

PROGRAM

Katherine Young - Solo Set

NOISE-BRIDGE

Felix Behringer, clarinets
Christie Finn, soprano

Mirror Canons (2013, World Premiere) Eliza Brown (b. 1985)

Poems of Louis Zukofsky (2009) Elliott Carter (1908-2012)

- 1. Tall and Singularly Dark
- 2. Alba (1952)
- 3. Finally a Valentine
- 4. O Sleep
- 5. The Rains
- 6. Rune
- 7. Strange
- 8. Daisy
- 9. You Who Were Made for This Music

Our Father (2012, World Premiere) Stuart Saunders Smith (b. 1948)

This Time Finer (2012) Eliza Brown

Tandem (2013, World Premiere) Chris Fisher-Lochhead (b. 1984)

PROGRAM NOTES

Absence: state of being away or not being present; period of being away; failure to attend or appear when expected; lack, deficiency; inattentiveness, preoccupation, absentmindedness

In compiling tonight’s program, the theme of “absence” emerged as a thread connecting all of the works. **Eliza Brown’s *Mirror Canons*** is a scenic exploration for her upcoming opera based on the life of Eleanora di Toledo (1522-1562). In this duet, Eleanora is speaking to her absent fiancé, Cosimo di Medici, a man whom she has not yet met, but whom she knows will change her life. Her only knowledge of him up to this point is through a painting. Here, in his absence, she imagines the first words that she will say to him—only to have those words reflected back upon her and distorted to reflect, perhaps, her more deeply hidden feelings about the upcoming marriage. The theme of absence is also explored in ***Poems of Louis Zukofsky***, composed by **Elliott Carter**. Sleep and dreams, the home of absent figures, are important images in the poems, and their power is demonstrated in lines such as “A sleep gainsays the dawn.” And as the song “Finally a Valentine” rejoices that the heart is “better apart than faint,” the song “Strange” deals with the phenomenon of absentmindedness and aging. **Stuart Saunders Smith’s *Our Father*** has a blatant theme of absence: this approximately 20 minute musical monologue combines an improvisatory-like melodic meditation with the painful yearning for the return of a father figure. The sparse, beautiful texture created in ***This Time Finer***, another work by **Eliza Brown**, seems to evoke the feeling of absence, with stark surprising “cries” that protest whatever it is that is lacking. Finally, in **Chris Fisher-Lochhead’s *Tandem***, the words on which the piece is based (haikus by Christie) are absent completely (well...almost), and for much of the piece, so is pitch. A ghostly conversation emerges and becomes more real, as often absence or absent things or people in our lives can seem more real than reality itself.

Absence was also an element of working with our Chicago-based composer friends, Eliza and Chris. After spending time working together at the Darmstadt courses for new music this past summer, we continued our trans-Atlantic collaboration through Skype and email, so that the works were written in collaboration, but not physically “together.” We are very thankful to Chris and Eliza for making this collaboration, and trip to Chicago possible.

- Christie Finn and Felix Behringer

Special Thanks to Elastic Arts and Nomi Epstein

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

NOISE-BRIDGE is a soprano-clarinet duo currently based in Stuttgart (Germany) and dedicated to performing standards in 20th and 21st century repertoire, contemporary works that are underperformed, and new commissions. NOISE-BRIDGE is especially dedicated to the responsibility of the performer to actively collaborate with composers. The duo was formed in 2009 when German clarinetist Felix Behringer and soprano Christie Finn met in the Contemporary Performance Program at Manhattan School of Music. Since then, NOISE-BRIDGE has performed at such venues as The Tank NYC, Vicky Chow's contagious sounds series at the Gershwin Hotel (NYC), and An Die Musik LIVE! (Baltimore, Maryland). NOISE-BRIDGE often works with American and European composers, many of whom collaborated with the duo at the International Summer Courses in New Music (Darmstadt, Germany) in 2012 and 2010, where they conducted "open space" workshops. Upcoming concerts include a reprise of tonight's concert in Esslingen (Germany) and a new project titled "Liebesverbrechen" ("The Crimes of Love") with percussionist Philipp Lamprecht. <http://christiefinn.com/noise-bridge>

Composer and bassoonist **Katherine Young** creates acoustic and electro-acoustic music that uses curious timbres, expressive noises, and kinetic structures to explore the dramatic materiality of sound, constantly shifting ensemble energies, and the tension between the familiar and the strange. About her 2012 release with her quartet Pretty Monsters, *All About Jazz* stated: "*Pretty Monsters* is one of the most intriguing ensemble debuts in recent memory, a sonically audacious record documenting the development of a bold young artist whose arresting improvisations are as remarkable as her engaging compositions." www.katherineyoung.info

Composer **Eliza Brown** writes music that explores the interaction between natural acoustic properties of sound, the physical construction of instruments, and culturally defined elements of musical meaning and syntax. Eliza's music has been performed and/or commissioned by Ensemble Dal Niente, Network for New Music, Spektral Quartet, Wet Ink Ensemble, members of the PRISM and Anubis saxophone quartets, and others. Current projects include an operatic scene for Center City Opera Theater and collaborations with members of Ensemble Dal Niente on solo and chamber works. www.elizabrown.net

Chris Fisher-Lochhead is a composer/performer currently residing in Chicago. His music explores various ways of being-in-the-world, including humor, language, tradition, embodiment, theatricality, and political engagement. He has worked with a wide array of performers, including the Arditti Quartet, Ensemble Dal Niente, The Spektral Quartet, Marcus Weiss, Rebekah Heller, and the Anubis Quartet. Upcoming projects include collaborations with Third Coast Percussion, Graeme Jennings, and the Mivos Quartet. www.cflmusic.com

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Felix Behringer, clarinets
Christie Finn, soprano



Opening set by Katherine Young, bassoon and electronics

Friday, March 8, 2013, 8pm
Presented by Elastic Arts, 2830 N. Milwaukee Street, Chicago, Illinois