



Project Muse Guide – February 2012

SOUTHWEST
CHAMBER
MUSIC

ANNE LEBARON: *SOLAR MUSIC*

Featuring harpist Alison Bjorkedal and flutist Larry Kaplan

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ABOUT ALISON BJORKEDAL



Alison Bjorkedal, harp, received her Doctorate of Musical Arts at the USC Thornton School of Music. She also earned her Master's degree from the Thornton School, where she studied with JoAnn Turovsky and was a teaching assistant for the beginning harp class. Alison received her bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon (magna cum laude) where she studied harp with Sally Maxwell and Laura Zaerr. She performed the world premiere of William Kraft's *Encounters XII* and has recorded that work for Southwest Chamber Music. She performed on the ensemble's *Complete Chamber Music of Carlos Chávez, Volume 4*, which was nominated as Best Classical Album in 2007 by Latin Grammy. Alison performed two major harp concertos on tour with Southwest Chamber Music in Hanoi, Vietnam: *Les jardins d'autre monde* by Ton That Tiêt and *Au dessus du vent* by Nguyen Thien Dao. In addition, she gave the U.S. premieres of both concertos in Los Angeles for the ensemble's *Ascending Dragon Music Festival*.

ABOUT LARRY KAPLAN



Larry Kaplan, flute/ piccolo, is one of Southern California's most sought after and versatile flutists, and he has appeared at virtually every major venue in the area. For five seasons he played piccolo with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and has played Principal Flute for the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, American Ballet Theater, Long Beach Symphony, and many other local ensembles. Mr. Kaplan has recorded for dozens of feature film soundtracks and is an avid jazz enthusiast and past recipient of the Outstanding Jazz Soloist at the Chaffee Jazz Festival. He attended California State University at Northridge and continued his studies in France with Jean-Pierre Rampal. He first performed with Southwest Chamber Music in January 2003, and performed on Southwest Chamber Music's *Complete Chamber Music of Carlos Chávez, Volume 2*, which received a 2004 GRAMMY Award.

ABOUT SOUTHWEST CHAMBER MUSIC



Two-time 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 Colburn School, and a Summer Festival at The Huntington Library.

FEATURED COMPOSER



Anne LeBaron's compositions embrace an exotic array of subjects encompassing vast reaches of space and time, ranging from the mysterious Singing Dune of Kazakhstan, to probes into physical and cultural forms of extinction, to legendary figures such as Pope Joan, Eurydice, Marie Laveau, and the American housewife. Widely recognized for her work in instrumental, electronic, and performance realms, she has earned numerous awards and prizes, including a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, the Alpert Award in the Arts, a Fulbright Full Fellowship, an award from the Rockefeller MAP Fund for her opera, *Sucktion*, and a 2009-2010 Cultural Exchange International Grant from the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs for *The Silent Steppe Cantata*.

As a Fulbright Scholar to Germany in 1980 - 81, LeBaron studied with György Ligeti, later completing her doctorate in composition at Columbia University. Her compositions have been written for virtually every contemporary genre and performed and broadcast throughout the U.S. and elsewhere, including Stuttgart, London, Prague, Talloires, Hong Kong, Sydney, Berlin, Havana, Kyoto, Singapore, Dresden, and Austria. During the spring and summer of 2008, she gave several lectures in the Czech Republic, at the Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno, and at Palacký University in Olomouc. She was also in residence at "Symposium," a summer course in Trstence.

Her one-woman cyborgopera, *Sucktion*, was performed several times at REDCAT in Los Angeles in 2008. Additional performances will take place in York, England, and in Sweden, with Ars Nova, in 2009. Selections from her large-scale opera, *Crescent City*, were performed by the New York City Opera in 2006 and 2009 on the VOX festival. *Phantasmagoriettas* from *Crescent City*, performed by The Loos Ensemble, was featured on the 2007 Dag in die Branding Festival in Den Haag.

LeBaron currently teaches composition, and related subjects such as HyperOpera – Lyrical Psychogeography, Musical Reflections of Surrealism, and Concert Theater, at the California Institute of the Arts. These topics and others are also presented worldwide in lectures at educational institutions, conferences, and festivals, as well as in articles, essays, and interviews published in several journals and books. Also an accomplished harpist, LeBaron is renowned for her pioneering methods of developing and implementing extended harp techniques, electronic enhancements, and notation in compositional and improvisational contexts.

FEATURED WORK

Solar Music, inspired by a painting of the same name by the female Mexican Surrealist Remedios Varo, depicts a woman standing in a dying forest, bowing rays of the sun. Written for four flutes (bass, alto, flute, piccolo) played by one person, and harp, the score incorporates non-traditional playing techniques, including pitch bends, tuning key glides and bowing procedures for the harp. The premiere took place at the Berlin Philharmonie Kammermusiksaal in April 1997, performed by Camilla Hoitenga and Alice Giles. A recording of *Solar Music* is available on CRI 865, "Sacred Theory of the Earth." This piece was made possible by a grant from the Fromm Music Foundation.

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 or “improper” techniques of playing musical instruments, in order to expand and explore the possibilities of different instruments.

FLUTTER TONGUING is a tone that is very rapidly articulated. It is produced either by rolling the front of the tongue, as in the Spanish “rr,” or by using the uvula in the back of the mouth.

GLISSANDO is a smoothly changing pitch, upwards or downwards, produced by sliding the fingers off of or onto the holes on an open hole flute.

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.

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 on Alison Bjorkedal, visit:

www.alisonbjorkedal.com

For more information on our featured composer Anne LeBaron, visit these websites:

www.annelebaron.com

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_LeBaron

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



Look for Southwest Chamber Music's
Grammy®-Award winning recordings on:
iTunes, www.classiconline.com & www.cdbaby.com

Check out our recordings of John Cage as part of our extensive
Composer Portrait Series

For more information and to access exciting educational videos and podcasts:

1.800.726.7147 or visit our website www.swmusic.org

And find us on  www.facebook.com/southwestchambermusic

Come to Our Concerts!

Cage 2012 Festival



Saturday, March 3 at 8 pm and Sunday March 4, at 5pm
Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles

Saturday, March 10 at 8 pm
Art Center College of Design, Pasadena

Sunday, March 11 at 5 pm
Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena

Saturday, March 24 at 8 pm
Colburn School, Los Angeles

Mention your school to receive complimentary tickets!

Southwest Chamber Music's educational programs are funded in part by the Ahmanson Foundation, Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, California Arts Council, The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation, City of Pasadena Cultural Affairs Division, D'Addario Music Foundation, Dept. of Cultural Affairs – City of Los Angeles, Dwight Stuart Youth Fund, Eleven Twenty Seven Foundation, Fletcher Jones Foundation, Flourish Foundation, Frieda C. Fox Family Foundation, Green Foundation, Lluella Morey Murphey Foundation, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Metropolitan Associates, Pasadena Arts League, Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts, Pasadena Tournament of Roses Foundation, Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, Sidney Stern Memorial Trust, Weingart Foundation, and Wells Fargo Foundation.

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