

“Celebrating 100 Years of ‘New Music’”

Concert 4: *Arvo*: Music for Strings

Featuring the works of:

Chad GRAY
Ian MUNRO
Arvo PÄRT
Daniel PESCA
Leaha Maria VILLARREAL

Samuel Stapleton, *Music Director*
Lilit Hartunian, *violin*

Saturday, February 26, 2011

7:30 pm

First Church in Boston
66 Marlborough Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Concert 4
Season 2

ABOUT BNMI

The Boston New Music Initiative is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining an international network of composers, performers, conductors, directors, and champions of music in order to generate new music concerts, compositions, collaborations, and commissions. Incorporated in 2010, the organization aims to advance the careers of its members in the field of new music by serving as a resource for networking, commissioning, collaboration, and programming.

The Boston New Music Initiative

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2010-2011 Staff

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Welcome

Hello and welcome to the second concert season of the Boston New Music Initiative! Our goal is to continuously promote the performance and creation of new music both in Boston and abroad, and we have made some serious progress toward that end: after tonight's concert, BNMI will have performed the work of 44 different living composers (and counting!), including eight world premieres and numerous regional premieres. This season, we have expanded to a full six-concert series, which includes not only performances of works by our own member composers, but also features masterworks of the 20th and 21st centuries. We opened the season in September with performances of eight living composers, plus selections from Arnold Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*. In November, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Samuel Barber's birth year with a full performance of his Violin Concerto (1939), as well as works for chamber ensemble and chamber orchestra by four living composers. December featured electronic, electroacoustic, and multimedia works chosen from our fall Call for Scores. Tonight's concert features a performance of Arvo Pärt's *Fratres* for solo violin and string orchestra, along with works by our members for string quartet and string orchestra. Our May concert will highlight vocal works, including a number of choral works, and we will round out our ambitious season in June. We thank you for your attendance and support, and hope to see you much more this year and in the future!

Tim Davis

President and CEO of the Boston New Music Initiative, Inc.

The Boston New Music Initiative Concert Series Performance Fund

Our organization strives to deliver top-notch performances on each and every one of our concerts, which would not be possible without the constant dedication and effort from all of our performers. We are still very much a growing organization attempting to accomplish very big things in a short period of time, and our performers have been crucial in our ability to continue moving forward. All of our performers on each of our concerts have volunteered their time to perform with us for free. We are proud to consider ourselves a professional organization, and hope to reach a point in the near future where we can offer our performers at least a modest stipend in exchange for their time, effort, and transportation and instrument maintenance costs.

In order for this to be possible, we need your help! We have created the Concert Series Performance Fund to help support our performers in the future as much as they have—and will continue to—help us. We realize these are hard economic times for us all, but if you have enjoyed our concerts, we ask that you consider making a contribution to the Concert Series Performance Fund, which will be used exclusively for performer stipends on future concerts and cannot be used for any other organization purposes.

If you would like to contribute to our organization outside of the Performance Fund, we always welcome any support we can receive. As we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity, we rely upon support from the general public to continue our operations, and are always in need of assistance with venue, instrument, and equipment rental as well as general operating expenses. Any and all donations made to the organization are tax-deductible under Section 170 of the IRS code.

If you are unable to make a monetary contribution but wish to contribute in some other way, please contact our development team at development@bostonnewmusic.org or call us at 617-744-9607. To volunteer on our staff, please email our president at tadavis@bostonnewmusic.org.

Please see the following page for full information on donating to BNMI!

Become involved with BNMI!

To join BNMI:

To join our organization's network of composers, performers, conductors, collaborators, and champions of new music, please visit our website (URL listed below). Membership is free to all!

To donate:

To donate, please send a check to the mailing address below, or visit our website! You may also donate at any of our concerts – just fill out the “Donor Card” insert and return it to us before or after the concert. **Note: To donate to the Concert Series Performance Fund, please specify in the memo line of the check with the words “Performance Fund.”**

URL: www.BostonNewMusic.org

Email: info@bostonnewmusic.org

Telephone: 617.744.9607

Mailing Address:

The Boston New Music Initiative, Inc.

P.O. Box 380285

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The Boston New Music Initiative Donors

The Boston New Music Initiative would like to thank the following donors for their generous gifts in support of our organization and our mission. Our organization could not function and grow without all of their help!

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2010-2011 Concert Season
First Church

February 26, 2011
 Boston, Massachusetts

Fratres (1977, rev. 1992) Arvo PÄRT
(b. 1935)

Lilit Hartunian, *violin*

Hymn (2009) Ian MUNRO
(b. 1987)

RISE (2010)* Leaha Maria VILLARREAL
(b. 1982)

Olga Patramanskaya, Sam Stapleton; *violins*
 Jeremy Chiew, *viola*
 Christopher Homick, *violoncello*

-Brief Intermission-

Apollonian Hymns and Dances (2005, rev. 2010) Daniel PESCA
(b. 1985)

Reddish Blue (2010) Chad GRAY
(b. 1985)

* denotes World Premiere performance

Works for String Orchestra

Fratres - Arvo Pärt

Apollonian Hymns and Dances - Daniel Pesca

Reddish Blue - Chad Gray

Samuel Stapleton, *conductor*

Violin I

Olga Patramanskaya (concertmistress)

Lilit Hartunian

Layth Sidiq

Violin II

Megan Seiler

Pamela Cumming

Kiho Yutaka

Viola

Alex Duval

Alexander Vavilov

Eve Boltax

Jeremy Chiew

Violoncello

Emma Davis-Oeth

Will Roseliep

Christopher Homick

Contrabass

Chad Gray

Sidney Richardson

Percussion

Jeff Stern

Program Notes

Fratres

Arvo Pärt

Two quotes by Estonian composer Arvo Pärt on his compositional philosophy and technique:

“If there were no continual effort to start from the beginning there would be no art. I cannot help it but start from scratch. I am tempted only when I experience something unknown, something new and meaningful for me. It seems, however, that unknown territory is sooner reached by way of reduction than by growing complexity. Reduction certainly doesn’t mean simplification, but it is the way – at least in an ideal scenario – to the most intense concentration on the essence of things. In the compositional process I always have to find this nucleus first from which the work will eventually emerge.”

“Tintinnabulation is like this. Here I am alone with silence. I have discovered that is enough when a single note is beautifully played. This one note, or a silent beat, or a moment of silence, comforts me. I work with very few elements – with one voice, with two voices. I build with the most primitive materials – with the triad, with one specific tonality. The three notes of the triad are like bells. And that is why I called it tintinnabulation.”

Hymn

Ian Munro

Hymn was written as a prayer for peace *in tempore belli*. I was inspired by songs of peace from the American folk traditions as well as the beautiful sound of the original Carter Family recordings. While the title is “Hymn,” in the end, I didn’t use any direct quotes from particular hymns. I instead wanted to use simple language and harmonies to convey an honest hope for a resolution of conflict in these dangerous times.

RISE

Leaha Maria Villarreal

RISE was conceived as a string quartet commission from the PUBLIQuartet in 2010. As no subject matter was specifically requested, I turned to literature for inspiration: *Steve Reich: Writings on Music, 1965-2000*. While very different from his compositional output, I was intrigued by the notion of removing one’s personality from a work, and letting the musical materials speak for themselves. RISE focuses on the ascent of a repeating harmonic cycle.

Apollonian Hymns and Dances

Daniel Pesca

My piece *Apollonian Hymns and Dances* is a lush tribute to the great Neoclassical composers of the mid 20th century – to Stravinsky, especially, whose beautiful *Apollo* I allude to in my title. I had long admired the dignity and grace of *Apollo*, and I wanted to try

to write something similar – something restrained, lyrical and elegant. My other aim was to create voluptuous textures while remaining economical and disciplined in my means. Most of the material in the piece grows organically from the tiny motif heard in the cellos and basses in the very first measures.

Apollonian Hymns and Dances is in two movements, performed without break. The first movement is flowing and passionate, the second stately and reflective.

Biographies

Samuel Stapleton, Music Director

Samuel Stapleton is serving his second year as music director of the Boston New Music Initiative. This season Sam will conduct works by Barber, Pärt, Schoenberg and Stravinsky, along with many more contemporary works.

Stapleton is also the associate director for the Boston String Players for whom he is transcribing works by Ravel and Radiohead to conduct this season. As a violinist, Sam plays with many orchestras in and around Boston and has recently appeared in recitals at the New England Conservatory, the University of Connecticut and on Cape Cod.

Sam holds masters degrees in orchestral conducting and violin performance and has spent two summers on violin scholarship at the Aspen Music Festival. Stapleton recently completed his second summer as a conducting fellow at the Pierre Monteux School.

Lilit Hartunian, violin soloist

Lilit Hartunian received an Undergraduate Diploma in Violin Performance from Longy School of Music and a B.M. in Violin Performance from Emerson College, graduating in 2010 as the recipient of the Roman Totenberg Award. Lilit is the concertmaster of Boston String Players and has performed as soloist with orchestras in Italy, Austria, Czech Republic, and Ukraine. She is violinist of the Lidiv Piano Trio who recently won the University of Connecticut Chamber Music Competition and the Longy School of Music Honors Competition. Lilit studies violin with Laura Bossert and works as Program Manager & Artistic Associate of PALS Children's Chorus.

Eve Boltax, viola

Eve Boltax is currently pursuing her Master's in viola performance at the Longy School of Music as a student of Dimitri Murrath. She received her Bachelor's degree in classical and jazz performance from the University of Massachusetts Amherst as a student of Elizabeth Chang where she won the 2010 UMass Concerto Competition and the 2009 Julian Olevsky Award. She has performed in festivals in California, Vermont, France, and Germany and in masterclasses for members of the Borromeo, Pacifica, Lark, Miro, and Emerson quartets. Last summer, she lived on Cape Cod where she worked as a member of the College Light Opera Company orchestra. She has collaborated with the LeeRoc Dance

Company, visual artist Sarah Purnell, and was a member of the jazz fusion group Rudy Brown.

Jeremy Chiew, viola

Jeremy Chiew (Singapore) has appeared as a soloist with the National University of Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Orchid Park Symphonic Wind Orchestra and the ACJC String Ensemble. He was a recipient of the National Arts Council – YST Conservatory Scholarship, and is now a Junior at the Longy School of Music. Jeremy participated in the master-classes of Kam Ning, Stephen Emmerson, Volker Hartung, and is currently under the tutelage of Mr. Dimitri Murrath. Past teachers include Jiri Heger, Oh Han Ling, Judy Tay and Tan Wee Hsin.

Prior to this, Jeremy completed his Music Diploma (Performance) at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and was the Viola Principal of its orchestra. He also led / joined other local performing ensembles in the past such as the Singapore National Youth Orchestra (SNYO), The Philharmonic Orchestra (TPO), re: mix, Singapore Festival Orchestra (SFO) and the Singapore Lyric Opera (SLO).

On the lighter side of things, Jeremy has appeared on television as a magical violinist on the arts programme 'Front', as well as participated in the performances of alternative genres - a Malay rock opera, 'Video Games Live!', and the concerts of Sarah Brightman, George Lam, Il Divo and Patrizio Buanne.

Pamela Cumming, violin

Pamela Cumming is a classically trained violinist from Williamstown, Ontario, Canada. She is currently studying violin performance at Berklee College of Music in various styles including jazz, fiddle, and popular music. She enjoys collaborating with other artists, and is excited for future performance opportunities.

Emma Davis-Oeth, violoncello

Emma Davis-Oeth recently finished her Master of Music degree in violoncello performance at the New England Conservatory. She began her undergraduate performance studies at the Eastman School of Music, and in 2008 graduated with honors from the University of Iowa with Bachelor degrees in both music performance and art history. An active performer, Emma has endorsed collaborative projects bringing the music of modern composers to a variety of venues, from Jordan Hall to the classrooms of public elementary schools. Emma currently performs as a member of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra and Discovery Ensemble, while working as a freelance musician in Boston. She attended the Aspen Music Festival and School as an orchestral fellow and teacher in the community music education division for three years and last summer participated in the Pierre Monteux School. In addition to serving as Concert Series Coordinator for the Boston New Music Initiative, Emma currently works at ArtsBoston, a non-profit arts organization dedicated to representing more than 170 theater, music and dance groups throughout Boston.

Alex Duval, viola

Alex Duval, viola, has been living and performing in the Boston area since 2009. Originally from Kansas City, Missouri, he was one of the leading freelance violists. He was regularly seen playing with members of the Kansas City Symphony. He has performed for such notable figures as governor of Kansas Kathleen Sebelius and first lady Laura Bush. Alex has also had the pleasure of performing overseas with various ensembles in Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Italy and Greece.

Along with performing, Alex is also an extremely passionate teacher. He was the main viola/violin instructor at K.C. Strings Conservatory (Kansas City), averaging forty private students per semester. Many of his students competed in regional and state solo competitions, receiving excellent ratings and accolades in the process. "Taking lessons from Alex was a very different experience from what I was used to. He was fresh, modern and entertaining without the dull monotony of most lesson teachers"- Durchelle McDaniel, violinist and former student.

Alex currently performs with Boston New Music Initiative, Boston String Players and is a founding member of Animus Ensemble.

Chad Gray, contrabass and composer

Chad Gray was born and raised in the small desert town of El Centro, CA. He picked up guitar when he was 13 and switched to electric bass a year later to play with the school jazz band. After graduating high school he began studying with Dr. Van Decker at the local college learning traditional composition and piano. During this time he acquired an acoustic bass and studied traditional jazz recordings and harmony from books and recordings. He then moved to Riverside, CA to study jazz with Jeff Ellwood and Charlie Richards as a preparation for Berklee College of Music.

After getting an impressive scholarship he moved to Boston to attend Berklee where he graduated in jazz composition. He studied bass with Rich Appleman, Bruce Gertz, Dave Hollender and Oscar Stagnaro and composition with Vuk Kulenovic, Dick Lowell, Greg Hopkins and Yacov Gubanov. During his few years in Boston he has played professionally with numerous groups of contrasting styles, including salsa, bluegrass, symphony orchestras, chamber groups, big band, modern and traditional jazz, pop/rock and more. He continues to compose, arrange and perform for groups all around the Boston area and beyond.

Christopher Homick, violoncello

Christopher Homick, cellist and composer, began his cello studies at the age of six in Raleigh, North Carolina at Ravenscroft School. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he studied cello with Brent Wissick. Previously, he has studied with Elizabeth Beilman, Assistant Principal of the North Carolina Symphony, and spent a semester studying from Selma Gokcen at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, England. He is currently pursuing a Masters of Music in Composition at The Boston Conservatory.

Ian Munro, composer

Ian Munro is a composer originally from Harleysville, Pennsylvania and now residing in Brooklyn. He graduated in 2010 with honors from University of the Arts with a BM in composition and studied with Tania Leon, Andrea Clearfield, Norman David and David Bennett Thomas. His compositions have been performed by Areon Flutes, Network for New Music, Argento Chamber Ensemble and at the GAMMA-UT Conference in Austin. Since summer of 2010, Ian has been on faculty and staff of the Walden School Young Musicians Program in Dublin, NH. He enjoys playing piano and highland bagpipe and plays Hammond organ with his band, The Three Wise Men. He is currently attending Brooklyn College for his MM in composition. More information about Ian is available at www.ianmunrobot.com.

Olga Patramanskaya, violin

Olga Patramanskaya was born and raised in Ukraine, where she received her musical education. After finishing her Bachelor's degree at the R.M. Glier Kyiv State Higher Music College and spending a few years at the National Musical Academy of Ukraine, she came to Boston to continue her education at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA. She received her Masters of Music degree under the guidance of Mr. Mark Lakirovich. Olga is a winner of the Concerto competition and Honors competition at the Longy School of Music as well as several competitions in Ukraine. She has performed as a soloist with the Longy Chamber Orchestra and the National Pops Symphony Orchestra in Ukraine, and has performed as a recitalist and in violin ensembles throughout Europe. Currently, Olga is an assistant conductor and chamber music coach in the Preparatory Department of the Longy School of Music. She is a member of the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, the Atlantic Symphony, the Newton Symphony, and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. In addition to giving private lessons, Olga actively plays chamber music with her friends in the Greater Boston area.

Daniel Pesca, composer

Daniel Pesca completed his Masters degree in both composition and piano performance at the University of Michigan in 2007, after receiving his Bachelor of Music with highest distinction in both areas at the Eastman School of Music. He has received much recognition for his work, including Eastman's Louis Lane Prize, a commission from cellist David Ying, a commission from the University of Michigan Symphony Band, a commission from The Commission Project of Rochester, NY, and the Elizabeth C. Rogers commission. His orchestral music has been premiered by the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra and the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra.

An active pianist as both soloist and collaborator, Daniel has performed in many venues across the country, including the Kennedy Center, the Chicago Cultural Center and the Aspen Music Festival, where he was an orchestral piano fellow for three summers. Ensembles Daniel has played in include Michigan Chamber Players, Ossia, Musica Nova, Dal Niente, and the Contemporary Music Ensemble of Northwestern University. He has been the featured soloist in concertos by J. S. Bach, Olivier Messiaen, and Elliott Carter.

Daniel has participated in the Bowdoin International Music Festival, the American Conservatory in Fontainebleau, France, and the TCU/Cliburn Piano Institute. A native of Huntsville, Alabama, Daniel currently resides in Evanston, Illinois.

Sid Richardson, contrabass

Sid Richardson is a twenty-two-year-old Boston-based composer who also performs as a bassist and pianist with new music and jazz groups such as the Axis New Music Ensemble and the Jason Safer Quartet. He has studied composition with John McDonald and Elliott Schwartz and holds a BA in music from Tufts University, where he avidly pursued performances of new music. In addition to music, Sid is interested in sailing and classical studies, which provide much of the inspiration for his works.

Will Roseliep, violoncello

Will Roseliep started playing cello at 10 years old. He received a BM from the University of Iowa, and studied cello at the Cleveland Institute of Music. His instructors have included Charles Wendt, Amos Yang, Hannah Holman, and Peter Howard. Born in Dubuque, Iowa, he is a freelancer for National Public Radio in Boston.

Megan Seiler, violin

Megan Seiler, a 2006 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a concentration in music performance, was born into a family of musicians. She began studying violin at the age of seven and has continued playing and performing ever since. At the age of 14, Megan won first place in the concerto division of the New Hampshire Youth Solo Competition and throughout her high school years participated in numerous New Hampshire honors All-State chamber groups. During her years at UNC she studied with Dr. Richard Luby and under his coaching performed in multiple chamber recitals and completed three solo recitals. During her senior year in college, Megan won the UNC Concerto Competition which allowed her the privilege of performing a solo with the UNC Orchestra. Megan's former violin instructors include Mrs. Louise Wear, Ms. Deborah Boykan of the Boston Pops Orchestra, Mr. Scott Flavin of the University of Miami, and Associate Professor Dana Mazurkevich of Boston University. Megan is currently pursuing a master's degree in Early Childhood Education at Boston University as well as training towards certification as a Suzuki violin teacher.

Layth Sidiq, violin

Jeff Stern, percussion

Jeff Stern is currently completing his Bachelor of Music degree in music education and percussion performance at the University of Massachusetts Amherst where he studies with Ayano Kataoka and Thomas Hannum. A native of Philadelphia, Jeff quickly gained recognition in the field of percussion as he was selected from high school music students nationwide to perform alongside the Virginia Symphony Orchestra for President George W. Bush at America's 400th birthday celebration in Jamestown. He has also been quite active in the field of marching percussion. Jeff competed in the drum corps circuit for five years, including four years at the world-class level and one summer with the nine-time

world champion Cadets. He was also a member of the UMass drumline under the direction of Thom Hannum (DCI hall-of-fame) for four years, serving as the section leader for his final season. Since relocating to Massachusetts for school in 2007, Jeff has become sought after as both an orchestral percussionist and a chamber musician. In addition to the various university ensembles, he has performed with the Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra, the Amherst Symphony Orchestra, the Mount Holyoke Orchestra, and the Commonwealth Opera. Jeff was selected to participate in the Sō Percussion Summer Institute in 2010 and is scheduled to perform alongside former Sō member, Doug Perkins, this June as part of the Make Music New York festival. He is an advocate of new music and collaboration and is very excited to be involved in the great things happening with the Boston New Music Initiative.

Alexander Vavilov, viola

Originally from Ukraine, violist Alexander Vavilov has earned recognition as a soloist, chamber music and orchestra player in the Boston area. He has had the honor of collaborating in a chamber music setting with such outstanding artists as the Borromeo quartet, James Buswell, Barbara Westphal, Ronald Leonard, Rhonda Rider and Lynn Chang. He was a First Prize winner in the 2003 Massachusetts ASTA string players' competition and a finalist in a 2004 ASTA national competition. Other achievements include Diplomas in the Ukrainian National Viola competition in Lviv and the New Names of Ukraine competition in Kiev.

Alexander is currently a principal of the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra and performs regularly with the Boston Modern Orchestra Project. Other orchestra experiences include Boston Ballet, Kalistos Chamber Orchestra, Indian Hill Symphony, Worcester Collegium as well as Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, as a member of which he performed in Boston Symphony Hall and Carnegie Hall, NY in February 2004. He makes regular appearances as a chamber and solo musician at the various concert series in the Boston Area.

In addition to Sarasota and Tanglewood, he also participated in Meadowmount Summer School of Music, Bowdoin Summer Music Camp, Triple Helix chamber workshop and the Lydian String Quartet summer workshop. He also won the Boston Conservatory string honors competition in spring 2006 as well as chamber honors competition in both spring and fall of the same year. In the summer of 2008 he joined the faculty of Point Counterpoint Music Camp where he enjoys teaching and coaching chamber music as well as participating in up to four faculty chamber concerts per summer.

Alexander earned his Bachelors and Master's degree from the Boston Conservatory where he studied with former BSO assistant principal Patricia McCarty. He earned his Graduate Diploma from New England Conservatory where he was a student of a renowned viola soloist Kim Kashkashian.

Leaha Maria Villarreal, composer

Composer Leaha Maria Villarreal explores classical and contemporary trends to produce unique works of art. Inspired by visual artists and literary figures, her pieces are described as introspective with particular attention to space, resonance, and silence.

Villarreal's music has premiered on both coasts featuring members of the percussion ensemble red fish blue fish, rising soprano Laura Mitchell, and in cooperative projects featuring the Los Angeles New Music Ensemble. Past composition teachers include Pulitzer-prize winner Roger Reynolds, Dr. Steven Kazuo Takasugi, Chinary Ung, and Tania Leon. Recent engagements include Make Music New York and The Tank, as well as the Composer's Voice concert series. She is co-founder of the Audio & Music Project; a composer's collaborative dedicated to exploring commonalities with other art forms.

Villarreal holds B.A. in Music, with a minor in Philosophy, from the University of California, San Diego. She currently lives and works in New York City.

Kiho Yutaka, viola

The Boston New Music Initiative Concert Series, Season Two

We hope to see you in our second concert season!

Concert #5: May 2011

Program TBD, Selected Vocal and Choral Works from our February Call for Scores

Concert #6: June 2011

Featuring the music of Moon Young Ha, Peter Van Zandt Lane, Jeff Myers, Eric Nathan, Thomas Sturm (winner of the American Festival for the Arts/Boston New Music Initiative Young Composer Award), and more!

Visit us on the web:

www.BostonNewMusic.org