

Mother Nature

Featuring compositions for saxophone quartet inspired Mother Nature
presented by

Asian Women Composers Association (AWCANYC)
in association with Concrete Timbre

Cobalt Quartet

Saturday, May 19, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Olli Studio Gallery
336 West 37 Street
New York City

Raymond Kelly - Soprano Sax

Anthony Izzo - Alto Sax

Ryan Mantell - Tenor Sax

Josh Lang - Baritone Sax

Compositions

Solstice Sunrise at Stonehenge

Ann Warren

The Solstice Sunrise at Stonehenge happens this year at 4:43 am on June 21, 2018 BST.
Hear ye, hear ye, now is the time of the rose, blossom and thorn, fragrance and blood.
On this longest day, the light triumphs and yet begins the decline into the dark.
Laugh not so lightly, King, for not lightly are these words spoken.
And in these stones layeth a mystery...

Atmosphere

Dafina Zeqiri Nushi

The composition Atmosphere for two vocalize saxophones is a description of the spiritual atmospheres that surround us. Such a spirit is realized by using different techniques like singing and playing at the same time. Also tried to visualize the former periods, as renaissance and baroque in modern aspect, with a combination of modes and techniques, like glissando with air sound, air tone, playing with air sound, blowing with key slaps, growling, irregular way vibrato, key percussion and so on.

Bagatelles

David Loeb

Bagatelles, as the title implies, is a succession of relatively short movements which have sharp contrasts both within and between them. "Caprices" might have been a more apt title, but that seemed out of place for a chamber work. It was originally written at the request of Allen Won who has performed it with several ensembles.

Weak Flesh

Alexander Chadwell

Weak Flesh derives its title from Matthew 26:41, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." As a Jew (and not very religious one at that), or what some call a "cultural" Jew because of my proclivity for lox and schmear on an everything bagel but poor attendance at synagogue, I did not encounter this while reading the Bible. Of course, this phrase was not wholly foreign to me. I'd been warned from religious figures and stories/literature that derive from Judeo-Christian religions that I have weak flesh and thus, a proclivity for more than just lox and schmear. I was reminded of this axiom recently while listening to "Default" by Thom Yorke's supergroup, Atoms for Peace. He sings, "I've gotta stop; the will is strong but the flesh is weak. I guess that's it, I've made my bed and I lie in it." And so I dwelled on that and started thinking about how weak my flesh is; it goes beyond just my lack of willpower for bagels and sexual temptation. This piece is an exploration of those thoughts and feelings.

Nightdance

David Loeb

Yomai (Nightdance) is a one-movement solo work for tenor rather than alto saxophone.

This choice arose from the desire to compose a piece which would have challenges of color and control rather than technical virtuosity. This is characteristic of most music written for Japanese wind instruments, so a Japanese title seemed more appropriate than a Western title.

Insula Dulcamara

Jinhee Han

Insula Dulcamara for saxophone quartet is based on B-chromatic scale is used as prime form of 12 tone Matrix with an alternative Rondo form, A-B-A-C-A'-D-A"-E-A"' Common 'A' is consisted of three chords from F mixolydian scale as a reconciliatory. The piece speaks a message, finding a hope in hopeless, which is found on the last artwork by Paul Klee.

Intermission

Hypervigilance'

Amy Brandon

Hypervigilance (n.): the perpetual scanning of one's environment. This piece is a reflection on the passive surveillance state, created by the Internet of Things, where innocuous objects gather and transmit data about their use. Snippets of the saxophone sound is picked up by the computer's microphone, cascades through over 100 channels and filters, unfolding and altering as it travels through time, mimicking the transmission of data.

Saxophone Quartet No. 1

Anthony Izzo

Saxophone Quartet No. 1 begins with a slow introduction where the main theme is introduced. The following fast section is very rhythmic and driving and the solos from each of the saxophones is a variation on the opening theme. There are only 4 harmonies used in the entire piece: open 4ths, Minor-major seventh chords, Major, Minor chords and augmented major seventh chords.

Cells

Jake Elkin

Cells is a short minimalist work based on short motives which act both independently and as part of a larger "organism" in the quartet.

Gezichten Vanaf Nieuw Amsterdam

David Loeb

Gezichten vanaf Nieuw Amsterdam (Views from New Amsterdam) seemed like a perfect title for a piece written by a New York composer for a Dutch ensemble, especially for a group whose members had all visited New York at one time or another. This piece also has strong contrasts, but places a greater emphasis on counterpoint than the "Bagatelles".