

NICHOLAS ROERICH MUSEUM

319 West 107th Street, New York NY 10025-2799 • tel: 212 864 7752 • fax: 212 864 7704 • email: director@roerich.org

Sunday, March 20, 2016, at 5 p.m.

Jai Jeffryes and Mihoko Suzuki, *piano*

Danya Katok, *soprano*; Heather Petrie, *mezzo soprano*;

Emerson Sieverts, *tenor*; Timothy Krol, *baritone*

PROGRAM

And The Hummingbird Sez... (excerpts from the song cycle) Mihoko Suzuki

Song of Earth:

Martin Rowe, libretto

“Kirinyaga” (Mount Kenya)

“Bwana, Ambapo ni Wewe?” (Lord, where are you?)

Three Preludes Garrett Ian Shatzer

Prelude No. 1 “Presbite”

Prelude No. 4 “Sleeve”

Prelude No. 3 “Jardin de Rodin”

Four Postcards Richard Cionco

Postcard for Brno

R Street

North Coast Postcard

In Flight

INTERMISSION

The Road Less Traveled Devin Farney

Phantasmagoria Talia Amar

Seasons of New York Waddy Thompson

Hudson River - Summer

Great Hill (Central Park) - Autumn

The Loch (Central Park) - Winter

Riverside Park - Spring

Ode to Number 14 Mihoko Suzuki

Part I - The Divided Self

Part II - Uncertainty of an Existential Perspective

Sound Design, Timothy Cramer

NOTES

SONG OF EARTH *Libretto by Martin Rowe*

Kirinyaga, (Mount Kenya)

Place of Brightness:

Whose sacred slopes no shoes could tread upon;
Shrouded in mist, you shyly hid your face from us.

“God does not live on the mountain. God lives in heaven.”

Kirinyaga, Place of Brightness:

We felled your trees; slipped silt into your streams;
Sliced curves of turf over the open lips of your gullies.
Stained tears into your skin; now you turn your face from us.

“Kenya, Britain’s most attractive colony”

Hakuna mungu kama yeye (There is no God like Him)
Hakuna upendo kama wake (There is no love like His)
Hakuna nguvu kama zake (There is no strength like His)

Nime tembea kote, kote (I walked and walked all over)
Nime zunguka kote, kote (I turned and turned all over)
Nime tafuta kote, kote (I searched and searched all over)

Bwana ambapo ni wewe? (Where are you, Lord?)

We are no longer what we were.
We have forgotten what we knew.
We do not know who we are now.
We once knew where God was; and now he is not there.

We’ve lost what we never thought we had.
We’ve gained what we did not think we’d need.
We gave away what was not ours to give, And took what
was not ours.

This place is changed, no longer earth.
The country empty before us.
A string that keeps sounding,
Broken within us.

“How have we sinned?”

Kirinyaga,
Place of Brightness: Let your veil descend.
Clothe your naked slopes in green, and send us rain.
Send us rain.

ODE TO NUMBER 14

Mihoko wrote this piece in a form of “dedication” to her very own upper molar tooth Number 14 which put her life through a year-long treatment as she battled through the pain and misery. The performance includes a recitation of the partial poem by Kenji Miyazawa “Ame nimo makezu” (Not losing to the rain). The translation follows:

Not losing to the rain
Not losing to the wind
Not losing to the snow nor to summer heat
With a strong body
Unfettered by desire
Never enticed to anger
Cultivate a quiet joy

JAI JEFFRYES is producer and pianist for Tangent Shores, a new music recording project from Steel Wig Records. In the spring of 2014 Jai posted a call for scores on his website and shared it with his followers on Twitter, generating hundreds of submissions from composers all over the world. The first Tangent Shores CD, *Amethyst*, features nine exciting composers and appears on the Composers Concordance Records label in April. Jai's first CD, *Hayner Resounding*, features studio recordings of music of Schubert and Debussy that he performed at the Hayner Cultural Center in his hometown of Troy, Ohio. Of *Hayner Resounding*, *American Record Guide* writes, "These are gentle performances, all quite lovely and all played with affection...The Steinway D has rarely been treated with such respect." Jai is an avid dancer of Argentine tango, which introduced him to his wife, photographer Jan La Salle.

MIHOKO SUZUKI conceives and composes multidisciplinary works including opera, music-theater, ballet, film, and sound-art installation. In her dramatic works, Mihoko explores the complex and often contradictory relationship between humans and the natural world. In 2011, Mihoko was honored to contribute a piece for the memorial ceremony of Wangari Maathai—the Kenyan environmentalist Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. Her musical setting of Alice Walker's poem "We Have a Beautiful Mother" was performed by Musica Sacra at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Mihoko is a recipient of the 2013 New York Foundation for the Arts: NYFA Fellowship in music/sound. Her piece for piano 4 hands "Ode to Number 14" was selected for NYFA's 30th Anniversary Music Compilation CD. A native of Japan, Mihoko studied piano at the Kunitachi College of Music in Tokyo, and composition at the Manhattan School of Music, where she received her Bachelor of Music degree.

MARTIN ROWE is a writer and the publisher at Lantern Books. With his partner, Mia MacDonald, he worked for ten years with the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Wangari Maathai, helping her write three books and publishing a fourth. He is the author of *The Elephants in the Room: An Excavation*, which is about his Relationship with Wangari Maathai, and has published *Wangari Maathai: Visionary, Environmental Leader, Political Activist* by Kenyan educator Namulundah Florence. He lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Soprano **DANYA KATOK** made her New York City Opera debut as Max in Oliver Knussen's *Where the Wild Things Are*. Other highlights include soloist with the Boston Pops in "An Evening of Cole Porter" alongside Broadway legend Kelli O'Hara, soprano soloist in Brahms' *Requiem* (Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church), soprano soloist in Mahler's *Symphony No. 4* (Pennsylvania Centre Orchestra & New York Symphonic Arts Ensemble), and Judy in Lee Hoiby's *This Is the Rill Speaking* (Chelsea Opera). A winner of multiple contemporary music awards, Danya has sung in over a dozen world premieres and has worked closely with composers Libby Larsen, John Musto, Richard Hundley, and Lembit Beecher.

HEATHER PETRIE has been hailed as "a true contralto, with a big, deep, resonant projection that can fill a hall." As a soloist she has recently appeared with the American Symphony Orchestra, CT Lyric Opera, and Sacred Music in a Sacred Space. She performs frequently with the NY Philharmonic, the choir of St Ignatius Loyola, Musica Sacra, Clarion Music Society, Essential Voices USA, and Voices of Ascension, and has also sung with the Holy Trinity Bach Vespers series, and at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. She has been a member of the opera chorus with NY City Opera, Bard Summerscape, and the Princeton Festival. Heather is a founding member of the critically acclaimed, eight-voice treble group Etherea Vocal Ensemble, and is featured on both of their recordings, released by Delos. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Voice from Bard College, a Master of Music in Opera Performance from SUNY Purchase Conservatory, and is a proud member of AGMA.

EMERSON SIEVERTS is a recent graduate of The College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA. A choral musician and performer of rock and pop in his childhood and teens, he is now based in Manhattan, and is a member of The Cathedral Choir of St. John The Divine, Musica Sacra, The Bach Choir of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and Canticorum Virtuosi. His choral arrangements have been performed by The James Madison University Men's Chorus, The H-B Woodlawn High School Men's Chorus, The Rockbridge Choral Society, and The San Jose State University Singers.

Baritone **TIM KROL's** repertoire spans from early music to modern opera. For nine years, he performed worldwide with Chanticleer, America's premier a cappella vocal ensemble, and won a Grammy Award for the album *Colors of Love*. Tim has performed many of Bach's cantatas, masses and Passions throughout the United States. He was an Adams Fellow at the Carmel Bach Festival; portrayed The Ferryman in a recent production of Benjamin Britten's *Curlew River*; and was a soloist in Bach's *B Minor Mass* with Sacred Music in a Sacred Space. This summer, Tim will make his solo debut at the Berkshire Choral Festival in a rhapsodic oratorio by the late Stephen Paulus.

GARRETT IAN SHATZER's music has been performed by such musicians as the Mobius Trio, the Erato and Finisterra Piano Trios, Grammy-winning countertenor Ian Howell, and Citywater Ensembles in such venues as the Kennedy Center, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, and St. Peter's Basilica. His current commissions include a piece for the Black Cedar Trio to be recorded on their debut album; a song cycle for tenor Charles Blandy, Grammy-nominated soprano Tony Arnold, and Grammy-winning conductor/violinist John McLaughlin Williams. Holding degrees from the University of Michigan, the University of Miami, and the University of California – Davis, Garrett has also had the privilege of studying music theory at Florida State University and composition at institutions in Paris, Buenos Aires, Melbourne, and Rome, amongst others. He is a member of New Music USA and is represented by BMI.

RICHARD CIONCO performs as piano soloist in recitals and concertos on three continents. He has been praised by the *New York Times* for his "sensitive pianism." Richard is a graduate of the University of Maryland and The Juilliard School. His original music and arrangements have been performed in Switzerland, Brazil, Italy, Germany, and throughout the U.S. In 2013, he was a featured composer at the Tribeca New Music Festival in New York. During 2014 his new composition for bassoon and piano, *New York Nocturne*, was premiered in Italy and then performed in New York as well; it was simultaneously published by TrevCo Music Publishers. Richard is Professor of Piano at California State University, Sacramento where he teaches and composes.

DEVIN FARNEY is a freelance composer and pianist based in San Francisco. Devin received his Bachelors of Music Composition from the University of the Pacific Conservatory of Music (2006) and his Masters of Music Composition from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music (2009). He and his music have been a part of the American Conservatory in Fontainebleau, France, the International New Music Festival in Darmstadt, Germany, the ANALOG Art's "Iron Composer" competition, and more. Devin is equally at home in the worlds of concert, film, and commercial music. He is the staff composer at Brilliant Ideas LLC, and has music featured in a number of music libraries including Crucial Music, SyncTracks, Spider Cues, Black Toast Music, DL music, and others.

TALIA AMAR was born in Jerusalem and began studying piano at the age of six with Mrs. Luisa Yoffe and composition at the age of 14 with renowned composer Prof. Mark Kopytman. She earned her B.M. in composition with honors under the guidance of Dr. Ari Ben-Shabetai and Prof. Yinam Leef at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. Talia earned her M.M. at the Mannes College of Music in NYC with Prof. Mario Davidovsky in composition and Prof. Victor Rosenbaum in piano. She is currently studying for her PhD at Brandeis University with Prof. Yu-Hui Chang. She has won several awards in international competitions, such as the CIRCE competition (USA-2013) and the London Ear Contemporary Music Festival (London-2013). Talia's string quartet "Obsession" has been selected by Lorin Maazel to be featured in the 2014 Castleton Festival.

WADDY THOMPSON has been praised by the *New York Times* for "atmospheric" and "engagingly antic" compositions. His works speak with a harmonic language all their own, very occasionally drifting into tonality, while always relishing melody. He graduated from the Eastman School of Music, where he was a student of Samuel Adler and Joseph Schwantner, and Florida State University, studying with Carlisle Floyd and Allen Sapp and earning masters and doctoral degrees. He is Director of Development for the Young People's Chorus of New York. He is a member of BMI.