Wayfaring Stranger

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

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“A vigorous culture... elaborates on several orders of conventionality, superimposing and interacting with them, and juxtaposing diverse dimensions of meaning.”

--From Culture, Thought, and Social Action by Stanley Jayzeray Tambiah

In this version of Wayfinding Stranger, Lionheart and ACME perform works with a variety of structures and compositional strategies from several eras. By uniting the most salient musical pieces it is our desire to consider and appreciate the multiple resonances and perspectives that may become evident by their being joined. Wayfinding Stranger is a 19th-century American folk song sung in three separate coppeled configurations over the course of our performance.

Ingram Marshall's Fig Tapes is an ambient soundscape scored here for string quartet and pre-recorded sound. The piece suggests observing or moving through the tension, beauty, and mystery of unfamiliar terrain. As an aside, Marshall notes: "Fig Tapes was, at first, written for brass sextet and tape. The idea of a version for strings and tape (the tape part is identical to the original) is predicated on a supposition that the pre-recorded sounds and the live sounds would contrast of creating tension." The tape part is independently a composition created in 1981 from an acoustic recording performance art event. The collage of sounds from the maritime areas of San Francisco—moody foghorns, sea birds and other ambient sound together as well—were wedded with vocal laments and sounds from the gambuh (Balinese flute). In that form the tape piece, known simply as Fig, served me well as an adjunct to a live electronic work called Gradual Requiem. When I added the brass parts in 1982, I trooped the music in the medieval sense of adding a new layer. Now it is twice treated music.

Gabo Maria Vigo sang the characters cunas (an archetypal character) and gabrielis (an archangel), at a performance in New York City. In 2012 the Cantaloupe label commissioned by WNMC Radio for Lionheart with the string quartet ETHEL. Lionheart performs live regularly in and around the New York City area, including its tradition of holiday concerts at the Mormon Tabernacle, the Metropolitan Museum of Art at the Cloisters. Other performances include appearances at Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall, the Folger Library and Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, the Great Hall, the University of Illinois, and Carolina Performing Arts Center. In March 2012 Lionheart presented the world premiere of Psalm Book as part of Stanford University's Lively Arts series, written for and with the American Contemporary Music Ensemble by renowned composer Ingram Marshall.

For its recording on Koch International Classics, El Siglo de Oro, Lionheart was hailed by Early Music America as having "...a fresh, straightforward, unadorned approach to early-American/Puritanical chamber worship." In 2012 Lionheart was nominated for a Grammy for their recording of Psalm Book, which was decided several years ago to create a vocal work with string quartet which would be a gateway work in this material.

"I chose six tunes to work with and place deep attention to the texts, which, by the way, to our ears, are rather peculiar translations; the familiar English language is upside down and inside out! My choice of texture (polyphonic or homorhythmic), rhythmic elaboration, and the dramatic character are the result of my personal interaction with these disarmingly simple and direct tunes and texts. Often the string quartet underlines the vocal material, but just as often the vocal and instrumental are on separate paths, allowing for a common goal. But more frequently than not, the strings support and underline the text-driven music in the vocal parts." --Jeffrey Johnstone
Lionheart and American Contemporary Music Ensemble (ACME)

Wayfaring Stranger
Early classics and contemporary works

Lionheart
Lawrence Lipnik, countertenor
John Olund, tenor
Michael Winger, tenor
Jeffrey Johnson, baritone
Richard Porterfield, baritone
Kurt-Owen Richards, bass

ACME
Laura Lutzke, violin
Caroline Shaw, violin
Caleb Burhans, viola
Brian Snow, cello

Program

Fog Tropes II
Ingram Marshall (b. 1942)

Wayfaring Stranger
Appalachian folk song
Nodame, o vous sans retabl
Notre Dame school, c. 1200
Wayfaring Stranger (version 2)

Opus clavis, serenos
Francisco Guerrero (1528–1599)
Colusi suam xerentes
Cipriano de Rore (1516–1565)
Sanctus
Phil Kline (b. 1955)
And When I Die / Dies aro
Laura Nyro (1947–1997)/Anonymous

Wayfaring Stranger (version 3)
Psalmbook (East Coast Premiere)
Marshall

Pushback was commissioned through Meet The Composer’s ComposersongUSA program, which is made possible by generous support from the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the Wiken and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Helen F. Whitaker Fund.

Duration: 80 minutes, no intermission.

In consideration of both audience and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted inside the theater.

Dr. Susan A. Cole, President
Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts
Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts & Cultural Programming

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Montclair State’s Office of Arts & Cultural Programming (ACP) produces and presents leading artists of the world in dance, music, theater, and opera. Under its signature series Peak Performances, ACP has produced works such as Zeitoun: The Life of Ghimretine Hunter by Robert Wilson, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Tony Reagon, and Jacqueline Woodson; Dog Days by David T. Little and Royce Venekl, Harry Partch’s Oedipus; and Ridge Theater’s The Difficulty of Crossing a Field by David Lang. In addition, ACP has commissioned works by Bill T. Jones, Kronos Quartet, Jan Fabre, Liz Lerman, Laurie Anderson, Romeo Castellucci, Richard Alston, Susan Marshall, Fred Hersch, and David Gordon.

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