Bullycide- Shanghai Quartet with Orion Weiss and DaXun Zhang

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

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Shanghai Quartet with Orion Weiss, piano
DaXun Zhang, double bass

Northeast Premiere! Bullycide by David Del Tredici

March 30, 2014 / 3:00 p.m.
Alexander Kasser Theater

Shanghai Quartet
Weigang Li, violin
Yi-Wen Jiang, violin
Honggang Li, viola
Nicholas Tsavaras, cello

Guest Artists
Orion Weiss, piano
DaXun Zhang, double bass

PROGRAM

String Quartet in D Minor (“Quintet”), op. 78, no. 2, Hob. III:76
Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

Part I:
Transition

Overture

Part II:
Bullycide

DaXun Zhang, double bass
Orion Weiss, piano
Shanghai Quartet

~ ~Interruption~ ~

Northeast Premiere!
Bullycide (2013)
by David Del Tredici

Part I

The Names

Part II

Strangled Voices: Lament and Rage

In Peace

Postscript

Bullycide is commissioned by La Jolla Music Society for SummerFest, Peak Performances at Montclair State University, and Chamber Music Northwest.

Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes, including one 15 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 in the theater.

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Peek Performances
The 2013/14 Season

Northeast Premiere! Bullycide by David Del Tredici
It has been my mission in the last few years to create a body of musical compositions that unapologetically celebrate the gay experience—happy, sad, horrific, or bizarre. Works of mine such as Gay Life, S/M Ballade, Queer Hosannas, and Wondrous the M 그리고 유명한 예명을 가진 그는 한 존재 중 하나였다. 그의 엽서는 일과 일에 의해 주로 그를 위해 그의 작품을 비평의 대상이었다.

The Cruel Fate is a major point of arrival. The fresh tone, now fully formed, appears as the subject of the Cruel Fate. Why live? My mind, each fateful entry represents one of the five lost youths. (Things in love happen again and again in Cruel Fate).

The Tragedy of Life (5/8 time) leads to a grave pace.

Part II

The Names begins with some melodicism. The strings, playing a ghostly canon in a minor key version of the fugue theme, whisper the names of the five bullying victims. At the end of each name the piece returns and repeats the opening "Guttered Stars have lit their heads, this becomes an almost voiceless rage—a suffocating nightmare. the piano interjects. This music reappears at important junctures throughout the piece.

Bullycide was composed in two chunks of time: from November 15, 2010, to February 1, 2011, and from October 14, 2011, to December 12, 2011. The first page of the score bears the inscription, "Written in memory of 5 gay teens who committed suicide: Tyler Clementi, Billy Lucas, Asher Brown, Zack Harrington, and Seth Walsh." The score is dedicated to my mate, Angellos Malefakis.

Years later, real life touched me again. This time, it was the suicide of the young gay violinist Tyler Clementi, his desperate response to the relentless bullying of schoolmates. When I mentioned this tragedy to Dennis Tobenski, a composer friend, he said, "But David, did you not know that, in the last six months, four of those young gay men had also committed suicide?" I did not. Then he named each of the other victims, as though they had been dear friends. I was stunned by this—not only by the fact itself, but by the intensity with which my young friend had spoken their names.

At that third moment, an arrow seemed to pierce my own heart, and I was flooded with painfull memories of bullying in grammar and high school. I remembered that awful feeling of being treated as "different." I remembered the physical attacks, often in the form of spitting (which I despised) at the back of my skull, whenever a teacher's back was turned. And then I heard on the news or read in a book somewhere the word "bullycide." I thought the term perfectly encapsulated this new phenomenon: a teenager's suicide due to bullying.

With such stimulation, I could feel a new piece stirring in me, and I set to composing, finding it unnecessary this time to wait for a poet's text as inspiration. I would memorialize these events so that their horror could not be forgotten. I would celebrate the lives of the five young men, tuning with music what was and might have been.

Bullycide was performed on five occasions:

- At Carnegie Hall, New York, on October 14, 2011
- At the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, October 14, 2011
- At the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, November 15, 2010
- At the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, July 11, 2012
- At the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, March 21, 2013

All performances were hailed as "moving" or "exciting." The Detroit Free Press called it "an emotional and memorable concert event." The Detroit News praised the performance as "an emotional and moving experience." The Music Makers magazine described it as "a powerful and moving work that deals with the issue of bullying in a way that is both profound and accessible."