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.45thparallelpdx.org
Niel DePonte: percussion: www.nieldeponte.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.wolfraks.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!


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


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!

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