

*The University of Minnesota – Duluth
School of Fine Arts Presents*

The First Annual
New Music Festival

Justin Rubin, Artistic Director
with guest artists:

Eric Beuerman, Enid Blount, Paul DeSilva, Conrad Harris,
John Merigliano, and Miyako Tadokoro Zeng

Music
at UMD



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The Programs

Day 1 (Tuesday): *The Diversity of 20th Century Art Music*

Evening Concert (Tweed Museum 7:30):

Miyako Tadokoro Zeng will present a performance and talk on the compelling composer **Toru Takemitsu** who introduced Japanese artistic principles into the European tradition.

Paul DeSilva will perform **Alban Berg's** revolutionary *Sonata Op.1* which brought back the form from its relative obscurity in the late 19th century and remodeled it into a vehicle capable of modern expression. He will be joined by **Enid Blount** in a performance of Berg's only chamber work for a solo instrument, the *Four Pieces for Clarinet and Piano Op. 4*.

Eric Beuerman follows with one of the 20th century's heirs to the Liszt and Alkan solo piano virtuosi tradition. Italian **Ferruccio Busoni's** *Second Sonatina* stands as a bridge between the Post-Romantic idiom of the Berg and the highly wrought style of the European composers of the pre-World War II era.

Day 2 (Wednesday): *Unique Directions*

Evening Concert (Tweed Museum 7:30):

Paul DeSilva and **Miyako Tadokoro Zeng** will perform compositions by **John Cage** exemplifying his almost rebellious attitude towards the prevailing styles of his time and a return to the simplicity that would mark the beginning of a new path for him.

Enid Blount will perform the *Sequenza* for clarinet by Luciano Berio who entirely redefined the scope of the solo unaccompanied genre. These works require enormous interpretative abilities and a facile technique unseen in the literature since the Sonatas and Partitas of J.S. Bach.

Conrad Harris has performed the music of **Iannis Xenakis** extensively in the United States and Europe. The seminal piece by Xenakis for violin is the duet with piano entitled *Dikhthas*. Xenakis expands the timbral resources of the instrument through a variety of double stopping techniques that are both effective for his expressive needs, and revolutionary in his re-conception of the string family. Of importance is his use of micro-tones which subtly, and not so subtly, come into stark contrast with the restricted tonal palette of the piano. Mr. Harris will also be performing unaccompanied works by the Italian mystic, Giacinto **Scelsi**.

Justin Rubin, on the music composition faculty here at UMD, has worked extensively with guest artist **Enid Blount** in the creation of new pieces. They will jointly describe the experience and perform one of the products of this relationship.

Day 3 (Thursday): *Today and Tomorrow*

Noontime Concert

Enid Blount performs the challenging *Raga Music* of **John Mayer**, a work known for its daunting virtuosity and seemingly endless abundance of character.

Eric Beuerman illustrates the vital activity in mid-century South America with a composer who was able to both liberate himself from the European but maintain a distinct profile within the Western tradition of the keyboard suite. **Alberto Ginastera's** evocative work holds together the diverse elements of indigenous folk song and an involved study of the piano's unique resonance.

Conrad Harris performs **Iannis Xenakis'** only two solo violin works, each a study in the possibilities of the uninterrupted line.

Evening Concert (Tweed Museum 7:30):

The John M. Corps for Minimalist Music presentation. This will feature a demonstration of many of the compositional techniques and styles associated with this genre especially concerning performance practice and concert preparation. The group's principal, **John Merigliano** will open with a talk on the Minimalist Movement as it relates to all the fine arts from its infancy to today. We will jointly discuss how we organized such a group and began playing in college what was reserved previously for only a few accomplished musicians.

The concert will include a major early composition of **Philip Glass**, *Similar Motion*, **Steve Reich's** *Piano Phase*, and a host of other works including the premiere of a new collaborative, multimedia piece by two of the Corps principal performers, Merigliano and DeSilva, entitled *In Transit*. Also two UMD student groups, directed by Dr. Stanley Wold and Prof. David Schmalenberger, will perform works of Arvo Pärt and Steve Reich respectively.