



SOUTHWEST
CHAMBER
MUSIC

Project Muse Guide – March 2012

CAGE and BACH

Featuring cellist, Peter Jacobson and percussionist, Lynn Vartan

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ABOUT PETER JACOBSON



Peter Jacobson, cello, started on the cello at age nine and went on to graduate from the University of Southern California studying under the late Eleonore Schoenfeld. He also studied at CalArts and at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Peter has studied North Indian classical music with the late sitar master Rahul Sariputra and at the Ali Akbar College of Music. He won the Jennings Butterfield Young Artist competition, the San Diego Musical Merit competition and numerous local scholarships and competitions. Peter has performed as a soloist and premiered concertos by Jeffery Holmes and Roger Prytzytulsky. He has played locally and internationally with a list of fine classical ensembles, orchestras, rock bands, fusion projects, hip-hop producers and jazz artists with the intention of celebrating the wonderful effects of music. Currently, he plays regularly with Southwest Chamber Music, Quartetto Fantastico, and the Arohi Ensemble.

ABOUT LYNN VARTAN



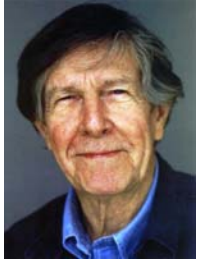
Lynn Vartan, percussion, is an active performer and educator who is an advocate for diversity in music. As a new music percussionist, Lynn has worked with Michael Colgrass, Donald Crockett, Vinny Golia, Arthur Jarvinen, Ursula Oppens, Joan Tower, Glen Velez and Xtet, and is known for her athleticism and exciting energy on stage. She has commissioned and/or performed new music by composers Crockett, Hoey, Krausas, Muhl and Naidoo. As a soloist, she has been featured on the Los Angeles Philharmonic Green Umbrella Series, the Different Trains Series and the USC Contemporary and Percussion Ensembles. In February 2003, Lynn recorded Stephen Hartke's *Tituli* with the Hilliard Ensemble for release on the ECM series. Lynn performed with the Tambuco Percussion Ensemble on Southwest Chamber Music's *Complete Chamber Works of Carlos Chavez, Volume 3*, which was nominated as Best Classical Album for the 2005 Grammy Awards.

ABOUT SOUTHWEST CHAMBER MUSIC



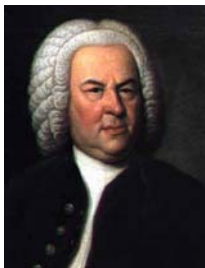
Two-time GRAMMY® Award-winning **Southwest Chamber Music** has been bringing PROJECT MUSE in-school performances to schools throughout Los Angeles County since 1994 with music that reflects the vast diversity of art music from around the world. We perform throughout the year in venues throughout Los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

FEATURED COMPOSER



John Milton Cage Jr. (September 5, 1912 – August 12, 1992) was an American composer, philosopher, poet, music theorist, artist, printmaker, and amateur mycologist and mushroom collector. A pioneer of chance music, electronic music and non-standard use of musical instruments, Cage was one of the leading figures of the post-war avant-garde. Critics have lauded him as one of the most influential American composers of the 20th century. He was also instrumental in the development of modern dance, mostly through his association with choreographer Merce Cunningham.

Cage is perhaps best known for his 1952 composition *4'33"*, the three movements of which are performed without a single note being played. The content of the composition is meant to be perceived as the sounds of the environment that the listeners hear while it is performed, rather than merely as four minutes and thirty three seconds of silence, and the piece became one of the most controversial compositions of the twentieth century. Another famous creation of Cage's is the prepared piano (a piano with its sound altered by placing various objects in the strings), for which he wrote numerous dance-related works and a few concert pieces, the best known of which is *Sonatas and Interludes* (1946–48).



Johann Sebastian Bach (21 March 1685 – 28 July 1750) was a German composer, organist, harpsichordist, violist, and violinist of the Baroque Period. He enriched many established German styles through his skill in counterpoint, harmonic and motivic organisation, and the adaptation of rhythms, forms, and textures from abroad, particularly from Italy and France. Bach wrote much music, which was revered for its intellectual depth, technical command, and artistic beauty. Many of his works are still known today, such as the *Brandenburg Concertos*, the *Mass in B minor*, the *Well-Tempered Clavier*, and his passions, cantatas, partitas, and organ works.

Bach was born in Eisenach, Saxe-Eisenach into a very musical family; his father, Johann Ambrosius Bach was the director of the town's musicians, and all of his uncles were professional musicians. His father taught him to play violin and harpsichord, and his brother, Johann Christoph Bach taught him the clavichord, and exposed him to much contemporary music. Bach also sang, and he went to the St Michael's School in Lüneburg, because of his skill in voice. After graduating, he held several musical posts across Germany; he served as Kapellmeister (director of music) to Leopold, Prince of Anhalt-Köthen, Cantor of Thomasschule in Leipzig, and Royal Court Composer to August III. Bach's health and vision declined in 1749, and he died on 25 July 1750. Modern historians believe that his death was caused by a combination of stroke and pneumonia.

Bach's abilities as an organist were highly respected throughout Europe during his lifetime, although he was not widely recognised as a great composer until a revival of interest and performances of his music in the first half of the 19th century. He is now generally regarded as one of the main composers of the Baroque period, and as one of the greatest composers of all time.

FEATURED WORKS

Excerpt of *4'33"*

Music for Carillon No. 5

Two Movements of *Bach Cello Suites*

Excerpt of *Etudes Boreales*

MUSICAL VOCABULARY (from the California Standards for the Arts, unless noted otherwise)

CHANCE OPERATION is a means of making a decision and how relinquishing control changes the outcome.

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.

The **I-CHING** is an ancient Chinese oracle book that deals with philosophy and divination.

IMPROVISATION is the spontaneous creation of music.

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

The **MARIMBA** is a musical instrument in the percussion family. Keys or bars (usually made of wood) are struck with mallets to produce musical tones. The keys are arranged as those of a piano. The modern marimba was developed by Japanese and American builders based on the Hispanic-American traditional marimba.

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

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

The **PERCUSSION FAMILY** includes all musical instruments that are played by being struck.

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 **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 **Lynn Vartan**, visit:*

<http://www.lynnvartan.com>

*For more information on our featured composer **John Cage** and **Johann Sebastian Bach**, visit these websites:*

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

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

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

*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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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 24 at 8 pm
Colburn School, Los Angeles**

LA New Music Festival

**May 9-26 2012
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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