



Southwest Chamber Music

presents

Project Muse

December 2013

Music for Two Harps

Allison Allport & Alison Bjorkedal

Program

Quaker Melodies

Aaron Copland
(1900-1990)

The Angel Israfil

Dominick Argento
(b. 1927)

Haiku for Harp

Susann McDonald
(b. 1935)

Parvis

Bernard Andrés
(b. 1941)

About Allison Allport



Allison Allport received her Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in harp performance with minor fields in music education, instrumental conducting and orchestration from the University of Southern California Thornton School of Music. While at USC, Allison studied harp with JoAnn Turovsky and was the recipient of a full-tuition scholarship. Upon graduation, Allison received the string department's Outstanding Graduate award at the doctoral level for the class of 2008.

Some of Allison's most exciting recent musical projects include performing in the Los Angeles Opera's ongoing production of Wagner's Ring Cycles and collaborating and recording with the band Weezer.

Allison has numerous other recording credits to her name, including the soundtracks to the films *The Spiderwick Chronicles*, *Cars*, *National Treasure II: Book of Secrets*, and Randy Newman's album *Harps and Angels*. Other orchestras Allison has performed with include Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Pasadena Symphony and Long Beach Symphony. As a special event harpist, Allison is sought after for many high-profile events. She has performed at many celebrity-packed functions including a luncheon for Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and at Merv Griffin's funeral.

Allison has received many honors for her music including awards from Pi Kappa Lambda, the Pasadena Fine Arts Club, Sigma Alpha Iota, American Harp Society, Young Musician's Foundation and first place in the junior division of the American String Teacher's Association National Solo Competition. She also performed a solo recital at the World Harp Congress in Prague.

To Allison, teaching music is just as exciting and important as performing. She was a graduate assistant and student instructor at USC, maintains an ever-growing private studio and teaches on the faculty of the Idyllwild Arts Summer Program. Allison enjoys the challenges and rewards of finding the best way to help each student achieve their goals and reach their full potential.

About Alison Bjorkedal



Alison Bjorkedal, harp, is a freelance musician who teaches and performs in the Los Angeles area. She is a member of Southwest Chamber Music, Golden State Pops Orchestra and MUSE/IQUE. She has performed with the San Diego Symphony, Pasadena Symphony/Pops Orchestra, and Long Beach Symphony.

Named "excellent player" and "enterprising young harpist" by the Los Angeles Times, Alison's notable chamber music performances include the world premieres of William Kraft's *Encounters XII for harp and percussion*; Anne LeBaron's *HSING* for solo harp and LeBaron's "Some Things Should Not Move" for soprano, flute, harp and double bass; and Wadada Leo Smith's *Ten Freedom Summers*, a 2013 Pulitzer Prize finalist.

Her US premieres include Gabriela Ortiz's *Rio de las Mariposas* for two harps and steel drum; Ton That Thiet's *Les Jardins De Autre Monde* for solo harp and mixed ensemble; Nguyen Thien Daos' *Au Dessus de Vent* for solo harp and strings; and Unsuk Chin's *Cosmigimmicks*.

In the studio, Alison has performed for pop music artists, as a chamber musician, and for the motion picture and television industry. Notable recordings include Southwest Chamber Music's *Complete Chamber Music of Carlos Chávez, Volume 4* and William Kraft's *Encounters*, both Latin-Grammy nominated. She accompanied singer Andrea Bocelli in the PBS Special "David Foster and Andrea Bocelli's My Christmas".

Allison was born and raised in Kennewick, WA. She earned her Masters and Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in harp performance from the USC Thornton School of Music. While at the Thornton School, Alison studied with JoAnn Turovsky and was a teaching assistant for the beginning harp class. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Oregon (magna cum laude) where she studied harp with Sally Maxwell and Laura Zaerr.

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

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

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

HARMONICS are the series of different notes than can be played by fingering one fundamental note and changing air speed/embouchure to reach the higher ones. There is a different harmonic series for each fundamental fingering.

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.

MINIMALISM in music is a reductive style or school of modern music utilizing only simple sonorities, rhythms, and patterns, with minimal embellishment or orchestrational complexity, and characterized by protracted repetition of figurations, obsessive structural rigor, and often a pulsing, hypnotic effect.

PEDAL slides are achieved by moving a pedal immediately after playing a string. When the string is still vibrating, the half-step change is audible.

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

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.

TAPPING on the soundboard is a common technique. The harpist can tap with either hand, using fingers or fingernails, knock with the knuckles or slap with an open hand.

THUNDER is produced by using the open hand to strike the strings and immediately moving away to let the sound resonate.

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

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

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

Continue Learning with these Internet Resources:

For more information about the musicians, visit:

www.allisonallport.com
www.alisonbjorkedal.com

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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Watch us on YOUTUBE: www.youtube.com/swmusic

Follow our blog: swchambermusic.wordpress.com

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Free of charge, and lots of fun, *Music Unwrapped* is a great way for the entire family to learn about a wide variety of music. Our Grammy Award-winning musicians present an entertaining and enjoyable learning experience, including interaction with the audience, which is suitable for all ages.

December 13, 2013 at 12 pm. Pasadena Senior Center
January 25, 2014 at 4 pm. West Hollywood City Council Chambers
February 9, 2014 at 4 pm. Angels Gate Cultural Center, San Pedro

Visit www.swmusic.org to learn more about *Music Unwrapped*!

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