

ACOUSTIC MEMORIES George Gomez-Wheeler is a composer and performer of acoustic and electronic music. His work combines diverse instruments and genres, musical interactivity between performer and computer, concepts of spatialization, and video processing. His current research interests continue to focus on a theoretical approach to electroacoustic music composition as well as the creation and mapping of new electronic musical instruments that attempt to capture human expression.

The concept for *Acoustic Memories* is based on my experience at the Mt. Baldy Zen Center. This memory was created over 15 years ago, but over time my memories continue to morph and evolve. While recalling this old memory today, my brain pieces together various components to create a pattern that forms a cohesive narrative of things past. I remember waking before dawn and walking in the cold, through the darkness, to the Zendo for group meditation. A senior student brought warm green tea and administered the meditation stick while we sat facing away from each other. I remember the tranquility of that dawn on the mountain juxtaposed with my racing chaotic mind, all centered by the meditation bell.

DEFIANCE Robin Cox is a composer, violinist, multidisciplinary collaborator, and technologist addressing intersections of acoustic and electronic sound, visual media, and new listening methods and environments. He has also directed The Robin Cox Ensemble in over 170 performances, produced numerous albums of contemporary music, premiered over 100 works by other artists, created the large scale community dance participation event HOURGLASS, co-invented the immersive audio/video performance venue BIG TENT, directed a mixed-media concert series as founder of Iridian Arts, and currently serves as Program Director of Music Technology at Indiana University Purdue University Indiana (IUPUI).

Cox has received numerous awards, including multiple Lester Horton Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Music for Dance and an ASCAP Deems Taylor Award for the founding of Iridian Radio. He holds degrees from the Univ. of Texas at Austin, Univ. of Michigan, and the Univ. of Miami, and after many years on faculty at CSULB's Bob Cole Conservatory and the California Institute of the Arts, Dr. Cox joined the Music and Arts Technology faculty at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) in fall of 2013.

Both Igor Stravinsky and David Lang kept popping up in my heading while writing this. Perhaps it is that, in both words and music, each projects an attitude towards art-making of an idealistic defiance. While both of these composers are often spoken of as rejecting the past, charting a pathway forward, blah, blah, I hear in their work, and words, something more simple and direct: defy the insecurities, write what you live, avoid unnecessary/extraneous verbiage in program notes, live with the piece however it works out.

Both *Defiance* and *Synthetic Objects* were commissioned by the New Music Ensemble.

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THE BOB COLE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AT
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH AND THE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS PROUDLY PRESENT:



NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE

ALAN SHOCKLEY
DIRECTOR

"SOUND OBJECTS"

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2019 8:00PM

GERALD R. DANIEL RECITAL HALL

PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC MOBILE DEVICES.

PROGRAM

Bicycle Piece for Orchestra (1962)..... Yoko Ono (b. 1933)

Trio (1988) Martin Bresnick (b. 1946)
I. Semplice, Inesorabile

Libertango (1974) Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

Buffalo Jam (1982)..... Pauline Oliveros (1932-2016)

Acoustic Memories (2019)..... George Gomez-Wheeler (b. 1970)

World Premiere

Defiance (2018) Robin Cox (b. 1966)

World Premiere

PERSONNEL NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Alan Shockley—director

Melissa Demarjian—clarinet

Cameron Johnston—tuba

Phoebe Lin, Maria Penaloza, Esbeyde Sanchez—violin

Kathryn Carlson, Angel Liu—cello

Tobias Banks—contrabass

Joseph Bucsit, Tom Flores, Tiffany Ta—piano

Kelly McCandless, David Saldaña—voice

Special guests:

Alexander Elliott Miller—electric guitar

Angelos Ntais—piano

NOTES

BICYCLE PIECE FOR ORCHESTRA Yoko Ono is a Japanese singer, songwriter, multimedia and performance artist, and a political activist. She was an active part of the Fluxus group in the 1960s in New York City, and in 1980 her collaboration with her husband John Lennon, the album *Double Fantasy*, topped the pop charts. In 1989 the Whitney Museum hosted a retrospective of her art, and in 2009 she received a Golden Lion Award for lifetime achievement from the Venice Biennale. Her collection of text pieces *Grapefruit* was published in 1964.

TRIO Martin Bresnick was born in New York City in 1946. He was educated at the High School of Music and Art, the University of Hartford, Stanford University, and the Akademie für Musik, Vienna. His principal teachers of composition include György Ligeti, John Chowning, and Gottfried von Einem. Presently Professor of Composition and Coordinator of the Composition Department at the Yale School of Music, he has also taught at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Stanford University.

He has received many prizes, among them: Fulbright Fellowship, the Rome Prize Fellowship, American Academy of Arts & Letters (1998), Composer-in Residence, American Academy In Rome (1999), and a Guggenheim Fellowship (2003), and elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters (2006).

Martin Bresnick's Trio is four movements, each with a suggestive title reflecting the spirit of the movement. The first movement "Semplice, Inesorabile" translates as Simply, Inexorably. Trio was commissioned by and is dedicated to the Monticello Trio.

LIBERTANGO Composer and bandoneon player Astor Piazzolla was born in Mar Del Plata, Argentina to Italian immigrant parents, and spent much of his childhood in New York City, returning with his family to Argentina as a teenager. He studied both tango music and Bach from an early age, and eventually pursued composition studies with Alberto Ginastera in Buenos Aires and later with Nadia Boulanger in Paris. Piazzolla is famous for his individual approach to the tango, the nuevo tango, and his tangos often exhibit many elements not traditional to the genre, incorporating jazz elements, Baroque-influenced counterpoint, and extended harmonies and dissonances unusual for the style.

BUFFALO JAM Composer Pauline Oliveros was born in Houston, Texas and has taught at Mills College, the University of California, San Diego, Oberlin, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Since the 1960s she has influenced American music profoundly through her work with improvisation, meditation, electronic music, myth and ritual. She is the founder of "Deep Listening," which comes from her childhood fascination with sounds and from her works in concert music with composition, improvisation and electro-acoustics. Oliveros describes Deep Listening as a way of listening in every possible way to everything possible to hear no matter what you are doing. John Cage said, "Through Pauline Oliveros and Deep Listening I now know what harmony is. It's about the pleasure of making music." In the last few years, there have been major releases of Oliveros' works in both recording and in score form; in 2012, Important Records released a 12-CD box set of Oliveros' works, *Reverberations: Tape & Electronic Music 1961- 1970*, and late in 2013, Oliveros published an anthology of her text scores. In November 2014 the New Music Ensemble gave the world premiere of Oliveros' work *Sound Listening*, which was commissioned by the ensemble.