

From Boston:



Trevor Berens, piano



Aaron Larget-Caplan, guitar

From Hartford:



Sydney Anderson, voice



Stuart Breczinski,
oboe and electronics



Patricia Guadagnoli, piano



Janet Jacobson, violin



Ryan McMasters, bass



Elisabeth Tomczyk
piano



Gróa Margrét Valdimarsdóttir, violin

Works by Living Composers



Julian Bender
(Bethlehem, CT)



Erberk Eryilmaz
(Hartford, CT)



Jonathan Feist
(Harvard, MA)



Rachel Foote
(Alameda, CA)



Bunita Marcus
(Brooklyn, NY)



Kota Nakamura
(Boston, MA)



David Patterson
(Watertown, MA)



Kevin Siegfried
(Dover, NH)



Nolan Stolz
(Hartford, CT)

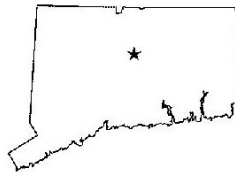


David Vayo
(Bloomington, IL)



Peteris Vasks
(Riga, LATVIA)

New Music



Hartford

SPRING CONCERT

Hartford Public Library
500 Main Street

Saturday, May 8
2:30 PM

Admission is FREE

New Music Hartford
Nolan Stolz, Artistic Director

- Peteris VASKS (b. 1946) *Bass Trip* (2003)
Ryan McMasters, bass
- Julian BENDER (b. 1986) *Above, the Joyous Lake. Below, the Receptive Earth* (2010)
Elisabeth Tomczyk, piano
World Premiere
- Nolan STOLZ (b. 1981) *Waka for Steve and Waka* (2009)
Sydney Anderson, voice
Patricia Guadagnoli, piano
World Premiere
- Bunita MARCUS (b. 1952) *But to Fashion a Lullaby for You* (1988, rev. 1998)
In Memory of Morton Feldman
Trevor Berens, piano

BRIEF INTERMISSION

- Rachel FOOTE (b. 1982) *Aggregate*⁷ (2006)
Stuart Breczinski, oboe
with fixed electronic media
- Erberk ERYILMAZ (b. 1989) *Duos for Two Violins* (2006)
1. +
2. -
3. =
Gróa Margrét Valdimarsdóttir
Janet Jacobson
- Jonathan FEIST (b. 1968) *No Time* (2009)
Aaron Larget-Caplan, guitar
Connecticut Premiere
- David PATTERSON (b. 1966) *Counting Sheep* (2010)
World Premiere
- Nolan STOLZ (b. 1981) *Lullaby for Sam* (2008)
Connecticut premiere
- David VAYO (b. 1957) *Berceuse* (2007)
Connecticut premiere
- Kevin SIEGFRIED (b. 1969) *Tracing a wheel on water* (2003)
Connecticut premiere
- Kota NAKAMURA (b. 1979) *Sui-hou* (2010)
World Premiere

About the Performers:

Sydney **ANDERSON** (Hartford, CT) At nineteen years old, she is quite new to the contemporary genre, and is honored to be premiering Stolz's *Waka for Steve and Waka* today. Originally from Buffalo, NY, she was chosen every year of High School for various All-County, Area All-State, and Conference All-State ensembles in both voice and flute/piccolo. As a sophomore, she won the Best Actress award at a Regional competition for her role as Anna in "The King and I," which inspired her to pursue a career in performance. Last year she majored in Musical Theatre at The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York, NY, and is now a Freshman Vocal Performance/Music Education Double Major at The Hartt School.

Trevor **BERENS** (Lincoln, MA) is a pianist, composer, and instructor. Trevor specializes in new music and has commissioned several composers for solo piano music and chamber music. He founded and led the Los Angeles Wholesale Orchestra through three seasons of performing 20th and 21st c. music. Trevor holds a Master's Degree in Piano Performance and Composition from the California Institute of the Arts and is currently working towards a Master's Degree in Music Therapy at Lesley University. <http://www.trevorberensmusic.com>

Stuart **BREZINSKI** (West Hartford, CT) An avid chamber musician, Brezinski is a founding member of the Hartt Reed Quintet and is additionally a member of Hartt's Performance 20/20 chamber music program. He was previously a member of the Sorcerers Double Reed Quartet, with whom he performed twice at the International Double Reed Society Conference and competed in the the Plowman Chamber Music Competition semifinals. As the 2009 winner of the Paranov Concerto Competition, Brezinski performed the American premiere of Paul Patterson's Phoenix Concerto for oboe and strings with the Hartt Symphony Orchestra. A composer as well as an oboist, Brezinski completed a commission for the Midwest Double Reed Society's 25th Anniversary. He is in his first year in the Master of Music program at The Hartt School, pursuing his performance degree with oboe professor Humbert Lucarelli. He holds Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Science in Engineering degrees from The University of Iowa, where he studied the oboe with Mark Weiger.

Janet **JACOBSON** (Hartford, CT) has performed solo recitals at the Longfellow House in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and as part of the Elderhostel Lecture-Recital Series in Boston as well as chamber music appearances at the Killington Music Festival and at West Virginia University. An active proponent of new music, Ms. Jacobson has performed with contemporary music ensembles such as Juventas and the Ludovico Ensemble. She holds a Master's degree from the Boston Conservatory where she studied with Irina Muresanu and is currently pursuing a Doctoral degree in Violin Performance at the Hartt School of Music as a student of Katie Lansdale.

Aaron **LARGET-CAPLAN** (Boston, MA) is the founder of the New Lullaby Project and the classical Spanish music and flamenco dance group *¡Con Fuego!* He has performed in Italy, Spain and on the east and west coasts of the US. Some recent engagements include soloist with the Waltham Symphony Orchestra, Castillo di Galeazza in Bologna, Italy, Boston's Jordan Hall, and Harvard University. He has premiered over twenty solo and chamber works, many of which were written for him. Aaron has released two solo discs, *Tracing a wheel on water* (2006) and *New Lullaby* (2010). His teachers include Dmitry Goryachev, David Liesner, Eliot Fisk and flamenco with Juanito Pascual. He is a graduate of the New England Conservatory. He teaches at the New School of Music in Cambridge and has an active private studio. www.AARONLC.com

Ryan **MCMASTERS** (Hartford, CT) is a bassist and composer who specializes in new music and improvisation. Originally from Pittsburgh, PA, he has worked with the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, Pittsburgh Opera Theater, composers Nizan Liebovich and David Cutler, and was a founding member of Cuidado, a Pittsburgh based Tango ensemble. As a member of Squonk Opera, Ryan has helped create, premier, and tour their largest show to date: Astro-Rama. His works in musique concrete have been featured on the Globe Bikes website and in several short films. Ryan has a Bachelor of Music Degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA and is in pursuit of a Master's of Music from The Hartt School in Hartford, CT.
www.myspace.com/ryanmcmastersbass

Elisabeth **TOMCZYK** (Hartford, CT) is a pianist, accompanist and instructor. She has performed in the United States as well as Europe, soloing with the Clayton Symphony Orchestra and Webster University Orchestra in St. Louis. As an advocate for new music, she premieres, performs and records many new works of emerging composers. Elisabeth holds a bachelor's degree from Webster University in St. Louis and is currently pursuing a master's in piano at The Hartt School studying with Dr. David Westfall.

Gróa Margrét **VALDIMARSDOTTIR** (West Hartford, CT) is active in playing new music in the U.S. and her native Iceland. Her motivation to promote classical music—both new and old—has led this violinist to perform in such unusual settings as prisons, hospitals, restaurants, and offices. Gróa is a prolific chamber and orchestra musician who has worked with conductors such as Vladimir Askenasy, Petri Sakari and Mark Wigglesworth. Gróa holds a B.Mus degree from the Iceland Academy of the Arts and a M. Mus degree from the University of Illinois. Former teachers include Auður Hafsteinsdottir and Sibbi Bernhardsson, among others. She currently studies with Anton Miller as a graduate student at the Hartt School.

About the Composers:

Julian R. **BENDER** (Bethlehem, CT) is a composer and guitarist. He is currently the bassist for a "swamp-folk" band in upstate New York. He has also played in the guitar ensemble at Naugatuck Valley Community College where he is currently finishing his sophomore year, studying composition with Dr. Nolan Stolz and Dr. Kirsten Peterson and guitar with Chris Morrison.

Erberk **ERYILMAZ** (Hartford, CT) was born in Samsun-Turkey, in 1989. His works have been performed Presidential Symphony Orchestra of Turkey, Hartt Symphony Orchestra, Hacettepe Chamber Orchestra, Gazi Chamber Orchestra and Hartt Independent Chamber Orchestra. He is the pianist of the Anatolian Trio and the Hartt School's Performance 20/20. Eryilmaz is also the director/conductor of the Hartt Independent Chamber Orchestra and the youngest member of the Society of Composers in Turkey. He was accepted to the Hacettepe University Ankara State Conservatory at the age of 11. In the Conservatory, he studied piano with Nuran Taspınar and composition with Serdar Mukhatov. After his graduation in Turkey, in the year 2006, he was accepted to the University of Hartford - The Hartt School of Music, Composition and Piano Departments. He has studied piano with Oxana Yablonskaya, Margreet Francis, composition with Stephen Gryc and conducting with Christopher Zimmerman. He also studied with important masters such as Andrej Jasinski, Vincenzo Balzani, Stanislav Pocheikin, Felix Gottlieb and Idil Biret. <http://www.erberkeryilmaz.tr.cx>

Jonathan **FEIST** (Harvard, MA) is a composer, songwriter, book publisher, and teacher. He is managing editor of Berklee Press, the book publishing arm of Berklee College of Music, and has written, edited, or produced over one hundred instructional books, DVDs, and online courses about many dimensions of music. Jonathan holds bachelor's and master's degree in composition from New England Conservatory, where he studied with Arthur Berger and William Thomas McKinley, and also studied with Arthur Cunningham. He writes and teaches courses for Berkleemusic, the online continuing education division of Berklee College of Music.
www.jonathanfeist.com

Rachel **FOOTE** (Alameda, CA) is an active duty member of the United States Coast Guard and is also the Assistant Editor of Events for *Journal SEAMUS*, published by the Society of Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States. She studied composition with Lawrence Fritts, Michael Eckert, and Antonio G. Barata, and oboe with Mark Weiger and Stuart Horn. Foote received her masters' degrees in composition and oboe performance from the University of Iowa, and a bachelor's degree in music from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo.

Bunita **MARCUS** (Brooklyn, NY) has written commissions for Bang on a Can All-Stars (Meet the Composers/Reader's Digest Consortium Commission), the Kronos Quartet, Aki Takahashi, NYSCA & the Gagego Ensemble, Morton Feldman and Soloists, Tokyo's "Sound-Space ARK" ensemble, and others. Her music has received awards from the National Endowment of the Arts (Composer's Fellowship), International Society of Contemporary Music, the League of Composers' National Competition, New York State Council on the Arts and the coveted Kranichsteiner Musikpreis at Darmstadt. From 1985-1990 Ms. Marcus produced the Salon Concert Series with painter Francesco Clemente in New York City. Marcus worked in both electronic and instrumental mediums while at the University of Wisconsin. In 1981 she received a Ph.D. in Composition from SUNY-Buffalo where she studied with Morton Feldman. Today, Dr. Marcus lectures, coaches and writes regularly on Morton Feldman's music.
www.bunitamarcus.com

Kota **NAKAMURA** (Boston, MA) His music has been performed on numerous occasions in the United States and Europe. He has received commissions and worked with Joanna Kurkowicz, John McDonald, String Quartet QX, Avalerion woodwind quintet, JACK Quartet Milana Zaric, and Katarina Jovanovic. Nakamura will be starting his Doctoral Study at McGill University (Montreal, CANADA) in 2010. He holds an M.A. in Composition from Tufts University. Nakamura has studied with Vuk Kulenovic, Tibor Puszta, Alla Cohen and John McDonald.
www.myspace.com/knakamura

David **PATTERSON** (Watertown, MA) His compositions are often described as "simple but not simple," "a clear and natural blending of many different kinds of music." His music ranges from an annotated collection for beginners, *20 Little Piano Pieces From Around the World*, published by G. Schirmer to *Isle of Hope* commissioned for Ellis Island Medal celebrations at St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City. "His preludes derive their inspiration partly from jazz...partly from old hymns"--New York Times. Toshiuki Shimada and the Portland Symphony Orchestra gave the U.S. premiere of *Strayhorn in Harlem*, VMM label, in its tribute to Duke Ellington. He is Professor of Music at University of Massachusetts Boston where he chaired the Music Department for 15 years. He studied with Nadia Boulanger and Olivier Messiaen in Paris and holds a PhD from Harvard University. www.notescape.net

Kevin **SIEGFRIED** (Dover, NH) has been hailed by the British magazine *Choir & Organ* as writing music of “austere beauty” that exhibits the “pressure and presence of personal conviction.” His music is performed regularly around the world and is known for its direct expression, lyricism, and accessibility. Siegfried’s music is published by E.C. Schirmer, Earthsongs, and Trinitas and has been recorded by leading ensembles including The Dale Warland Singers, The Tudor Choir, and Conspirare. The Tudor Choir’s *Gentle Words* CD, the premiere recording of Siegfried’s Shaker song arrangements, received wide acclaim and was praised as “a stunning addition to the repertoire” by *Fanfare Magazine*. In 2009, he was in residence with the Nashua Symphony. He received his doctorate in composition from The New England Conservatory, where he studied with Lee Hyla, Michael Gandolfi, and Daniel Pinkham. Since 2004, he has taught at The Boston Conservatory. www.kevinsiegfried.com

Nolan **STOLZ** (Hartford, CT) His music has been performed across Europe, in Canada and throughout the US by the Luna Nova New Music Ensemble, San Francisco Cabaret Opera, Fireworks Ensemble, Yale Brass Trio and others. He has been commissioned by Vox Novus (Composers’ Voice Concert Series), Las Vegas Music Festival Orchestra, Stony Brook Premieres!, Synchronix, Las Vegas Academy Jazz Ensemble, mezzo-soprano Leslie Ann Leytham, and guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan. His second cello sonata won the Most Outstanding Student Composition award at the 2009 College Music Society Northeast Conference. He held an artist residency at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts from Dec. 2009-Jan. 2010. Stolz recently completed a doctoral degree in composition from The Hartt School, where he studied with Robert Carl, Larry Alan Smith and Ken Steen. He received his master's from the University of Oregon where he studied with David Crumb and Robert Kyr and his bachelor's from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas where he studied with Virko Baley. He teaches at Naugatuck Valley Community College and at Three Rivers Community College. www.nolanstolz.com

Peteris **VASKS** (Riga, LATVIA) has been a member of the Lithuanian Philharmonic Orchestra, the Latvian Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra and the orchestra of the Latvian Radio and Television. In 1996 Vasks was appointed "Main Composer" of the Stockholm Festival of New Music. He was a three-time winner of the Latvian Music Prize (1993, 1998, 2000). The Ondine release of his Second Symphony was awarded the Cannes Classic Award in 2004. In 1996, Vasks was awarded the Herder Prize of the Alfred Toepfer Foundation Hamburg and since 1994 he has been an honorary member of the Latvian Academy of Sciences. In 2006 he was composer in residence at the Presteigne and the Vale of Glamorgan festivals. Vasks attended the Riga Music Academy and the Lithuanian Music Academy in Vilnius where he studied double-bass with Vitautas Sereika. He studied composition with Valentin Utkin at the Latvian Academy of Music in Riga. www.music.lv/Composers/Vasks/

David **VAYO** (Bloomington, IL) has received awards from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, ASCAP, the Koussevitzky Music Foundations, and the American Music Center, among others. Almost four hundred performances and broadcasts of his compositions have taken place, including performances at the International Trombone Festival, Grand Teton Music Festival, Thailand Composition Festival, and three World Music Days of the International Society for Contemporary Music. Vayo is also active as a pianist performing contemporary music, jazz and free improvisations. He teaches composition, improvisation and contemporary music at Illinois Wesleyan University, where he also is Coordinator of New Music Activities.

Program Notes (provided by the composers)

BENDER: *Above, the Joyous Lake. Below, the Receptive Earth.* is a somewhat constrained experiment with indeterminacy. The opening quicker section is as a stream pouring into the longer slower second section which is thus the lake. It is dedicated to Hiram Abiff.

FEIST: *No Time* is in a simple ABA(BA) song form. It was initially sketched shortly after the birth of my first son Merlin was born. He arrived startlingly early, and had to spend several weeks incarcerated at Massachusetts General Hospital. One night during this dark period of our family's suspended animation, I was home alone, feeling the loneliest I had ever been. But music surprised me, as it does every now and then, by being just an arm's length away—right there, when you need it. I wrote the essence of this piece to cheer myself up, and then put it away for many years, unable to bear thinking about it. Then finally, shortly after Merlin turned six, I met Aaron, and it occurred to me that a guitar lullaby would be the perfect realization of this second piece.

FOOTE: *Aggregate*⁷ is Rachel's M.A. thesis composition. This work is the second in a series of pieces entitled *Aggregate*. The series as a whole seeks to explore the many partnership possibilities between live and fixed performance media. *Aggregate*⁷ pays homage to Berio's *Sequenza VII* (for oboe) through both the title and some melodic gestures. The work employs both the oboe and the English horn which are given melodic material and extended techniques to perform. The extended techniques relate back to the "tape" part, while the melodic material gives the live performer his unique persona. The "tape" part is built primarily from basic waveforms and the manipulation of recorded oboe.

NAKAMURA: *Sui-hou* was written for guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan for his New Lullaby Project. The title means "ephemeral" in Japanese, which is suggested by the subtle texture of the piece.

PATTERSON: Aaron Larget-Caplan recently asked if I would contribute to his New Lullaby Project. *Counting Sheep* is the little piece I dreamt up.

SIEGFRIED: *Tracing a Wheel on Water* was written in 2003, shortly after moving from Boston to the southern coast of Maine. My wife and I were lucky enough to rent a house directly situated on a tidal inlet, and it was only a matter of time before the cycle of tides and the play of light and water began to shape our lives. My first composition for solo guitar, *Tracing* draws on elements of my experience of the water's surface near our house. Stasis and meditative calm are met by flowing circles on the surface, enveloping one another in a rhythm that is always new yet never changing.

STOLZ: *Lullaby for Sam* was commissioned by guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan for his New Lullaby Project, and has been recorded for commercial release in 2010. The piece is dedicated to Samantha Johnson-Williams, and was composed during the summer of 2008. Its song-like introduction is followed by a section of scalar restlessness. It concludes with a dream-like passage of hypnotic harmonics.

STOLZ: The text for *Waka for Steve and Waka* is a 10th c. Japanese poem (waka) by Fujiwara no Atsutada. The song was written as a wedding gift for Steve Laity and Waka Omori. It contains three primary themes. The first, “Steve” features syncopation, repetition, and the interval of the perfect fourth: all common to the art rock genre (Steve is a huge Styx fan). The second, “Waka,” is a pentatonic melody that evokes Japanese folk music. The third theme is a combination of the “Steve” and “Waka” themes. It is used as the vocal line in the second half of the waka (Mukashi wa mono o / Omowazari keru) and in the interlude.

逢ひ見ての
後の心に
くらぶれば

むかしは物を
思はざりけり

VASKS: *Bass Trip* presents a haunting struggle between Latvian folk song and virtuosic showmanship. Written in 2003 as a compulsory piece for the ARD International Music Competition, this unaccompanied work spans the entire range of the instrument and demands an athletic endurance mixed with expressive sensitivity. The introduction features several cycles of a folk tune, increasing with expressivity and aggressiveness on each pass, before it is interrupted by a display of pure technicality in the form of extended barrages of sixteenth-notes and hand-wrenching double stops. Without a single moment’s rest, aside from the occasional breath mark, it is truly a non-stop adventure that has pushed the limits of this performer’s physical endurance, technical ability, and musical expressivity.

VAYO: *Berceuse* was composed for the New Lullabies project of guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan, who premiered it in May 2008. I hope that its simple, almost naïve tenderness will strike a chord with all of us who have been loved as children or loved a child as adults.

The next New Music Hartford concert will be:

September 18, 2010 at 3PM

Hartford Public Library

featuring the Alturas Duo (viola, guitar and charango), Yovianna Garcia (guitar), Nolan Stolz (electric guitar), Elisabeth Tomczyk (piano) and Lydia McClain (voice)

**For more information about New Music Hartford,
or for videos and .mp3s of previous New Music Hartford concerts, please visit:**

www.nolanstolz.com/nmh

www.myspace.com/newmusichartford

If you would like to support New Music Hartford, or if you are a composer and/or performer that would like to be involved, please email us at:

NewMusicHartford@nolanstolz.com