

**Chamber Music Now!**  
**Redefining New Chamber Music in Season Seven**  
**Featuring Seven Philadelphia Premieres**  
**and Four World Premieres.**

**The concert schedule for 2008 - 09**

"Scream Together, Whisper Alone" featuring Flexible Music – Nov. 16

"Love Machines and Shameless Hussies" featuring The Avian Orchestra – Jan. 31

"Cell Block" featuring Ensemble CMN! - April 24 & 25

**For tickets or more info, call 215-605-9988 or visit [www.chambermusicnow.org](http://www.chambermusicnow.org)**

**Philadelphia:** Redefining new chamber music, **Chamber Music Now!** announces a season of provocative, challenging, and engaging concerts, featuring five Philadelphia premiere and four world premiere works. In CMN's season opener, "**Scream Together, Whisper Alone**" (November 16, 2008), virtuosity is at the forefront featuring the up and coming quartet of NYC performers, **Flexible Music**. This program will feature new high-energy works for the ensemble by Philadelphia's **David Laganella & Andrew Waggoner** contrasted with intimate, introspective works for individual members by **Toru Takemitsu** and **Giacinto Scelsi**.

CMN's second concert, "**Love Machines and Shameless Hussies**" (January 31, 2009), features **Avian Music**, performing songs of love, lust, sex, and jealousy. Included on the program are **Conrad Cummings' "Positions 1956"** a song cycle with lyrics drawn from 1950's sex manuals and "**Lust in Action**", by **Peter Flint** with lyrics from Shakespeare's sonnets. Three world premiers by emerging composers **Corey Dargel, Ray Lustig** and emerging Philadelphia-based composer **Joe Hallman** have been commissioned specifically for the concert. International burlesque sensation **Dirty Martini** highlights the event performing interlude dances between the musical works, including a reconstruction of Sally Rand's legendary fan dance set to **Debussy's Clair de Lune**.

CMN's season finale "**Cellblock**" (April 24 & 25 2008), features the result of a yearlong collaboration with Philadelphia's historic **Eastern State Penitentiary**. Four new works by Philadelphia composers commissioned by Chamber Music Now will be performed by **Ensemble CMN** inside the prison's walls. The new works will take their inspiration from the ESP's rich and eventful history. World Premieres by Philadelphia-based composers **Richard Belcastro, Richard Brodhead, Philip Maneval & David Laganella**.

**For tickets and more information, call 215-605-9988 or visit [www.chambermusicnow.org](http://www.chambermusicnow.org).**

**Concert I**

**"Scream Together, Whisper Alone"**

**featuring Flexible Music**

November 16 @ 3PM

The Settlement Music School

416 Queen St., Philadelphia, PA 19147

**Program:**

David Laganella – *Afraid to be still* (Philadelphia premiere)

Toru Takemitsu - *Equinox*

Giacinto Scelsi - *Tre Pezzi*

Andrew Waggoner- *Exorcist* (Philadelphia premiere)

**Description:**

Virtuosity is at the center of this program contrasting new music at high velocity and decibels pitted against music of quiet intensity and subtlety. Come hear the exuberant and energetic ensemble works by David Laganella and Andre Waggoner along side delicate solo works by Twentieth Century Masters Giacinto Scelsi and Toru Takemitsu.

**Flexible Music**

The members of Flexible Music are four of New York's most active young new music performers; they have all been heard as soloists and chamber musicians nationally and internationally. Flexible Music has performed concerts at various venues including the Manhattan School of Music, Brigham Young University, William Paterson University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Utah, the Julliard School, Bowdoin College (Maine), the Cleveland Institute of Music, Chamber Music Now (Philadelphia), Long Island University at C.W. Post, on Wet Ink Music (NY) series, Friends and Enemies of New Music (NY), The Stone (NYC), and at New York University. Their upcoming performances include Syracuse University, Bowdoin College in Maine, Bowling Green University's Mid American Center for New Music Festival and Evolution Music Series (Baltimore).

*"This was my first encounter with Flexible Music, but it certainly won't be my last. Each player was estimable in his or her own right; together, they provided a broad canvas upon which tonight's composers could unfurl their imaginations."* Steve Smith, Night after Night Blog (Music Reviewer for NY Times and Time Out NY).

**David Laganella (composer)**

Composer/electric guitarist David Laganella was born in 1974 in the suburbs of Philadelphia. He composes music that contrasts transparency and mass in a very resonant and purely chromatic harmonic language. Laganella's music has been performed by many leading ensembles including The American Composers Orchestra, Da Capo Chamber

Players, Symphony in C (winner of their annual composer competition), Flexible Music, Electric Kompany, and by new music artists like Marilyn Nonken and pianist and guitarist Kevin Gallagher. His music has been featured at diverse venues, from Tonic & Galapagos to Carnegie Hall and has been featured at John Zorn's New Rock Complexity Festival, the Philadelphia Fringe Festival and with the Bergslagen Chamber Symphony Festival (Sweden) where he served as the Composer in Residence. Laganella has received honors from numerous organizations including ASCAP, Meet the Composer Fund, The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, The Orchestra Society of Philadelphia, The Society of Composers, and The American Composers Forum.

### **Toru Takemitsu (composer)**

Legendary Japanese composer and writer on aesthetics and music theory. Takemitsu is recognized for his skill in the subtle manipulation of instrumental and orchestral timbre, drawing from a wide range of influences, including jazz, popular music, avant-garde procedures and traditional Japanese music, in a harmonic idiom largely derived from the music of Claude Debussy and Olivier Messiaen. In 1958, the international attention he drew with his Requiem for strings (1957) resulted in several commissions from across the world, and settled his reputation as the leading Japanese composer of the 20th century. He was the recipient of numerous awards, commissions and honors; he composed over one hundred film scores and about one hundred and thirty concert works for ensembles of various sizes and combinations.

### **Giacinto Scelsi (composer)**

Italian composer best known for writing music based around only one pitch, altered in all manners through microtonal oscillations, harmonic allusions, and changes in timbre and dynamics, as paradigmatically exemplified in his revolutionary Quattro Pezzi su una nota sola ["Four Pieces on a single note"] (1959). His musical output, which encompassed all Western classical genres except scenic music, remained largely undiscovered even within contemporary musical circles during most of his life, until a series of concerts in the mid to late 1980s finally premièred many of his pieces to great acclaim, notably his orchestral masterpieces in October 1987 in Cologne, about a quarter of a century after those works had been composed and less than a year before the composer's death (he was able to attend the premières and personally supervised the rehearsals). The impact caused by the late discovery of his works was described by Belgian musicologist Harry Halbreich saying: "*A whole chapter of recent musical history must be rewritten: the second half of this century is now unthinkable without Scelsi ... He has inaugurated a completely new way of making music, hitherto unknown in the West.*"

## **Concert II**

**"Love Machines & Shameless Hussies"**

**featuring The Avian Orchestra**

January 31, 2009 @ 8PM

The Community Education Center,

3500 Lancaster Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19104

**Program:**

Conrad Cummings - *Position, 1956* (Philadelphia Premiere)

Peter Flint - *Lust in Action* (Philadelphia Premiere)

Cory Dargel - New work (Philadelphia Premiere)

Ray Lustig - New work (Philadelphia Premiere)

Joe Hallman - New work (Philadelphia Premiere)

Claude Debussy - *Clair de Lune* (arranged, Flint)

**Description:**

Avian Music performs some of the raciest new chamber music in recent history. Come listen to songs that explore our deepest emotions including love, lust, sex and jealousy; songs that range in inspiration from Shakespeare Sonnets to 1950's sex manuals. International burlesque sensation Dirty Martini will perform interlude dances between the musical works, including a reconstruction of Sally Rand's legendary fan dance set to Debussy's *Clair de Lune*.

**Biographies:****Avian Music**

The New York City-based *Avian Music* is a contemporary music ensemble dedicated to building bridges between audiences, performers, and composers in various musical styles and media. Past concerts have focused on such themes as birds and music; sports-inspired music performed in a 19th century gymnasium and an election weekend revue of music about politics in late October 2004. Their performances have been popular and critical successes, described in the *New York Times* as "played beautifully and sensitively." Their "Play Ball!!!" concert was a featured web-cast on the NewMusicBox website. Upcoming projects include a spring tour in 2008 with a program of video art and live music and in 2009 a program of music about plants to be performed in various botanical gardens in the region.

**Conrad Cummings**

Conrad Cummings has composed operas (productions include a three-week off-Broadway run of "Photo-Op" with Ridge Theater at La MaMa ETC in New York and "Tonkin" with Opera Delaware) music for orchestra (including New Jersey, Indianapolis, and Louisville Symphonies and the Brooklyn Philharmonic) and amplified chamber ensemble (at the Knitting Factory and PS 122). He trained at Yale, Stony Brook, and Columbia, did post-doc work at IRCAM in Paris, taught at Oberlin Conservatory for ten years where he directed the music and media program, moved to New York to run a kids' interactive media company, and since 2003 teaches composition in the evening division at Juilliard. Projects currently in the works include an opera set in San Francisco in the 1980's and a monologue with music titled "How to Write a Failed Opera."

Recordings are available on CRI's Emergency Music label; honors include MacDowell, Djerassi and Tanglewood fellowships and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Opera America, and The Rockefeller Foundation.

### **Peter Flint**

Peter Flint was born in Delaware in a musical family. His mother is a Baroque harpsichordist and artistic director of Brandywine Baroque and his grandmother was a community pianist and organist. He now resides in New York City, composing music for all sizes and shapes of ensembles. He received a B.A./B.Mus. in History and Electronic Music from Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music where he studied with Conrad Cummings, and his M.Mus. from New England Conservatory where he studied with Michael Gandolfi, Lee Hyla, and Scott Wheeler.

Recent works include *MicroConcerto: Spontaneous Combustions* for piano quintet ; *Fantastic Music for a Fabulous Time* for mixed chamber ensemble; *Dance Dance Dance*, a string quartet which won the New England Conservatory Honors Quartet Composition Prize and was premiered in March 2001 by the Delaware Symphony String Quartet; as well as a short orchestra piece, entitled *Eroding the Helix*, which was premiered by the Orchestra of the S.E.M. Ensemble in New York in February 2003 and reviewed by Kyle Gann of the Village Voice as jazzy and well-orchestrated.

In 2002, he founded Avian Music with the goal of providing opportunities for emerging composers side by side with more established ones in a series of themed concerts in New York City and beyond.

### **Corey Dargel**

Corey Dargel's gentle assault on the pop idiom creates a tension that pervades his music: Deadpan and detached vocals reveal heartbreaking intimacies, awkward and obtrusive drum patterns struggle against fragile harmonies, vocals and music uneasily opposing each other as songs stumble to their ends. Salon praises his songs' "rococo ingenuity" and "sustained bursts of lyrical brilliance," and according to Gramophone magazine, he has "a compositional sense guaranteed to keep close listeners on their toes. Words and music are truly equal partners...."

Dargel has performed on bills with Joanna Newsom, Final Fantasy (Owen Pallett), Grizzly Bear, Anti-Social Music, Eve Beglarian, Phil Kline, Nico Muhly, William Brittelle, Margaret Lancaster, and the American Composers Orchestra. His music-theater piece about love and voluntary amputation, *Removable Parts*, premiered in September 2007 at HERE Arts Center in NYC and was hailed by the New York Times as "almost perversely pleasurable... pleases on almost every level... with an intelligent grace that is as moving as it is impressive..."

## **Joe Hallman**

Joe Hallman is a young American composer who has had the opportunity to work with some of today's most talented musicians. His works are becoming more frequently performed in America and internationally. His generosity of collaboration and joy for composing sets him apart from his peers.

The recently written series of chamber concerti, akin to the Brandenburg and Hindemith's Kammermusik, have garnered acclaim for their wit and strength. They have been composed for members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, and others.

He has been a longtime collaborator with the phenom-cellista Alisa Weilerstein, with whom he just returned from a successful premiere of his newest Cello Concerto with the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic in beautiful and inspiring St. Petersburg. Of late he has been in cohorts with the English Horn icon Thomas Stacy, of the New York Phil.

He has also worked in the NY downtown scene with the improv/experimental ThingNY. Most recently, he wrote the Suite for Boombox and Piano for Kathy Supove, who premiered it on the Tribeca Music Festival (after previewing it with the assistance of the French uber-director Michel Gondry on drums).

### **Concert III**

#### **"Cellblock"**

#### **featuring Ensemble CMN!**

April 24 & 25, 2008 @ 8PM

Easter State Penitentiary

22<sup>nd</sup> St. & Fairmount Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19130

Presented in partnership with *Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site* -

<http://www.easternstate.org/>

#### **Program:**

Richard Belcastro - New Work (World Premiere)

Richard Brodhead - New Work (World Premiere)

Philip Maneval - New Work (World Premiere)

David Lagarella - New Work (World Premiere)

#### **Description:**

The Eastern State Penitentiary is one of the most striking and prominent historical landmarks within the city of Philadelphia. Its long and colorful history has produced a great variety of stories and the physical appearance of the building offers a setting that would spark any imagination. The *Cellblock* concert production will present original chamber music composed by Philadelphia based composers taking their inspiration from

the history of the (ESP). Two concerts are schedule for April 24 & 25, 2009. The setting of the concert within the institution itself will provide an unparalleled experience for CMN's audience. An audience is rarely afforded the opportunity to enjoy works of art, new or old, so closely to the source of their inspiration.

## **Biographies:**

### **Ensemble CMN!**

Ensemble CMN! was founded in 2007 by the directors of Chamber Music Now! as a way to produce unique musical concepts that could not be realized with an outside ensemble. Ensemble CMN! members include:

**Jan Syrovatka** (violin) was born in Czech Republic in 1979 and began studying the violin at the age of 6. In 1993 he was accepted to the Conservatory in Ceske Budejovice, and continyed his studies at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, the Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts in Bratislava (Slovakia), the Janacek Academy of Music and Performing Arts and at the Saxion Hogeschool (Netherlands). In 2004 Jan was invited to study in the Artist Certificate Program of Southern Methodist University (Dallas – Texas) with Dr. Eduard Schmieder where he was also member of Plano and Irving Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Syrovatka has participated in many master classes and has won prizes from several violin competitions including 2<sup>nd</sup> prize from The National Competition of Music Schools (Czech Republic) in 1993 and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize from The International Competition Beethoven's Hradec 2002. In 1997 he was among the laureates of the International Violin Competition of Karol Lipinsky and Henryk Wieniawsky in Lublin – Poland.

**Luis Miguel Rojas** (cello) began his music studies as a trumpet player, performing professionally as a member of the "Simon Bolivar" Symphony of Venezuela. Due to a lung illness, Rojas was forced to quit the trumpet. Nevertheless, his passion for music prevailed and he soon afterward began cello studies. He was nineteen years old, and just three years later, he gave a public performance as soloist with the Latin American premiere of Khachaturian's Cello Concerto, accompanied by his former orchestra. Mr. Rojas has performed in the United States, the Netherlands, Germany, France, and Cuba with many of the world's leading chamber ensembles.

**Joshua Kovach** (clarinet), is a prominent musician and free-lance artist in the Delaware Valley. He received both his Bachelor's and Master's degree in clarinet performance from Temple University, studying with Ronald Reuben of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Kovach is a member of the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra, the Reading Symphony Orchestra, Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, a substitute with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and has appeared with the Curtis Institute of Music (on tour in Verbier, Switzerland), the Casals Festival, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Classical Symphony and the Delaware Symphony Orchestra, among others.

**Gabe Globus-Hoenich** (percussion) began studying music in Boston, Massachusetts at the age of nine. As an orchestral performer he has toured Spain, Russia, and the Baltic States and has played in Boston's Symphony Hall, the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, and at Carnegie Hall in New York. Gabe graduated from the Walnut Hill School for the Arts in Natick, Massachusetts and is currently a student of Philadelphia Orchestra timpanist Don Liuzzi at the Curtis Institute of Music.

**Rachael Garcia** (soprano), before receiving her BM and MM from the Curtis Institute, Rachael studied the history of science at Yale and sang lead vocals with Red Hot & Blue, The Yale Klezmer Band and Party of the Righteous (R&B). Rachael most recently performed Book One of the premiere of Nathan Currier's *The Laws Forever Hidden* at Andrea Clearfield's Salon in April 2007. She recorded Gloria Justen's "Foxy Lady", a chamber piece written for live narrator and tape, premiered at the Kimmel Center's "Fresh Ink" Series in May 2006. In November of 2006, she performed songs by Jennifer Higdon at the Philadelphia Art Alliance, "*Falling*" and "*To home*" being premieres. In May of 2006 Rachael recorded *The Shattered Mirror* (role of: Wind), an opera for percussion and voice by Michael Udow. In the last four years, over 40 new songs/works by living composers have been presented, including: Jennifer Higdon, Juliette Stango, Zhou Tian, Delvyn Case, Pomice Stoltzfus, Gloria Justen, Michael Udow, Drew Hemmenger, Eric Sessler, Nathan Currier, Troy Herion, Mena Mark Hanna, Kevin Kelly, Luis Prado, Richard Belcastro and others. She has performed at the Wilma Theatre, Merkin Hall, Prince Music Theatre, Ethical Society, Academy of Music and the Kimmel Center. For the Curtis Opera Theatre, she performed the roles of Thérèse, The Foreign Woman, Le Rossingol, Susanna, Norina, Amore and Damigella, Despina, Mélisande in the US premiere of *Impressions of Pelléas*, Soeur Matilde and Erisbe.

**Richard Belcastro (composer)**

Richard Belcastro (b. 1976 and raised in Yuba City, California) is an active composer and musical activist in the Philadelphia area. His music has been called "an eclectic blend of melodic and rhythmic elements of jazz and rock and roll with a uniquely contemporary harmonic vocabulary" - *The NY Concert Review*. His music is composed for a variety of instrumental combinations ranging from the very traditional to the distinctly odd as well as ventures into electro-acoustic music and purely electronic explorations.

Belcastro's commissions have included works composed for Marilyn Nonken, The Serafin String Quartet, Network for New Music, Brian Sacawa, the PRISM Saxophone Quartet, the Avian Orchestra, the AUROS Group for New Music and numerous others as well as performances at the Gothenburg Guitar Society's new music festival in Sweden, and the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. He has also received grants and awards from The Meet the Composer Foundation, ASCAP/SEAMUS, The Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance, and New Sounds Music Inc.

In addition to his work as a composer he is also the Executive Director of Chamber Music Now! He serves on the Board of the NBS Classical Music Institute in Haverford and the Chamber Music Society of Southwest Florida. He is also Professor of Music at Delaware County Community College.

**Richard Brodhead (composer)**

Richard Brodhead was born in 1947 in Philadelphia, where he received his early musical training and heard his first compositions performed. He earned his Bachelor's degree, magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, as a Scholar of the House of Composition at Yale University, where he studied with Lawrence Moss and Bulent Arel, and his Master's degree in composition at the University of Pennsylvania, where his principal teacher was Pulitzer Prize and Friedheim award-winning composer Richard Wernick.

Richard Brodhead's compositions include works for symphony orchestra; solo work for piano, cello, flute, recorder, guitar, and theorbo; vocal and choral music; and chamber music for a variety of ensembles. Recent works have been presented by the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, the Hartt School of Music, Network for New Music, New Sounds Live! at Merkin Hall, the Delaware Valley Philharmonic Orchestra, The International Horn Society, The Society of Composers Inc., and Temple University. His Music has been performed by such outstanding artists as cellist Scott Kluksdahl (who recorded *Lament* for the CRI label), the Lion's Gate Trio, the Momento Quartet, pianist Charles Abromovic, guitarist Allen Krantz, the lutenist Richard Stone, and has been heard on National Public Radio and on Philadelphia-area broadcasts. A new work for cello and piano, composed for Scott Kluksdahl and pianist Noreen Cassidy-Polera, is in progress.

**Philip Maneval (composer)**

Philip Maneval has composed 30 works ranging from solo to orchestral compositions. He has received two Composition Fellowship Awards from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, one for his *Landscapes Changing and Unchanged*, and the other for his *Quartet for English Horn and Strings*. Mr. Maneval's *Sextet for Strings* was commissioned by the eminent, late violinist Felix Galimir. It was premiered by the Galimir Quartet and guest artists in Philadelphia, and was performed also at the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont. In the spring of 1999, Mr. Maneval's *Poem of Triumph and Redemption* for orchestra was premiered in Romania by the Filharmonica De Stat Sibiu and performed in the U.S. by Philadelphia's Orchestra 2001. On May 16, 2004, the Philadelphia Chamber Music Series at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, PA will host a concert of Mr. Maneval's works, featuring the Chicago Quartet, soprano Hyunah Yu, baritone Randall Scarlata, pianist Charles Abramovic, and guest narrators.

**David Laganella (composer)**

See above.

# **FACT SHEET**

## **Chamber Music Now! presents**

### **Concert I**

**"Scream together, Whisper alone"**

#### **DATE & TIME**

November 16, 2008, 3PM

#### **VENUE**

The Settlement Music School  
416 Queen St., Philadelphia, PA 19147

#### **IMAGES**

[www.chambermusicnow.org/fm.html](http://www.chambermusicnow.org/fm.html)

#### **TICKETS**

\$20 General Admission - \$12 Students & Seniors

Box office: 215-605-9988

Online: [www.chambermusicnow.org/tickets.html](http://www.chambermusicnow.org/tickets.html)

### **Concert II**

**"Love Machines & Shameless Hussies"**

#### **DATE & TIME**

January 31, 2009, 8PM

#### **VENUE**

The Community Education Center,  
3500 Lancaster Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19104

#### **IMAGES**

[www.chambermusicnow.org/am.html](http://www.chambermusicnow.org/am.html)

#### **TICKETS**

\$20 General Admission - \$12 Students & Seniors

Box office: 215-605-9988

Online: [www.chambermusicnow.org/tickets.html](http://www.chambermusicnow.org/tickets.html)

**Concert III  
"Cellblock"**

**DATES & TIMES**

April 24, 2009, 8PM

April 25, 2009, 8PM

**VENUE**

Eastern State Penitentiary  
22<sup>nd</sup> St. & Fairmount Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19130

**IMAGES**

[www.chambermusicnow.org/esp.html](http://www.chambermusicnow.org/esp.html)

**TICKETS**

\$20 General Admission - \$12 Students & Seniors

Box office: 215-605-9988

Online: [www.chambermusicnow.org/tickets.html](http://www.chambermusicnow.org/tickets.html)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**215-605-9988 - public**

**[www.chambermusicnow.org](http://www.chambermusicnow.org)**

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