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Future Classics!

Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute

Presented by the **Minnesota Orchestra** and the **American Composers Forum** in cooperation with the **American Music Center** and the **University of Minnesota School of Music**

Osmo Vänskä, conductor

Steve Seel, host

Aaron Jay Kernis, chairman, Composer Institute

Composers

Garrett Byrnes • Anna Clyne • Kurt Erickson • Stephen Gorbos • Missy Mazzoli
Ashley Nail • Alejandro Ruty • Dan Visconti • Gregg Wramage

Friday, December 1, 2006, 8 pm | Orchestra Hall

Missy Mazzoli	<i>These Worlds in Us</i>	ca. 9'
Stephen Gorbos	<i>Diaphony</i>	ca. 6'
Ashley Nail	<i>...At the end of the tunnel*</i>	ca. 8'
Gregg Wramage	<i>La tristesse durera*</i>	ca. 6'
Kurt Erickson	Toccata for Orchestra	ca. 5'
I N T E R M I S S I O N		ca. 20'
Alejandro Ruty	<i>Tango Loops 2B*</i>	ca. 9'
Dan Visconti	<i>Black Bend</i>	ca. 5'
Garrett Byrnes	<i>Solace*</i>	ca. 15'
Anna Clyne	<i><<rewind<<</i>	ca. 8'

*These works receive their world premiere performances in this concert. The remaining works are receiving their first performance by a major orchestra.



Aaron Jay Kernis, chairman

In September 1998 Aaron Jay Kernis became the Minnesota Orchestra's new music advisor, a post in which he composes works for the Orchestra and advises on the commissioning of and support for other contemporary music for the Orchestra. His music, written for many of America's foremost performing artists, orchestras and music organizations, appears prominently on orchestral, chamber and recital programs around the world. Kernis received the 1998 Pulitzer Prize in Music for his String Quartet No. 2, *musica instrumentalis*. His many additional distinctions have included winning the 2002 Grawemeyer Award in Music Composition for the cello and orchestra version of *Colored Field*. Kernis, a Philadelphia native, lives in New York City with his wife Evelyne and their twins, a son and a daughter. For more information, visit minnesotaorchestra.org.

**Osmo Vänskä**, conductor

Osmo Vänskä, now in his fourth season as the Orchestra's music director, is known internationally for his commitment to bring contemporary music to the concert-going public. He has been a passionate advocate of works by such living composers as James MacMillan, Kalevi Aho and Einjuhani Rautavaara, as well as Twin Cities-based composer Stephen Paulus, premiering two Paulus works last year. Vänskä's complete profile appears on page 15.

**Steve Seel**, host

Minnesota Public Radio's Steve Seel, a host on 89.3 The Current, has been with the station since 1992. He previously hosted radio programs in Tampa and Buffalo, and created and produced Present Tense, a weekly showcase for experimental music. His knowledge of music extends from classical to rock, experimental and jazz.



This evening marks a new milestone for the Minnesota Orchestra and, I believe, for music in America. Tonight our Orchestra launches a new

annual tradition of presenting a concert of world and local premieres of works by prodigiously gifted young composers, all conducted by Osmo Vänskä.

This concert is the culmination of this season's Composer Institute, the Orchestra's sixth annual program of readings of new orchestral works and advanced training seminars for young composers from around the nation. This combination of public performance and the breadth of the training program is utterly unique, the only program of its kind.

Our nine visiting composers will expand their understanding of orchestral writing as their works come alive through the artistry of the Orchestra's musicians. Intensive sessions with musicians, one-on-one mentoring sessions, meetings with Osmo Vänskä and seminars with leaders in the music business will advance the composers' awareness of their own music.

Many composers who have taken part in the program in previous years have gone on to receive major commissions, composition prizes and grants, and they tell us repeatedly that the Institute has played a crucial role in their professional education. We're thrilled that you, our audience, will share in the adventure of discovering new orchestral music from some of the country's most talented emerging composers.

We are especially grateful that Osmo Vänskä is so keenly and fundamentally involved in the Institute and its future. Osmo himself has charted this year's new direction, adding an evening concert to the Institute program. We are thrilled to have such a bounty of new works to bring to you to experience for the first time.

Please join me in thanking the co-director of the Institute, Beth Cowart, for the vision and devotion she gives to this vital program; also the staff and musicians of the Minnesota Orchestra, the American Composers Forum and the American Music Center, all of whom offer help and well-considered advice that continually shapes the Institute. Thanks also to the funders who make this possible, and to *you*, our friends in the audience, for joining us tonight.

Sincerely,

Aaron Jay Kernis





Garrett Byrnes

Garrett Byrnes, of Bloomington, Indiana, has several new works being premiered this season, including a solo cello work for Florent Reynard-Payen and *Visions in Twilight* for solo harp, being performed by Dutch harpist Lavina Meijer in Cologne, Amsterdam, Paris, Vienna, Birmingham (England) and Athens.



Stephen Gorbos

Stephen Gorbos' music has been performed by the New England Philharmonic and the Cuarteto Latinamericano. Born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, he studied at Carnegie Mellon, Yale and, currently, Cornell. Gorbos was a Fellow at Tanglewood last summer and recently played a live electronics gig at Google's NYC headquarters.



Alejandro Rutty

Alejandro Rutty's music ranges from avant-garde to traditional Argentine, and has been played by the Cassatt Quartet and the National Symphony Orchestras of Argentina and Brazil. After receiving a Ph.D. from SUNY-Buffalo, Rutty joined the faculty at Hartwick College. He also directs the *Hey, Mozart!* Child Composer Project.



Anna Clyne

London-born Anna Clyne, resident composer for L.A.-based Hysterica Dance Co., creates music for cutting-edge choreographers, filmmakers and musicians. She studied at Edinburgh University and the Manhattan School of Music, and her work has been conducted by David Gilbert and George Manahan.



Missy Mazzoli

Missy Mazzoli graduated from Boston University and Yale. Recipient of a Fulbright to the Netherlands and an Ives Scholarship from the American Academy, Mazzoli lives in Brooklyn, assists Meredith Monk and teaches composition at Yale. She is pianist for the band Hills Not Skyscrapers.



Dan Visconti

Dan Visconti brought classical violin training and jazz/rock guitar experience to his study at the Cleveland Institute of Music and Yale. His music has been commissioned by the Kronos Quartet and performed by eighth blackbird and the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra. He has appeared as a new music advocate at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



Kurt Erickson

This year, Californian Kurt Erickson will write for the Sacramento Philharmonic and the ADORNO Ensemble. His choral music has been performed by Schola Cantorum and the San Francisco Girls Chorus. He has served residencies at San Francisco's Grace Cathedral and with dancers at the Napa Valley Opera House.



Ashley Nail

Born in Fort Worth, Ashley Nail studied composition with Andrew Walters at the University of Texas at Arlington and earned a certificate in clarinet performance, playing in the Anton Nel Trio. She is a graduate fellow at the University of Minnesota, working with Noel Zahler and Douglas Geers.



Gregg Wramage

Born in Belmar, New Jersey, Gregg Wramage studied at the Manhattan School of Music and CUNY. His music is recorded on Capstone Records and published by Southern Music. He is collaborating with the eminent British librettist Paul Bentley in bringing William Trevor's *Death in Summer* to the opera stage.