Crumb**.

We are so excited to welcome new team members Niel DePonte, Stephen Kehner and Maria Garcia to the MP roster and see the performance team grow and evolve. Our friends at Portland Percussion Group: Garrett Arney, Brian Gardiner, Terry Longshore, Brett Paschal, Delaney Armstrong and Chris Whyte deliver knockout performances after performances; Saar and I are incredibly blessed by their friendship and camaraderie. Absolutely the same can be said for Ron Blessinger and the Pyxis Quartet: Ron, Keiko Araki, Charles Noble and Marilyn de Oliveira.

Our keyboard team members Susan Smith, Jeff Payne and Yoko Greeney are indispensable members of the greater Portland piano community. They are world-class performers and are heard everywhere: Chamber Music Northwest, 45th Parallel, Third Angle, Fear No Music, etc.

Yoko recently launched SoundsTruck NW, the Pacific Northwest's premier mobile venue. Please check out SoundsTruck NW's fantastic 2023 summer concert series! We are honored to be listed amongst such supportive and accomplished colleagues.

Amelia Lukas is our sole flutist and Homecoming Queen— she is beyond talented with all-things-Amelia, way too cool for school and liked by everyone. And there you have it, our very own Makrokosmos Project Homecoming! Enjoy the party tonight, let's CELEBRATE!
~Stephanie & Saar

THANK YOU, thank you, THANK YOU:

Thank you to **Con Vivo Music** for being Makrokosmos Project's fiscal sponsor. All donations to Makrokosmos Project are **fully tax deductible** to the extent allowed by law.

We have 3 (!) world-class pianos because of the courtesy and generosity of **Portland Piano Company**. Thank you Mitch and Brenda and the entire team!

Our fantastic sound engineer and videographer tonight is **Alan Niven**. Please stay in touch for videos of tonight's performances, which will be made available for audience members who want to enjoy the music from the comfort of their homes.

The delicious Chinese goodies are from Old Town's **Mandarin House**. Please visit Mandarin House and enjoy delicious authentic Northern Chinese cuisine right in the heart of downtown Portland!

Our dear friend and amazing website designer **Masataka Suemitsu** makes everything online Makrokosmos Project-ready. Please check him out at www.masatakaphoto.com.

Thank you to the **Loh Family** for helping out with the reception and just about everything else!

Thank you to the entire team at **PICA** for this awesome space and hosting us!

Thank you to **Erath** for the amazing non-profit wine discount! We love featuring Oregon wines.

Thank you to our 2023 festival donors and sponsors

Larry Vollum ~ Kristin Podack ~ Portland Piano Company ~ John Montague and Linda Hutchins ~ Anonymous ~ Justin Dune ~ Bill Nerenberg ~ Rosa Shin ~ Henry Wong ~ Kathryn Wiegand ~ Masataka Suemitsu and Erik Ochsner ~ Kirsten Volness ~ Dennis Wickenden ~ Ralph Binder ~ Erath ~ Chip Smith ~ Mor Ahuvia ~ Valeria Martinez ~ Ronni Lacroute ~ Linda & Steve Wang ~ Fran Rothman ~ Jeffrey Mills ~ Pat Zagelow ~ Amy Gustafson

We are still raising money for Makrokosmos Project! Have you checked out our GoFundMe page? Use this link: <https://gofund.me/a99b11ba>

Please visit our campaign and make a donation. A donation of **ANY** amount is greatly appreciated and every donation is tax-deductible. Your donation helps to ensure Makrokosmos Project 9 and other future events a smashing success!

Stay connected with us on social media! Follow us on Facebook and join our mailing list.