

New Music Concerts and The Music Gallery present:

William Bolcom for Two Pianos

Guest Artists: **Elizabeth and Marcel Bergmann**


Sunday October 21, 2007 | The Music Gallery

NM

www.newmusicconcerts.com

157 Carlton St., #203 • Toronto Ont. M5A 2K3 • 416-961-9594

Canadian New Music Network

Réseau canadien pour les musiques nouvelles 

New Music Concerts
Robert Aitken, director

NM
C

07
08

the Music Gallery
Toronto's Centre for Creative Music

New Music Concerts
Robert Aitken, director

NM | 07
C | 08

37th season | 308th event

the Music Gallery
Toronto's Centre for Creative Music

Sunday October 21, 2007

Intro 7:15 | Concert 8:00

New Music Concerts and The Music Gallery present

William Bolcom for Two Pianos

Guest Artists: **Elizabeth** and **Marcel Bergmann**

Programme:

William Bolcom (USA, 1938)

Recuerdos (1991) [14']

1. *Chôro* (Homage to Nazareth)
2. *Paseo* (à la mémoire de Louis-Moreau Gottschalk)
3. *Valse Venzolano* (à la mémoire de Ramón Delgado Palacios)

Frescoes (1971) [29']

for 2 pianos, harmonium and harpsichord (1971)

1. *War in Heaven*
2. *The Caves of Orcus*

— *Intermission* —

Sonata for Two Pianos in One Movement (1993) [16']

Through Eden's Gates (Cakewalk) (1969, arr. 1994) [6']

The Serpent's Kiss (Ragtime) (1969, arr. 1994) [7']



radio 2

Tonight's concert is being recorded for future broadcast on **CBC Radio 2**. Enjoy the concert again on *The Signal*, heard evenings from 10pm – 1am, with hosts Laurie Brown & Pat Carrabre; & on *Sunday Afternoon In Concert*, heard each Sunday afternoon from 1 – 4pm, with host Bill Richardson. CBC Radio 2 is 94.1 FM in Toronto.

Tonight's performance honours the 50th anniversary of

The Canada Council for the Arts and is supported by **Arts Presentation Canada**

The Canada Council
for the Arts is 50

ARTS



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

New Music Concerts

Robert Aitken, c.m., Artistic Director

157 Carlton Street, Ste. 203 • Toronto M5A 2K3 • 416-961-9594
e-mail: nmc@interlog.com • www.NewMusicConcerts.com

Board of Directors:

Peter Anson, acting president • **Lisa Rapoport**, secretary-treasurer
Brian Current • **Austin Clarkson** • **Marvin Green** • **Michael Koerner**, c.m.
Joseph Macerollo • **Mary Morrison**, o.c. • **Jeffrey Smyth**

David Olds, general manager • **Daniel Foley**, associate
Francine Labelle, publicist • **André Leduc**, photographer

Principal Supporters and Concert Sponsors (\$1,000+): Robert and Marion Aitken; Anonymous; Peter Anson; Austin and Beverly Clarkson; Max Clarkson Foundation; James D. Fleck; Marvin Green; James Harley; The Herbert Green Family Charitable Foundation Inc.; Imperial Tobacco Canada Arts Council; Julie-Jiggs Foundation; Michael Koerner; Koerner Foundation; McLean Foundation; George Montague; Roger D. Moore; Jeffrey and Tomiko Smyth; Ann Southam | **Donors** (up to \$999): Mrs. H.S. Aitken; Kristi Alik and Robert Mulder; Les Allt and Dominique Laplante; Rod Anderson; Istvan Anhalt; Anonymous (4); Bluma Appel; Keith Atkinson; James Bailey; Marcia and David Beach; John Beckwith and Kathleen McMorro; Larry Beckwith and Teri Dunn; Sterling Beckwith; Jack Behrens; Gail Boire; Roel and Dorothy Buck; George Bulat; Harriet Bunting-Weld; Allison Cameron; Rob Carli; Ka Nin Chan; Brian Cherney; Lawrence Cherney; Barbara Chilcott; Max Christie; Daniel Cooper; Dorith Cooper; Brian Current; The Dan Family Foundation; Omar Daniel; Michael & Honor de Pencier; Donald Dickson and Amy Doolittle; Klaus and Marjut Dunker; William Egnatoff; Robin Engelman; Ed Epstein and Marta Braun; Julia Foster; Elisabeth Frecaut and Paul Walty; Israel and Maceta Freedman; Mary Gardiner; Donna and Manfred Gitt; Goethe Institut; B. Golden; Erica Goodman; Patricia Green; Barbara Hannigan, in memory of Harry Freedman; Richard Haskell; Ann & Lyman Henderson; David & Lee Hetherington; Fujiko Imajishi; Scott Irvine; Al Jantzi; Linda and Gordon Johnston; Stefanos Karabekos; Ann and Eli Kassner; Norbert and Bonnie Kraft; Ann LaPlante; Edward Laufer; John B. Lawson; Hope Lee; Peter Legris; Joseph Macerollo; Jan Matejcek; Bruce Mather; Gail McCleery; William McCuaig; Boyd McDonald and Carolyn Arnason; Mary McGeer; Kathleen McLean; Jim Montgomery; Melinda Moore; Ruth Morawetz; Mary Morrison; Rowley Mossop; John H. Munro; David A. Nichol; Sheilagh O'Connell; David Olds and Sharon Lovett; Grace and Donovan Olds; Bernard Ostry; Alex Pauk and Alexina Louie; Juliet Palmer; Douglas Perry; Susan Philpott; Sue Davidson Polanyi; Doina Popescu and Tim Moody; Juhan Puhm; Toivo Puhm and Ailsa Wood; James Quandt and Richard Nordahl; Christina Petrowska Quilico; Doreen Rao; Lisa Rapoport and Christopher Pommer; Max Rapoport; Paul Rapoport; Chris Reed; Nancy J. Reid; Wendy Reid; Patricia Rideout; Jason Roberts; Rick Sacks and Linda C. Smith; Ann and Ezra Schabas; R. Murray Schafer; Ruth Schattner; Adam Seelig and Naomi Rotbard; Casey Sokol; Andrew Staniland; John Stanley and Helmut Reichenbacher; Robert Stevenson; Doug Stewart and Kathleen Woodard; David Swan; James R. Tennyson; The Michael Thomas Group Inc.; Laura Trachuk; Joaquin Valdepeñas; Jason van Eyk; Ruth Vellis; Patricia Wardrop; Jennifer Waring; Joan Watson; Larry Weinstein; Albert Wong; Glen and Louise Yearwood; Gayle Young; W. Zwig.

Elizabeth and Marcel Bergmann have been performing together as a duo since 1989. They studied with Arie Vardi at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater, Hannover and with Jean-Eudes Vaillancourt at the Université de Montréal. The duo received first prize at the International Chamber Music Competition in Caltanissetta, Italy, and were laureates of the 4th Murray Dranoff International Two Piano Competition. In 1993 they became members of the young artists' roster of Yehudi Menuhin – Live Music Now.

Their recitals and concerts with orchestra have taken them to many parts of the world, including the United States, Italy, Germany, Holland, Greece and Canada. The duo has appeared at the celebrated Gilmore International Keyboard Festival, the Banff Arts Festival, the Royal Bank Calgary International Organ Festival and Competition, the International Two Piano Symposium and Schubertiade (Miami), the Tage für neue Musik (Darmstadt) the Braunschweiger Kammermusik Podium and at the EXPO 2000, Hannover.

They have made recordings for the CBC, for several stations of the ARD in Germany and for National Public Radio in the USA. In 1997 they recorded their first CD with 20th century works for two pianos. The duo's most recent recordings appear on the Arktos label featuring works by Rachmaninov, Bernstein, Debussy, Liszt and Gershwin. As founding members of the International Piano Quartet they had the opportunity to record Stravinsky's *Les Noces* under the direction of Robert Craft at the Abbey Road Studios in London. The CD first appeared on Koch International Classics and has been recently re-released on Naxos.

Currently on faculty at The Mount Royal College Conservatory in Calgary, Elizabeth and Marcel have also been involved in various musical activities at The Banff Centre for the Arts and were recently appointed as Artistic Directors of The Murray Dranoff International Two Piano Competition and Foundation in Miami. They are members of the Calgary based group Land's End Chamber Ensemble and have appeared as soloists with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and the Red Deer and Lethbridge Symphonic Orchestras. Their extensive repertoire ranges from the baroque to the contemporary and includes their own numerous arrangements and compositions.



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO



torontoartsbouncil
An arm's length body of the City of Toronto



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

Composer and pianist, William Bolcom, born in Seattle, Washington, entered the University of Washington at age 11, where he studied piano and composition, earning a degree there in 1958. Further studies followed with Darius Milhaud at Mills College and at the Paris Conservatoire; he completed his doctorate in composition at Stanford University in 1964.

He composed the score, with assistance from Arnold Black, for John Turturro's movie, *Illuminata*, which opened nationwide in August 1999. His opera, *A View from the Bridge*, with libretto by Arthur Miller and Arnold Weinstein, was premiered October 9, 1999, at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, with eight more performances during the season.

Bolcom's work is well represented on recordings — as pianist, as composer, and in collaboration with his wife, mezzo-soprano Joan Morris. To date Bolcom and Morris have recorded 20 albums together, of which *After the Ball* was nominated for a Grammy, as were Bolcom's Fourth Symphony (featuring Morris as soloist with Leonard Slatkin and the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra) and *Orphée-Serenade* (recorded by the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra with Bolcom as piano soloist). The duo's albums, *Orchids in the Moonlight* and *The Carioca* (songs of Vincent Youmans), with tenor Robert White, are available on Arabesque; *On Moonlight Bay – Songs As Is and Songs As Was*, on Albany Records.

Bolcom's setting of William Blake's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*, a full evening's work for soloists, choruses, and orchestra culminated 25 years of work on the piece. Its premiere at the Stuttgart Opera in 1984 was followed by performances in Ann Arbor, Chicago's Grant Park, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, St. Louis, Carnegie Hall, and London's Royal Festival Hall. The latter performance by the BBC Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Leonard Slatkin was broadcast live throughout the United Kingdom on BBC Radio 3.

Bolcom has taught composition at the University of Michigan since 1973, has been a full professor since 1983, and chairman of the Composition Department since 1998. In 1977 he received the prestigious Henry Russel Award, the highest academic prize given by the University, followed 20 years later by the Henry Russel Lectureship, delivered by a senior faculty member; in the fall of 1994 the University of Michigan named him the Ross Lee Finney Distinguished University Professor of

Music. Other recent awards and honors include: the Michigan Council for the Arts Award, the Governor's Arts Award from the State of Michigan, investiture in the American Academy of Arts and Letters, honorary doctorates from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and Albion College, and the Pulitzer Prize in Music in 1988 for his 12 New Etudes for Piano.

In February 2006, the CD Bolcom: *Songs Of Innocence And Of Experience* was awarded four Grammys: Best Classical Album, Best Choral Performance, Best Classical Contemporary Composition, and Best Producer (Tim Handley).

Perusing a collection of late nineteenth-century Latin American dances inspired *Recuerdos* (Reminiscences). Bolcom saw the continuity between American ragtime and the larger world tradition of light piano music, writing his own tribute and evocations of that era. *Chôro*, the genre of Brazilian street folk-song, is in the style of Ernesto Nazareth, its creator. *Paseo* reflects the melding of Latin and North American musics in Civil War-era New Orleans in the music of America's first classical virtuoso pianist Louis Moreau Gottschalk. *Valse Venezolano* is a Venezuelan waltz in the style of Ramón Delgado Palacios. It makes use of many of the stylistic elements of Palacios, including unexpected leaps, modulations and phrase lengths as well as excursions into 5/8 metre. *Recuerdos* was written for and first given at the Murray Dranoff Two-Piano Competition in 1991.

Frescoes is one of Bolcom's most powerful works in its scope and colours. In his detailed preface, Bolcom describes the brief sketching, rapid painting and grand vision of fresco technique, and notes that he wrote *Frescoes* in similar style. The pianists also double on harpsichord and harmonium. The score itself, typical of many works of the late 1960s and early 1970s, is visual "eye music" incorporating aleatoric improvisation, unsynchronized playing, tone clusters and plucking of the strings. The work is in two movements, *War in Heaven* and *The Caves of Orcus*. *Frescoes* was commissioned for and performed by Bruce Mather and Pierrette Lepage in 1971; they gave its first NMC performance in 1974.

The *Sonata for Two Pianos in One Movement* displays the focus resulting from the condensation of a three-movement form into a single movement. The first movement *Gaia*, the earth mother creatrix and sustainer of life on Earth, explores

a nearly orchestral range of colours through a sonata-form structure of themes in which a lyrical third theme, in Bolcom's words, "set(s) up a conflict that proves to be irresolvable except by continuing into the other two movements". *Night Diversion* uses two pedal tones from *Gaia* which leads to a third (B flat); this note brackets two quotations, the first from Schoenberg's *Harmonielehre* and the second the first ten notes from Debussy's *Brouillards*. *Ancient Dances* grew from an early Bolcom fragment. The conflicts of the previous two movements return to be resolved in a clear D major with the lyrical third theme of the first movement in apotheosis to end the work. Bolcom combines ancient Greek rhythms with a dancing blues, creating unforeseen connections. The *Sonata* was commissioned for the Paratore brothers' piano duo who gave the premiere in 1994.

Bolcom's suite *The Garden of Eden*, originally for solo piano, uses the ragtime idiom to tell the biblical story of the Fall from Genesis. It consists of four movements, each a self-contained "rag". Bolcom arranged the third and fourth rags, *The Serpent's Kiss* and *Through Eden's Gates*, for two pianos in 1994 for their premiere recording by Richard and John Contigula. *The Serpent's Kiss* uses various ragtime effects such as heel stomping and knocking on the wood of the piano in addition to aptly appropriate tongue clicking. *Through Eden's Gates*, in Bolcom's words, "conjures the image of Adam and Eve calmly cakewalking their way out of Paradise".

— David Ciucevich, notes to the Naxos recording 8.559244

French Double Manual harpsichord "Muguette" supplied
and prepared by **CLAVIERS BAROQUES** of Toronto



New Music Concerts 2007–2008 Season

Saturday+Sunday – January 12+13, 2008

Chou Wen-chung and the Varèse Story

Betty Oliphant Theatre | 404 Jarvis Street

NMC Ensemble | Robert Aitken solo flute & direction

Accordes quartet | Teri Dunn soprano

Not-to-be-missed live performances of *Octandre* – *Offrandes* –

Integralés – *Déserts* – *Hyperprism* – *Ionisation* – *Density 21.5*

Friday February 8, 2008

Timo & Magnus: Finland Today

Co-Presented with The Music Gallery | 197 John Street

Guest Composer Magnus Lindberg with Timo Korhonen guitar

NMC Ensemble | Robert Aitken direction | David Hetherington cello

Friday March 7, 2008

Michel Conneville and his Protégés | Gilbert | Ristic | Côté | Frechette | McKinley

Glenn Gould Studio | 250 Front Street W | NMC Ensemble | Robert Aitken direction

Accordes quartet | Max Christie clarinet | Jean Laurendeau ondes Martenot

Friday April 11, 2008

Premieres | Alice Ping Yee Ho | So Jeong Ahn | Chris Paul Harman | Rodney Sharman | Juan Trigos

Glenn Gould Studio | 250 Front Street W | NMC Ensemble | Robert Aitken direction | Accordes quartet

David Swan piano | Dieter Hennings guitar | Kathleen McLean bassoon | Erica Goodman harp

soundaxis
Acoustics • Music • Accordion

Wednesday June 4, 2008 | **Sound and Poetry in Motion** (soundaXis festival event)

Isabel Bader Theatre | 93 Charles Street West | Guest Artists Robin Minard & Jaap Blonk

May 29 – June 15, 2008 | **A Portrait of Robin Minard** (soundaXis festival event)

Installation and Retrospective of 10 Years of Sound Objects

Gallery 345 | 345 Sorauren Avenue (free – call 416 961-9594 for hours of operation)

Individual Tickets \$25 regular | \$15 seniors / arts workers | \$5 students

Subscriptions (7 events) \$135 | \$80 | \$35 | Pick 3 (or more) each \$20 reg | \$12 snr (+6% GST)

Call NMC @ 416 961-9594 | Repertoire, dates and artists subject to change

Introductions @ 7:15 | Concerts @ 8:00 | Full details at www.NewMusicConcerts.com



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO



radio2



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

torontodartsouncil
An arm's length body of the City of Toronto

FOUNDATION
SOCAN
FOUNDATION

Canadian Music Centre

Promoting music by
Canada's composers

www.musiccentre.ca

VANCOUVER CALGARY TORONTO MONTREAL SACKVILLE



FOUNDATION
SOCAN
FOUNDATION



Canada Council
for the Arts
Conseil des Arts
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

torontodartsbouncil
An arm's length body of the City of Toronto

METCALF
FOUNDATION