



Southwest Chamber Music

presents

Project Muse

November 2013

The Eclipse Quartet

Sara Parkins & Sarah Thornblade, violin
Alma Lisa Fernandez, viola, Maggie Parkins, cello

Program

String Quartet in D major, K. 499
Menuetto

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Book of Alleged Dances
Toot Nipple

John Adams
(b. 1947)

String Quartet Set
Estampie

Lou Harrison
(1917-2003)

Book of Alleged Dances
Alligator Escalator

John Adams
(b. 1947)

String Quartet No. 1
Movement 3

Billy Childs
(b. 1957)

Four Marys

Julia Wolfe
(b. 1958)

Musica de Feria

Silvestre Revueltas
(1899-1940)

About the Eclipse Quartet

The **Eclipse Quartet** is an ensemble dedicated to the music of twentieth century and present day composers. The scope of their repertoire spans works from John Cage and Morton Subotnick to collaborations with the singers Beck and Caetano Veloso. Eclipse has the versatility to cross genres from works that include electronics and computer processing to the jazz compositions of grammy award winning pianist Billy Childs. The Quartet has performed frequently on both coasts and has participated in festivals such as the Look and Listen Festival in NYC, the Festival for New American Music in Sacramento, the Scarlatti Festival in Naples, Italy, the Martha's Vineyard Chamber Music Festival and the Angel City Jazz Festival in Los Angeles.

The repertoire of Eclipse contains works by such dynamic composers as Roger Reynolds, Julia Wolfe, Ben Johnston, Ruth Crawford Seeger, Annie Gosfield, John Zorn, Fred Frith, Philip Glass, John King and Lois V. Vierk. They have premiered new works by Zeena Parkins, Carla Kihlstedt, Justin Haynes, Gernot Wolfgang, Stephen Cohn and David Jaffe.

Eclipse has recorded the string quartets of Zeena Parkins for the Tzadik label and Morton Feldman's epic Piano And String Quartet piece with pianist Vicki Ray on Bridge Records. In June 2013 Eclipse released a disc of three works for percussion and string quartet with percussionist William Winant on New World Records as recipients of the Aaron Copland Fund for Music Recording Grant.

The Eclipse Quartet have been Artists in Residence at Mills College in Oakland California and at the historic artists' retreat Villa Aurora in Los Angeles.



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.

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** 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.

TREMOLLO 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.

Continue Learning with these Internet Resources:

For more information on *The Eclipse Quartet*, visit:
www.eclipsequartet.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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iTunes, www.classicsonline.com & www.cdbaby.com

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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

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

Follow our blog: swchambermusic.wordpress.com

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2013-2014 Music Unwrapped

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.

Visit www.swmusic.org to learn more about
Music Unwrapped and concert date announcements!

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