

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOTEL ELEFANT



CONTEMPORARY MUSIC ENSEMBLE HOTEL ELEFANT LAUNCHES INAUGURAL CONCERT WITH COMPOSER DAVID T. LITTLE, PUSHING MUSIC FORWARD BY REMEMBERING THE PAST

New York, N.Y., February 14, 2012 – On Thursday, March 15 at 8 p.m., Hotel Elephant will present their inaugural concert, performing contemporary compositions inspired by “remembrance.” Kicking off their first season, this production will feature both *descanso* works of **David T. Little** and an in-concert discussion with Little and Hotel Elephant’s moderator **James Holt**. The program also includes Cambodian-native **Chinary Ung**’s *Still Life After Death*, multimedia artist **Peter Bussigel**’s *through mongolia*, **Leaha Maria Villarreal**’s electroacoustic work *The Warmth of Other Suns*, and **Mary Kouyoumdjian**’s Armenian folk-influenced *Dzov Yerku Kooynov [Sea of Two Colors]*. The event will be held at The DiMenna Center for Classical Music, Norman S. Benzaquen Hall. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for students with valid ID, available at the door. For more information visit www.hotelelephant.org/events.html.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Composers:

David T. Little’s music has been described as “dramatically wild...rustling, raunchy and eclectic,” showing “real imagination” by *New York Times* critic Anthony Tommasini, and his work “completely gripped” *New Yorker* critic Alex Ross: “every bad-ass new-music ensemble in the city will want to play him.” Little’s highly theatrical, often political work draws upon his experience as a rock drummer, and fuses classical and popular idioms to dramatic effect. www.davidtlittle.com

Thursday, March 15, 2012 – 8 p.m.
The DiMenna Center
for Classical Music,
Norman S. Benzaquen Hall
450 W 37th St. New York, NY

Hotel Elephant Presents:

descanso (after omega)
by David T. Little

descanso (waiting)
by David T. Little

through mongolia
by Peter Bussigel

...still life after death
by Chinary Ung

The Warmth of Other Suns
(world premiere)
by Leaha Maria Villarreal

Dzov Yerku Kooynov [Sea of Two Colors]
(world premiere)
by Mary Kouyoumdjian

and

Interview with David T. Little

Tickets:
General Admission: \$15
Students with valid ID: \$10

Info:
www.hotelelephant.org/events.html

CONTACT

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Chinary Ung was the first American composer to win the highly coveted and international Grawemeyer Award (1989), sometimes called the Nobel Prize for music composition. Among other honors, Ung has received awards from The Kennedy Center (Friedheim award), The American Academy of Arts and Letters, Asia Foundation, Asian Cultural Council, Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation, Guggenheim Foundation, Joyce Foundation, and The National Endowment for the Arts.

<http://music.ucsd.edu/bio.php?fn=Chinary+Ung>

Peter Bussigel is a composer and intermedia artist interested in abrupt cuts, zooming in, science fiction, recursion, waiting, multiples, wormholes, smashing things together, and looking through binoculars. His work has been performed in concerts and festivals throughout North America and Japan. Bussigel is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Multimedia and Electronic Music Experiments at Brown University. www.bussigel.com

Leaha Maria Villarreal explores classical and contemporary trends to compose unique works of art. Inspired by visual artists and literary figures, her pieces are described as introspective with attention to space, resonance, and silence. Villarreal's music has been premiered by the Boston New Music Initiative, violinist Andie Springer, and members of the percussion ensemble red fish blue fish. She holds a B.A. from the University of California, San Diego and is pursuing her M.M. at New York University. www.twitter.com/leahamaria

Mary Kouyoumdjian is dedicated to composing music that pushes the boundaries of expectation and musical tradition. As a first generation Armenian-American, she uses a sonic pallet that draws on her heritage, interest in folk music, and background in experimental composition to progressively blend the old with the new. With commissions from the American Composers Forum, REDSHIFT, and the Los Angeles New Music Ensemble, her compositions range from concert works to multimedia collaborations and film scores. www.marykouyoumdjian.com

Performers:

James Holt moderator

Meg Zervoulis music director

Nicole Camacho flute

Domenica Fossati flute/alto flute

Isabel Kim clarinet

Jonathan Russell clarinet/bass clarinet

Andie Springer violin

Rose Bellini cello



David Friend piano
Kirsten Volness piano
Caitlin McKechney mezzo-soprano
Hannis Brown percussion
Peter Bussigel percussion
Nick Gleason percussion
Shawn Lovato percussion
Lindsey Warford percussion
Jonathan Zalben percussion

ABOUT HOTEL ELEFANT

Hotel Elefant is a contemporary music ensemble dedicated to the works of innovative, living composers. Formed in 2011 by composers Leaha Maria Villarreal and Mary Kouyoumdjian, Hotel Elefant ambitiously presents new music through commissions, performances, and moderated discussions between composers, performers, and audiences. Committed to modern sounds and sonic explorations, this vibrant ensemble brings a keen awareness of today's music to the general public and highlights those living composers who are blurring lines, pushing boundaries, and fostering creativity.

www.hotelelefant.org

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