

Accessible Contemporary Music:
The Palomar Ensemble

Incidental Ducklings (2004)

Debra Kaye

Incidental music from her 1998 theatre piece *The Ugly Duckling*.

I Duckling Dance

II Ducks in Summer

III Duck Etiquette

Big Sky (2000)

Joan Tower (b. 1938)

“Big Sky is a piece based on a memory of riding my horse Aymara around in the deep valley of La Paz, Bolivia...as I rode I looked into a vast and enormous sky. It was very peaceful and extraordinarily beautiful. We never went over one of these mountains, but if we had, it might have felt like what I wrote in this piece.”

Three Contrasting Pieces (2009)

Seth Boustead (b. 1971)

Estemporaneo per tre musicisti (2007)

Justin Henry Rubin (b. 1971)

I Ondeggiante

II Con espressione e rubato

III Sdegnoso

Café Music (1986)

Paul Schoenfield (b. 1947)

I Allegro Con Fuoco

II Andante Moderato

III Presto

About “Accessible Contemporary Music”

Accessible Contemporary Music (ACM) is a non-profit organization in Chicago dedicated to promoting the music of living composers through our three structural pillars of performance, education and web-based composer advocacy. Performance initiatives include at least six concerts a year by our resident ensemble Palomar, led by Artistic Director Francesco Milioto. In 2004 we started our Composer Alive program in which we work with a composer in a different country every summer. A documentary film about our 2006 Composer Alive: Eastern Expressions project, part of Silkroad Chicago, was recently shown on WTTW and was the subject of a symposium at Stanford University’s Pan Asian Festival in April 2008. Our web-based advocacy projects include Weekly Readings in which we record a different piece by living composers from around the world every week during our regular season. We post these recordings to our website and send out a newsletter to our list.

Our education initiatives include a summer-long High School Composers workshop, a residency with the Chicago college of the Performing Arts at Roosevelt University and our studio in the Ravenswood neighborhood of Chicago in which we give piano lessons

and classes in music composition, music appreciation and theory, all with a focus on the music of our time. Through community outreach, innovative use of our website and exposure on mainstream television and radio, we are actively finding new and diverse audiences for contemporary Classical music. Through our international programs we are strengthening cultural ties between Chicago and cities around the world and gaining an international reputation for excellence.

About the Performers

Elizabeth Choi graduated from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music as a chamber music performance major in the studio of Ian Swensen. She received her undergraduate studies at DePaul University as a violin performance major in the studio of Mark Zinger. As an orchestral musician, Elizabeth was associate concertmaster in the South Bend Symphony Orchestra and has also played with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, East-West Divan Workshop conducted by Daniel Barenboim. As a chamber musician, Elizabeth won 1st and 3rd prizes at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and has also played with chamber orchestras including the Avedis chamber musicians, Concertante di Chicago, and Ensemble Parallel. Elizabeth also enjoys teaching students of all ages and has been a faculty member at Olivet Nazarene University, Cappelli School of Music, Hall School of Music, and Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra. She has spent her summers coaching chamber music for Midwest Young Artists as well as instruct group classes at the Merit School of Music. Currently, Elizabeth is a member of the Advent Chamber Orchestra, Camerata Chicago, New Millennium Orchestra, International Chamber Artists, and Accessible Contemporary Music's Palomar Ensemble and string quartet. She has performed live at the Morse Theater, Pianoforte Salon Series, Dame Myra Hess series, and in many venues throughout the U.S. and Europe.

Alyson Berger, cellist, is an active free-lance performer and recitalist in the Chicago area. A native of New York, she earned her bachelor's degree in Cello Performance from Ithaca College as a student of Einar Holm and her Master's Degree as a graduate assistant to Mark Evans at Wichita State University where she was a member of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra. She has performed with the Chicago Civic Orchestra, the Elgin Symphony, the Northwest Indiana Symphony and the chamber music and orchestral series of Music at Penn's Woods in Pennsylvania. She's been featured as a soloist with the Ravenswood Community Orchestra. Alyson has been a faculty member at VanderCook College of music in Chicago and Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan and currently has a large studio of students in Evanston IL. She has been a performing member with Accessible Contemporary Music (ACM) in Chicago for the last 6 years.

Hülya Alpakin is a native of Turkey. She began piano studies at age eleven in Mimar Sinan University Istanbul Conservatory after primary school. After she received her bachelor's degree in piano performance from the conservatory, she worked as a secondary piano teacher and accompanist in the music Conservatory of Mimar Sinan University. Ms. Alpakin moved to Chicago to continue her piano education in August

2000 where she began her Masters under the tutorage of Dr. Ludmila Lazar at Roosevelt University Chicago Colleges of Performing Arts and graduated with a degree in Piano Performance in December 2003. In May 2006, she received her Performance Diploma under the tutelage of Graham Scott. She has performed as a solo pianist in many recitals and chamber music concerts in Chicago area and the other states of the US. Ms. Alpakin is an instructor of piano at The People's Music School, S.P.A.C.E. Music School, Gasse School of Music and pianist for Christ The King Lutheran Church. She is a member of ACM since 2003.

Seth Boustead received his Master of Music in music Composition from the Chicago College of the Performing Arts where he studied with Stacy Garrop, Robert Lombardo and Patricia Morehead. He has been the recipient of many honors including first place in the prestigious Union League and Civic Arts Foundation's Piano Composition Competition for his piece Six Moods for Solo Piano and being chosen as one of three composers to be featured in an Emerging Artists Program at the Chicago Cultural Center. Seth has composed in many mediums including chamber, orchestral, jazz ensemble and film music and his music has been performed live and aired on radio stations across the United States and in Europe. A champion of modern silent films, Seth has composed for dozens of short silents and performed scores for many more and was recently a guest performer at the University of Arizona's Crossing Barriers Festival. He is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Chicago-based ensemble Accessible Contemporary Music, which exists to promote the music of living composers. While under his leadership ACM started many of its signature programs like Weekly Readings, Sound of Silent Film, Composer Alive and the High School Composers Workshop and he has been instrumental in growing the audience for ACM's live events. Recent projects include composing a song cycle for mezzo-soprano Veronica McHale and an orchestral piece for the Jefferson City Symphony in Missouri, co-producing, starring in and partially scoring the 55 minute documentary film Composer Alive: Eastern Expressions to be screened this summer at the Chicago Cultural Center and hosting the radio show Relevant Tones on WLWU which features music of contemporary composers.