Frank E. Taplin '37 Auditorium
in Fine Hall
Princeton University

GENERALS CONCERT

Lisa R. Coons
David T. Little
Christopher Tignor
Judd Greenstein

The Composers' Ensemble
at Princeton

Steven Mackey, Barbara White, and Michael Pratt, Directors

Tuesday, April 18, 2006
8:00 p.m.
THE PROGRAM

Collage for Mixed Media
  Andrew Tholl, violin
  DJ Will Star, turntables

  from Terpsichore (1612)
  CIX. La Rosette
  XXVIII. Spagnoletta
  CCLXVIII. Ballet

  (Sie können nicht das Rathaus kämpfen)
  Tetras String Quartet
  (David Fulmer — Keats Dieffenbach, violins
   Nadia Sirotta, viola — Claire Bryant, violoncello)

  — intermission —

Sonata for Violin and Piano
  I. Con Moto
  IV. Adagio

  Cathedral
  Keats Dieffenbach, violin
  Daniel Spiegel, piano

  Première Sonate
  I. Lent — Beaucoup plus allant

  Boulez Is Alive
  Molly Morkoski, piano

Lisa R. Coons
Michael Praetorius
  (1571-1621)
David T. Little

Leos Janacek
  (1854-1928)
Christopher Tignor

Pierre Boulez
  (b. 1925)
Judd Greenstein
something with his tiny, tiny pieces). But I thought it would be interesting to explore the textures on my own, to see what I could take for myself from this music that has kept me at a distance. From Boulez’s output, it thought it would be most useful for me to examine his first two piano sonatas, which slightly pre-date his Schoenberg Is Dead and his total serial style. His use of the instrument is novel and sophisticated; the piano is well-suited to the dramatic gestures that are his compositional bread and butter.

The piano also seemed a good choice for me, personally, as I am a pianist but have not written anything for solo piano since I was in high school (about a decade, at this point). At that time, I was very interested in Modernist music, including that of Boulez, and my own compositions had a good dose of those sounds in them. While my style has changed dramatically since then, and I have even gone so far as to issue my own polemics against Modernist music, I know that there’s still a residue of my time spent with that music. I wouldn’t be so hostile to it if it didn’t still have some hold on me. And so, in addition to the other readings that one might make of it, the title is also an admission of this music, dead as I may perceive it to be, being alive in me and in my own composition. Boulez Is Alive is dedicated to my friend Nico, who came to mind (musically and personally) in the course of the work’s creation.

Judd Greenstein was born and raised in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of New York City, where he began his compositional life by writing hip hop beats as a teenager. All of his subsequent institutional educational experiences have taken place in Northwestern Massachusetts (Williams College, Tanglewood, the Bang on a Can Summer Institute of Music) or on the far reaches of New York’s tri-state public transit system (Yale School of Music, Princeton University). In addition to his work as a composer, Judd is the co-artistic director of NOW Ensemble, a chamber group that performs new works by primarily young composers; Free Spalding Park, a presenting organization for new, politically-charged music; and Puzzled, a collaborative project that brings new music into unconventional spaces. For more information, visit <juddgreenstein.com>.

THE PERFORMERS

Andrew Tholl, violin
Andrew Tholl holds degrees from Arizona State University and the University of Michigan. Previously, he has been a member of the Arizona Opera Company Orchestra and concertmaster of the Arizona State University Symphony Orchestra as well as the director/co-founder of the new music ensemble Warped Consort. He has also attended the Henry Mancini Institute, Musicorda, National Repertory Orchestra and Aspen summer festivals and in 2005 was the core violinist for Itch, the Brevard Music Center’s new music ensemble. Currently a freelance musician, Andrew is a member of the Flint, Kalamazoo, and Ann Arbor Symphonies and is on faculty at the Flint Institute of Music and the Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Other musical activities include composition, free-improvisation, and additional performance as an electric violinist and drummer. His primary teachers include William Magers, Katie McClain, and Andrew Jennings.

DJ Will Star, turntables
Will Star is one of the best scratch musicians in New York. Using the turntable as his means of musical expression has been his goal since the age of 16. Now having graduated from New York University with a degree in Digital Media Production, Will has moved into the realm of music production, working with and producing for both hip hop and dance artists alike. Will can be contacted for projects and bookings at DJ@WillStar.tv.

Tetras Quartet
Comprised of four of New York’s most talented young performers of contemporary music, Tetras fuses vibrant string quartet playing with a commitment to the music of today. Still in its inaugural year, the quartet is already establishing itself as an innovative and exciting ensemble, recently completing the world-premiere recording of David Fulmer’s String Quartet No. 2 for release on Neuma Records. Future recording projects include Milton Babbitt’s String Quartet No. 4, the first since the Juilliard String Quartet’s world-premiere recording in 1988. Tetras recently presented the world premiere of Donald Martino’s revised String Quartet No. 5 at Juilliard’s FOCUS! Festival in a performance dedicated to the composer’s memory. Also this season the quartet will appear with mezzo-soprano Kate Lindsey in a pair of recitals presented by the Metropolitan Opera. Tetras is committed to championing the work of young composers and has collaborated with award-winning composers Nico Muhly and Adam Schoenberg.

The individual members of Tetras are pursuing graduate degrees at The Juilliard School or serve as assistant faculty. They combine experience attending numerous festivals including the Yellow Barn Festival, Taos School of Music, Tanglewood Woodstock, Sarasota Music Festival, and Music Academy of the West. The quartet studies with Joel Krosnick of the Juilliard String Quartet and has worked with members of the Brentano String Quartet and Speculum Musicae.
Keats Dieffenbach, violin
Violinist Keats Dieffenbach made her concerto debut at the age of eight with the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra. She has since been soloist with the North Carolina Symphony, Winston-Salem Symphony, and North Carolina School of the Arts Symphony Orchestra. Next season she looks forward to appearances as soloist and concertmaster with the Lake Placid Sinfonietta and as soloist with the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra.

A native of Wilmington, North Carolina, Ms. Dieffenbach began violin studies at age five and later attended North Carolina School of the Arts as a student of Kevin Lawrence. She currently studies with Robert Mann as a second-year Masters student at The Juilliard School, where she is the recipient of the Irene Diamond Graduate Fellowship and the Herbert R. and Evelyn Axelrod Scholarship. Ms. Dieffenbach plays a Carlo Bergonzi 1723 violin on loan from The Juilliard School.

Daniel Spiegel, piano
Daniel Spiegel's multifaceted musical talent has led him to explore many different aspects of being a pianist. He is equally at home as a solo performer and as a collaborative artist, and he has performed extensively in chamber and orchestral ensembles. Spiegel is also deeply committed to the performance of the music of promising young composers, as well as the music of established figures in contemporary music. Spiegel has recently completed his Master of Music degree in piano performance at The Juilliard School, where he studied with Joseph Kalichstein.

Spiegel earned his Bachelor of Music degree at Peabody Conservatory, concurrently earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in English at Johns Hopkins University. He has won numerous competitions and awards, leading to performances with the National Symphony Orchestra, the Guilford Symphony, the Montgomery Symphony, and the National Chamber Orchestra, and he has given solo recitals at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall.

Molly Morkoski, piano
Molly Morkoski has performed as soloist and collaborative artist throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan. Awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to Paris, France, she was apprentice with the Ensemble Intercontemporain from 1999 to 2000. She has appeared as featured soloist with the Asheville and Raleigh symphonies, and her performances have been broadcast on NPR, New Zealand, Indiana, and North Carolina radio. Continually being recognized for her insights into new music, Ms. Morkoski has worked with John Adams, Louis Andriessen, Lukas Foss, John Harbison, Aaron Jay Kernis, David Lang, Oliver Knussen, George Perle, Steve Reich, Augusta Read Thomas, and Charles Wuorinen. She has performed with the NY Philharmonic, the Group for Contemporary Music, Brooklyn Chamber Music Society, Speculum Musicae, St. Louis Symphony chamber players, and American Symphony Orchestra. She holds a doctorate degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.
The Composers' Ensemble at Princeton

The Composers' Ensemble at Princeton is a professional musical performance organization under the direction of Princeton faculty composers Steven Mackey and Barbara White and Princeton University Orchestra Conductor Michael Pratt. The Composers' Ensemble at Princeton was founded to serve the educational needs of the Composition Program in the Princeton University Music Department. It provides an opportunity for young composers to hear, discuss, and revise their work before sharing it with a wider public by arranging classroom readings of works in progress.

The Composers' Ensemble features a cross section of a lively and varied international music culture, in programs which reflect diverse sources of influence, spanning six centuries of notated music from Western Europe, vernacular and world musics, computer music, and music technology, improvisation, performance art, and of course, twentieth-century American concert music. The Composers' Ensemble at Princeton is supported, in part, by the A. Watson Armour III and Sarah Wood Armour Fund for Music and Nathaniel Burt. This concert is made possible, in part, with the support of The Friends of Music at Princeton.

The Friends of Music at Princeton

For over fifty years, The Friends of Music at Princeton has presented a wide variety of concerts featuring the most talented student performers as well as professional and experienced amateur musicians. While these concerts are open to the general public free of charge, there are many costs associated with their production and presentation: production staff, piano tuning, programs, print advertising, and fliers are but a few of them. The only source of income to The Friends is the generosity of our members: annual membership dues, gifts, and contributions. Last season, we presented over fifty concerts! Frankly, we need your help to ensure the present and future well-being of these concerts. Contribution baskets are provided on the table in the lobby. Please be as generous as you can. Thank you.

Upcoming Friends Events

Wednesday evening, April 19, 2006 at 8:00 p.m.

Thursday evening, April 20, 2006 at 8:00 p.m.