



the
continuum

news and views from continuum contemporary music

January, 2010

Chrysalis: a workshop and composition master class, open to the public, which steps into the hidden workings of musical creation

Continuum kicks off 2010 with Chrysalis, a workshop for emerging composers, Sunday, January 24, 2 – 6 pm at Gallery 345. Continuum's ensemble has given many workshops over the years – the list of institutions includes University of British Columbia, Banff, York University, University of Toronto, Trinity College (London, England) and Aberdeen University (Scotland) – but Chrysalis is our first self-presented workshop.

As part of a five-day SOCAN Foundation residency, noted Canadian composer, teacher, performance artist and rock guitarist Christopher Butterfield brings wide-ranging experience to the project as he conducts Continuum's ensemble, provides critique and also leads a discussion of those submissions that could not be performed in the limited space of an afternoon. Of the importance of the critique Butterfield has said:

"You make a sound, and the sound goes out and keeps on going and doesn't hit anything. There isn't a hard surface there to reflect it back to you, in the sense of a critique....For me, it's exciting to see

new work and to just sit down and talk about it and say 'What's going on here? What do you mean by this?' and 'Is this necessary?' or 'You might want to think about that.'"

Christopher Butterfield has taught at the University of Victoria School of Music since 1992, when he replaced the venerable Rudolf Komorous. The "Victoria School," which gained much of its character and reputation from Komorous (who was also Butterfield's teacher), is an approach both to teaching and to the aesthetic purposes of music characterized by deep exploration. It has its Toronto proponents in composers like Linda C. Smith, Martin Arnold, Allison Cameron and performers such as Eve Agoyan; through their teaching and creative activities it has influenced the Toronto scene and contributed to an identifiable Toronto sound. So Christopher's work and approach in this master class will have local resonance – but it will also be an unadulterated dose, a blast from the west. In Canada's varied aesthetic landscape the influence of "Victoria" has been important and continues to shape new composers – and it has made an impression abroad. Perennial instructors at the Young Composers Meeting in Apeldoorn, Netherlands have noted something strange and wonderful going on out there, on the basis of the number of young composers

admitted to its programme, many of whom have gone on to study at the Koninklijk Conservatorium Den Haag.

Participating composers

A doctoral student in composition at the University of Toronto, **Anna Hostman** has written works ranging from opera and orchestral to chamber and installation. **Lan-chee Lam** trained in her native Hong Kong and is now a doctoral student at the University of Toronto. She has received numerous international awards, including the Grand Prize of the Georges Enescu Competition (symphonic section). **William Peltier** is a composer re-emerging after a lengthy hiatus. He has some history at Wilfrid Laurier and McGill and early on was performed at Gaudeamus Music Week in Amsterdam; more recently he has had performances in New York, Cuba and various places in Europe. **Chris Thornborrow** studied at Wilfrid Laurier University and is now in the doctoral programme at the University of Toronto. He is a member of the Toy Piano Composers Collective. **Hiroki Tsurumoto** has an undergraduate degree in economics, and degrees in composition from the CUNY and the University of Toronto. His works have been performed in Asia, North America and Europe.

Chrysalis
Sunday, January 24
Gallery 345 (345 Sorauren Ave)

2:00-3:15 - score critique session
3:30-6:00 - workshop (not in performance order)

- Anna Hostman *ghosts of swallows*
- Lan-Chee Lam *La Défense*
- William Peltier *Springtime for Gentle Risings within Gridlock*
- Chris Thornborrow *Music for Marionettes*
- Hiroki Tsurumoto *Code Thumbnail 1*
- Christopher Butterfield *4 pearls*

While in Toronto Christopher Butterfield will also be appearing...

- Tuesday January 19 – a talk to University of Toronto (U of T) composition students
- Thursday January 21, 6:30 – a lecture at the Ontario College of Art and Design on the music and visual art scenes in Toronto in the 70's (**open to the public**) - Central Hall, 100 McCaul Street
- Monday January 25 – a lecture to U of T musicology students

Continuum awarded Compass grant

We are pleased to announce that Continuum was recently awarded a Compass grant by the Ontario Arts Council (OAC). Compass grants are awarded by the OAC “to assist arts organizations with organizational development projects...to help build administrative and management capacity in the arts.” We will be using our Compass grant to work with Jane Marsland, a nationally

respected non-profit and arts consultant, on a variety of aspects including board development, long-term planning and financial sustainability. We thank the Ontario Arts Council for their continued support of Continuum’s activities.

Speaking of board development, at our 2009 Annual General Meeting we bid adieu to three long-standing members of the board, and welcomed six new members. After many years of service, Caroline di Giovanni, Ira Eisen and Lynda Franklin retired as board members. They had seen Continuum through a variety of ups and downs and several major projects; we’d like to thank them for all of their help and support over the years.

And, thanks to help from Business For the Arts, we are pleased to welcome Evan Berman, Lanrick Bennett, Jonathan Lau, Faye Perkins, Matthew Ramenaden and Ed Rothberg to the Continuum Board of Directors. We look forward not only to harnessing their energy and abilities but to introducing them to Toronto’s vibrant new music community as Continuum enters a period of ambitious growth.

About the Coyote

Who is Coyote and why is he lurking in the background of this year’s marketing materials? “Wisdom of the Elders” (May 21), the culminating concert of the season and the focus of Continuum’s 25th anniversary celebrations, features a new work by Juliet Palmer on a text by native author Thomas King. Without

giving away the plot, in it Coyote, that trickster of native lore, has a dream, but the dream gets away from him, with enduring consequences for the small people on the planet. Beyond this connection, Coyote’s tricky qualities resonate with new music and with 25 years of Continuum activities.

Be a Part of the Continuum

Continuum Contemporary Music relies on donations to support our ongoing programming. Your donation will help us to organize unique musical and cross-disciplinary events, present concerts and student workshops of the highest caliber and demonstrate to arts councils a broad funding base. Making a donation to Continuum is easy and all donations are tax-receiptable.

Our note sale continues!

Throughout our 2009-2010 season we are selling notes for a mere penny each. To make a donation – and buy your notes – please call us at (416) 924-4945 or donate now online now via Canada Helps and get your tax receipt right away. Just go to continuummusic.org and click on the Canada Helps logo.

Thanks for your support - we look forward to seeing you soon.

