



SONOS SYNC

SONOS Chamber Orchestra's Periodic Newsletter

April 2009
Issue No. 3

SONOS COMMISSIONS TWO AMERICAN COMPOSERS

On May 13, SONOS will make its Merkin Concert Hall debut with two new commissions: world premieres by James Nyoraku Schlefer and Brian Wilbur Grundstrom, and two beautiful, yet little known works by Ralph Vaughn Williams and Finnish composer, Pehr Henrik Nordgren.

Mr. Grundstrom's piece, *American Reflections*, scored for string orchestra and harp, evokes an atmosphere of an America past. One definitely hears influences from the Amish country in Pennsylvania, as well as a touch of New York City/ modern day harmony. This is Mr. Grundstrom's second commission from SONOS.

Mr. Schlefer, a Grand Master of the shakuhachi (Japanese bamboo flute), has composed for smaller ensembles before, but his *Concerto for Shakuhachi and Chamber Orchestra* is his first orchestral composition. Not to add any pressure to him, but he is also the soloist in the piece! Here, an American soundscape has truly been put through the ringer, and is filtered through a wide range of experience with World music, traditional Japanese music, pop and jazz. Cool!

"Why should I check out what SONOS is going to play - I know I am going to love it!"

"MUSIC WITH A VIEW"

On February 1, members of SONOS Chamber Orchestra performed the US premiere of Derrik Jordan's *Sky Mirror*, for string quartet, shakuhachi, and electric guitar as part of "Music with a View", a program sponsored by The Flea Theater.

Sky Mirror won the Best New Composition Award at the International Shakuhachi Convention, which was held in Australia last July. It was a huge success, combining traditional effects for shakuhachi with inventive rhythms and sounds from the electric guitar. Also on the program was a *Table Music* for two violins by Ralph Farris (violinist of the amplified and improvising string quartet ETHEL).

Table Music is a challenging piece, not least to mention that the two violinists are reading the same piece of sheet music across the table from one another! One starts at the top, one starts at the bottom, and they cross in the middle.

SONOS WINS NOMAA GRANT

The Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance awarded SONOS a \$2,000 Capacity Building Grant which will enable SONOS to advertise on the Fordham Public Radio Station (WFUV) and purchase advertisements in the Manhattan Times, Upper Manhattan's local paper.



Photo from left to right: SONOS donor Matthew de Clerq, NoMAA Executive Director Sandra Betancourt, and SONOS Music Director Erik E. Ochsner

SONOS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PRESENTS:
Two World Premiere Commissions* Plus Two Neglected Beauties

Music Director, Erik Eino Ochsner Shakuhachi Soloist, James Nyoraku Schlefer

*American Reflections** by Brian Wilbur Grundstrom
Cronaca, op. 79 by Pehr Henrik Nordgren
Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus by Ralph Vaughan Williams
*Concerto for Shakuhachi and Chamber Orchestra** by James Nyoraku Schlefer

Wednesday May 13, 2009, 8PM
Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center
Goodman House, 129 West 67th Street, New York, NY 10023
Tickets: \$25 general admission, \$15 Seniors and students

Sunday May 10, 2009, 3PM
Good Shepherd Church
608 Isham St., New York, NY 10034
Tickets: Suggested donation \$15

for more info please visit: www.sonoschamberorch.org email: info@sonoschamberorch.org



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

On March 1, 2009, three people were invited to join the Board of Directors, and one person was invited to join the Advisory Board.

All four people accepted the invitation. We appreciate their interest and look forward to their support, care and professional advice.

SAVE THESE DATES IN MAY 2009!

- ▶ May 10, 2009, 3pm
 - ▶ May 13, 2009, 8pm
 - ▶ May 16, 2009, 7:30pm
- Visit www.sonoschamberorch.org

DONATION = CONCERT

Donations are the only way SONOS survives. Won't you please help us with our vital mission. Help us raise \$15,000!

NO Donation is TOO small.

MOVING ON UP...

Maestro Erik Ochsner's association with Tan Dun and Howard Shore continues to take Erik across the globe. e.g., Krakow, London, Munich, Beijing, and Wolf Trap, VA!

"I have to donate \$100 or more to make it worthwhile." → **WRONG!!**

"Donations of ALL SIZES do/ have/ and will impact our fundraising efforts."

"They survive just fine without my support." → **WRONG!!**

GHOST OPERA



On March 20, 2009, Members of SONOS Chamber Orchestra performed at the Tenri Cultural Institute with shakuhachi Grand Master James Nyoraku Schlefer, and pipa virtuoso Min Xiao Fen.

The first half of the concert featured music for string quartet and shakuhachi opening with the U.S. premiere of James Cuddeford's Impermanence, in memory of Karlheinz Stockhausen. Almost in the forms of a meditation, this ethereal piece creates an atmosphere of bending shapes and sounds. The second piece, Quintet for string quartet and shakuhachi, featured the driving rhythms of James Nyoraku Schlefer. The composer also performed the solo shakuhachi part.

The second half rocked (literally) with Tan Dun's visual and aural feast, Ghost Opera for string quartet and pipa. Players had to be trained to play water, rocks, paper, and Chinese opera cymbals, and they learned to vocalize in Peking opera style! The performance was a huge success, including lighting, sound, and a small set.

"You did a masterful job of Ghost Opera and we just loved it. All of the musicians were superb, and you were able to accomplish wonders in that space!"

Founders Circle \$1,000+

To honor those donors who have donated \$1,000 or more in a single year.

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For contributions dated from January 1, 2008 through April 20, 2009