

Project Muse Guide – January 2010



TOM PETERS: JOHN CAGE

This presentation will focus on music of John Cage,
one of the most influential composers of the 20th century

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ABOUT TOM PETERS



Tom Peters, double bass, is known for his interpretations of contemporary music, with a special interest in music for double bass and electronics. He has commissioned solo works for the bass by composers such as Mary Lou Newmark, Dennis Bathory-Kitsz, Eric Schwartz, Alex Shapiro, Richard Derby, and Robin Cox. In 2008 Tom released a recording of John Cage's seminal work *26'1.1499" for a String Player*, with KPFK's John Schneider performing Cage's *45' for a Speaker* on the Tiger Barb Records label. An upcoming Tiger Barb Records release for music for double and electronics by women composers is slated for 2010. Tom has performed with Southwest Chamber Music since 1998, and is also a member of the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra, and Ensemble Green. He is featured in a series of solo concerts at Pasadena's Boston Court Performing Arts Complex, and was featured in a live broadcast over Nordwest Radio in Germany in 2004. Tom teaches double bass at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University, Long Beach, and is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music.

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ABOUT SOUTHWEST CHAMBER MUSIC

GRAMMY® Award-winning Southwest Chamber Music has been bringing PROJECT MUSE in-school performances to schools throughout Los Angeles County since 1994 with music that reflects the vast diversity of art music from around the world. We perform throughout the year in venues throughout Los Angeles County, including the Armory Center for the Arts, The Colburn School, and a summer festival at The Huntington Library.



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Musical Vocabulary (from the California Standards for the Arts, unless noted otherwise)

Chance Music Any part of a musical work is indeterminate if it is chosen by chance, or if its performance is not precisely specified. The former case is called "indeterminacy of composition"; the latter is called "indeterminacy of performance" (Simms 1986, 357).

DYNAMICS are various degrees of volume in the performance of music, such as loud and soft.

EXTENDED TECHNIQUES are unconventional, unorthodox or "improper" techniques of playing musical instruments, in order to expand and explore the possibilities of different instruments.

IMPROVISATION is the spontaneous creation of music.

An **INTERVAL** is the distance in pitch between two tones.

A **MELODY** is an organized sequence of single notes.

The **METER** is the grouping of beats by which a piece of music is measured.

PONTICELLO is a string instrument technique where one plays on the bridge of the instrument to achieve a special effect.

RHYTHM is the combination of long and short, even and uneven sounds that convey a sense of movement in time.

SCORDATURA is an alternate tuning used for the open strings of a string instrument. It is an extended technique used to allow the playing of otherwise impossible melodies, harmonies, figures, chords, or other note combinations.

A **SCORE** is the written form of the entire composition. All players have a part of the score for their instrument, unless they have memorized the notes.

SOUND PERCEPTION is how you interpret what you hear and where you hear it.

The **STRING FAMILY** (also called **Chordophones**) is the group of instruments that uses strings to produce sound. The strings are made of gut, steel, or nylon. Stringed instruments can be played with a bow- a long stick that has horsehair attached to it, or they can be played by plucking or strumming the strings with the fingers.

The **TIMBRE** is the tone color or character of sound heard.

The **TONALITY (KEY)** is the tonal center of a composition.

TREMOLO is a shaking sound which is achieved by repeating the same note extremely quickly or by playing two notes very quickly, one after the other.

TUNING is to adjust a music instrument to the desired frequency or pitch.

Continue Learning with these Internet Resources:

For more information on Tom Peters, visit:

<http://www.myspace.com/tompeterssolobass>

For more information on our featured composer John Cage, visit these websites:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Cage

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/john-cage/about-the-composer/471/>

<http://www.johncage.info/>

To try to create your own composition at

www.creatingmusic.com

Another excellent interactive website for kids with information about instruments is www.playmusic.org

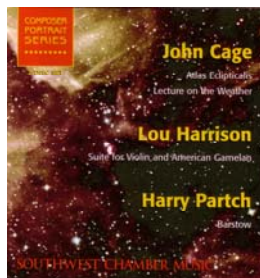


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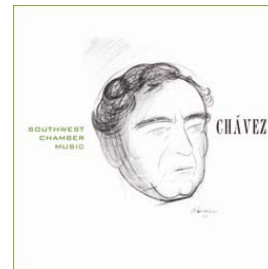
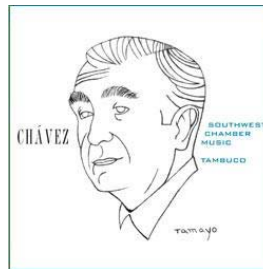


Itunes, www.classiconline.com, & www.cdbaby.com!

Check out Tom Peter's performances in
Composer Portrait Series featuring works of John Cage



Volumes 2, 3, & 4 of Southwest Chamber Music's
Complete Chamber Works of Carlos Chávez:



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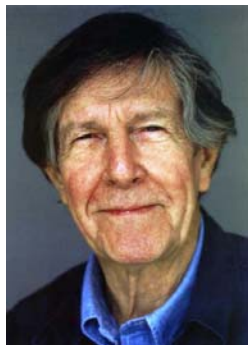


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Come to Our Concert!

CAGE & RAUSCHENBERG

**Hear the music of Cage in a perfect environment of
50 pieces created by Cage's friend Robert Rauschenberg**



Saturday, January 23 at 8pm

Saturday, February 6 at 8pm

Armory Center for the Arts

145 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena, CA 91103

Mention your school name and attend for FREE!



Southwest Chamber Music's educational programs are funded in part by the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Amphion Foundation, Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, Argosy Foundation Contemporary Music Fund, B.C. McCabe Foundation, California Arts Council, The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation, City of Pasadena Cultural Affairs Division, The Cultural + Planning Group, D'Addario Music Foundation, Dept. of Cultural Affairs – City of Los Angeles, Fletcher Jones Foundation, Frieda C. Fox Family Foundation, Fromm Music Foundation, Green Foundation, Henry Family Fund, James Irvine Foundation, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Los Angeles Philanthropic Committee for the Arts, Metropolitan Associates, National Endowment for the Arts, Pasadena Arts League, Pasadena Educational Foundation, Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts, Pasadena Tournament of Roses Foundation, Supervisor Michael Antonovich, U.S. State Department, Wells Fargo Foundation.

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