



The New Music Agency

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The New Music Agency ushers in 2009 with concert, "Stepping Through The Threshold"

Lincoln, Nebraska, December 12, 2008 The New Music Agency (NMA) bids adieu to 2008 in their concert, "Stepping Through The Threshold" with works written in the recent past that encourage experience in the here and now. The concert takes place at **7:30 p.m. on December 30th at the Loft At the Mill, 8th & P Street**. It showcases works composed and arranged between 1987 and 2008 performed by local artists.

In "Stepping Through the Threshold", The NMA brings together pieces by prominent American composers Lowell Liebermann and Terry Riley with contemporaries Ann Boyd, Alex Shapiro, Michel Berthomeier, and Charles B. Griffin. This concert features works for soloists, small ensembles and the full cast of New Music Agents.

In their task of welcoming the New Year the NMA features unique solo performances by three of its members: Lisa McGlynn, piano; Betsy Bobenhouse, flute; and Karen Sandene, contrabassoon. Performing Lowell Liebermann's Nocturne No. 4, Lisa McGlynn balances this concert's abundance of woodwind sounds with this rarely heard jewel of the piano repertoire. Offering a chance to be still and listen to a rare combination of sounds, Karen Sandene performs Deep, a work composed by Alex Shapiro for contrabassoon and electronic soundscape. Minimalism meets the warm climates and chord changes of Bali in Betsy Bobenhouse's performance of Bali Moods No. 1 for flute and piano.

Agents Betsy Bobenhouse, Jessica Lindsey and Karen Sandene gather for Concentric Dance by Charles B. Griffin. It is brimming with rhythmic complexities and contrasting sections that will demand the listener's attention from beginning to end.

All of the performers converge to present a work by "The Godfather of Minimalism," Terry Riley. Joe Holmquist, percussionist and composer, arranged Terry Riley's Room of Remembrance for the NMA. The Room of Remembrance was premiered in 1987 and Holmquist brings valuable insight to its performance. "This is a piece that is very near and dear to my heart, because I was involved with the premiere of this piece," Holmquist explains, "and a lot of the magic was that the composer came to our house and taught us how to play the piece."

The Room of Remembrance is a work that contains repeated and contrasting sections. The repeated sections are known as "The Room," where the audience hears a long, elegant chord progression, over which the players improvise their parts. The performers leave "The Room" at a point of their choosing to play pieces that are entirely notated. The first departure from "The Room" is into The Vigil of the Snow Clam and the second departure is into Chords of Rain. The NMA performed The Vigil of the Snow Clam detached from The Room of Remembrance in March of 2008.

The New Music Agency is comprised of musicians playing the roles of university professors, LPS music staff, members of the Omaha / Lincoln Symphonies, and various chamber groups by day and New Music Agents by night. Tickets for the New Music Agency's concert Stepping "Through The Threshold" can be purchased at the door. For more information, please call 402.429.4090 or visit www.newmusicagency.org.

