Split the Lark New Music Ensemble

Brianna Tagliaferro and Kay Madison,
Directors

Thursday, December 10, 2015 | 6 p.m.
Schare Recital Hall,
Marryott Music Building
Douglass Campus

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Program

Busywork  Victoria Romano  (b. 1996)
Kay Madison and Abraham Alinea, Piano

Trio  Joanne Na  (b. 1997)
Melissa Lisbao, Violin
Kevin Maa, Cello
Kay Madison, Piano

In Memoriam  Kevin Gunia  (b. 1997)
Emily Gaab, Violin
Seth Van Embden and Jacob Shur, Viola
Brianna Tagliaferro, Cello

A Seal upon Your Heart  Linda Garcia  (b. 1996)
Abraham Alinea, Piano
Massa del Suono
Marissa Hickman
(b. 1996)

Emily Gaab, Violin
Seth Van Embden and Jacob Shur, Viola
Brianna Tagliaferro, Cello

Nocturne in G-flat
Becky Turro
(b. 1997)

Kay Madison, Piano

Up the Hill
Christopher Kaminski
(b. 1994)

John Antisz and Zachary Sidqi, Clarinet

4 Educated Guesses
Steven Moreno
(b. 1993)

Sabrina Van Vliet, Soprano
Patti Anselmo, Flute
John Antisz, Clarinet
Brianna Tagliaferro, Cello
Kay Madison, Piano
Program Notes

*Busywork* is a perspective on the effects of neoliberalism on the American psyche. Cornered into working in a speedy, unabated fashion and socialized to believe that the only success of value comes from productivity and results, one has a hard time imagining that anyone would have the stamina to remain unaffected. The piece explores the rotting mental health of a country under the more intangible, sinister demands of modern capitalism. Composer **Victoria Romano** is a sophomore in the composition program at Mason Gross.

*Trio* is composer **Joanne Na**’s first piano trio. In sonata form, the first part depicts the scene of a warm spring sun; the contrasting part follows with variations on a lyrical melody. Na is a first-year composition student at Mason Gross, where she is studying composition with Vadim Neselovskyi and piano with Paul Hoffmann. She began composing at age 15, studying with Jiyoun Jung and Sojung Kang in Korea.

*In Memoriam* is a string quartet written in memory of George Gunia and Gloria Weingart. The piece was originally scored for two violins, viola, and cello but is arranged here for violin, two violas, and cello. Composer **Kevin Gunia** is an undergraduate composition student at Mason Gross. He was a finalist in both the 2013 and 2014 New Jersey Music Educators Association Student Composers Competition and the 2014 National Association for Music Education Student Composers
Competition for *In Memoriam* and his string work *Symphonic Piece*. Gunia has studied composition with Kenneth Lampl and Charles Fussell.

Composer **Linda Garcia**’s solo piano piece *A Seal upon Your Heart* was inspired by text in the Old Testament. The song is meant to portray the passionate emotions one may feel during infatuation—in this case, infatuation with Christ—stating the verse from the Song of Songs “Set me as a seal upon your heart … .” Garcia is a music education major with a concentration in voice. In her spare time she enjoys improvising on the piano; that is how she came to know her love for composing since she was 17. She hopes to one day compose an opera about her relationship with Christ.

*Massa del Suono* is a play on words: it translates as “mass of sound” and also signifies a musical Mass containing four movements. The piece switches between moments of intricate polyphony to create a blur of sound and other sections where a clear melody is recognizable. Composer **Marissa Hickman** is a second-year student working toward a BM degree in music composition at Mason Gross, where she is studying composition with Christopher Doll. She began writing music at age 10 and aspires to compose film scores professionally. Hickman describes her compositional style as introspective, dramatic, dark, and melancholy.
Composer **Becky Turro** was inspired to write *Nocturne in G-flat* after listening to a great deal of Chopin and Debussy one summer. The piece is about both the beauty and frustrations of desire. The beginning portrays a conversation that occurs late at night. It is interrupted twice by a passionate burst; the second interruption leads to a new, more turbulent section, played with driven motion. This tension is then released at the very end. Turro is a first-year undergraduate at Mason Gross, where she is studying music composition and music education. She began studying piano at age 5 and taking composition lessons from her high school band teacher at age 16. Turro is now studying composition with Vadim Neselovskyi and piano with Paul Hoffmann at Mason Gross.

Composer **Christopher Kaminski** describes his work *Up the Hill*:

*Up the Hill* is one of two clarinet duets, and it reminds me of the nursery rhyme “Jack and Jill,” since one clarinet ascends while the other one follows. This piece plays with the interactions of the two clarinets, where one clarinet follows the other, or where the two clarinets go back and forth quickly.

Kaminski is a senior undergraduate composer and clarinetist. He is studying composition with Tarik O’Regan and clarinet with Maureen Hurd Hause at Mason Gross; he previously studied composition with Chris Opperman. Kaminski’s works have been performed by Rutgers Clarinet Ensemble, Helix! New Music Ensemble, and Split the Lark New Music Ensemble and have been included in the Dynamic Music Festival 2015. Rutgers Bacoustics, the Mason Gross undergraduate bassoon ensemble, will be featuring his work *Arzan Legacy* on its upcoming compact disc. Kaminski is working on a piece for Conn-O-
Sax (the first work to be written originally for this rare instrument) and piano, a work for band, and a piece for recorder and live electronics.

**Steven Moreno** describes his work *4 Educated Guesses* as follows:

*4 Educated Guesses* is a strange piece. The rhythm, inspired by the metal band Meshuggah as well as Igor Stravinsky, is very complex. The text in the piece is taken from four patient files that were written by doctors in the 1800s at a place called City Insane Asylum in Louisiana. I have abbreviated the names of the patients because they were real people with real problems. Since they are helping me bring music into existence, I have decided to honor theirs.

Moreno is an undergraduate at Mason Gross, where he is studying music composition with Christopher Doll.
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Soprano
Sabrina Van Vliet

Flute
Patti Anselmo

Clarinet
John Antisz
Zach Sidqi

Violin
Emily Gaab
Melissa Lisbao

Viola
Jacob Shur
Seth Van Embden

Cello
Kevin Maa
Brianna Tagliaferro

Piano
Abraham Alinea
Kay Madison
4 Educated Guesses

Madame Argus: This poor woman, mother of a family, has been insane for several years. You can obtain nothing from her. If you ask a question, she answers by speaking, or questioning, on subjects entirely different than your question.

Mr. Smith: He is in a state of excessive hilarity. Laughs, jumps, claps his hands, runs at a great speed across the room, sets down, jumps up again, puts his hand in your pocket, in a word does not remain two minutes quiet. At the station house I found him in his cell, having torn his shirt to pieces, broken the lamp’s glass with his shoe, and laughing at his deeds.

K. Robinson: He imagines that he sees Jesus Christ, God Almighty, the Spirits, et cetera, and that he is ordered now to destroy, then to protect. His conversation is very incoherent but always on religious subjects. Whatever you say to him or ask him, he attempts to preach to you in answer.

Ms. Talbert: This unfortunate young girl, when 9 months of age while sick with the measles, had spasms, resulting in a state of idiocy from which she has never recovered. She is small for her age. Never could learn anything. Does not know how to read or write, irregular menstruation, et cetera.
About Split the Lark New Music Ensemble

Formed by Brianna Tagliaferro and Kay Madison in spring 2015, Split the Lark New Music Ensemble (STL) is the resident undergraduate new-music ensemble at the Mason Gross School of the Arts. The group strives to bring contemporary classical music to life by studying and performing works by Rutgers student composers. STL encourages a collaborative rehearsal process among its members. Through performances and workshops, the ensemble hopes to provide music in the near future to communities and schools throughout New Jersey beyond Rutgers. You can stay up-to-date on STL’s events and projects by liking us at facebook.com/splitthelarkmusic.

Acknowledgments

We extend a special thank-you to all Split the Lark New Music Ensemble members and to the composers who have submitted music for the group to study and perform. We wish to thank Kevin Viscariello for his help with reserving rehearsal spaces.

Thank you to everyone who has encouraged us and continued to support the ensemble and the music we create.
About the Music Department

The Music Department at the Mason Gross School has a faculty of 33 full-time and approximately 78 part-time members. There are approximately 469 students enrolled in its seven degree programs: bachelor of music, bachelor of arts, master of music, master of arts, artist diploma, doctor of philosophy, and doctor of musical arts. The mission of all music degree programs is to develop well-educated professional musicians who have a deep historical and theoretical understanding of all aspects of music. The program provides students traditional, well-grounded conservatory training while preparing them for the changing world of the arts in the 21st century.

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