

## PROGRAM

**Passions** (2001)..... **Ching-chu Hu**

**for violin and piano** (2004).....**Noel Zahler**

**Pathways** (2007).....**Joseph Dangerfield**

**Much Ado About Nothing** (orig. Op. 11, 1918-19) ..... **Erich Korngold**

I. Mädchen im Brautgemach

II. Holzapfel und Schlehwein

III. Gartenscene

IV. Mummenschanz

– intermission –

### Phantasy

for violin with piano accompaniment (1949).....**Arnold Schoenberg**

**Echoes** (2007)..... **David Gompper**

## PROGRAM NOTES

# INFORMATION ONLY

**Passions** is a collection of folk tunes that have surrounded me since my childhood and the western-based education of classical music and 20th-century techniques. For *Passions*, I composed music in which the violin's lines recall the idioms of the 'er hu' (Chinese fiddle) and 'sheng' (chinese aerophone). In contrast, the music for the piano alternates between various pentatonic textures and neo-romantic, neo-tonal influences. C-C H.

**Ching-chu Hu's** (b. 1969, Iowa City) music has been performed in the United States, England, Germany, Russia, Austria, China, Taiwan and Australia, and reviews have described his music as "incredible" and "deeply moving." Recent honors have included composer-in-residence at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival and guest composer at the American Music Week Festival in Sofia, Bulgaria. He has been a composition fellow at the Aspen and Bowdoin Music Festivals, the Banff Centre for the Arts and Yaddo, and has received performances in various national and international festivals and concerts,

Hu studied at Yale University, Freiburg Musikhochschule in Germany, the University of Iowa and the University of Michigan, where he earned his doctorate in composition. He is active as a pianist and conductor, and wrote the scores for several short award-winning films. Recent commissions include works for the Granville Bicentennial Committee, the University of Iowa School of Music's Centennial celebration and the Upper Arlington Community Orchestra.

Violinist Wolfgang David premiered the work at Wigmore Hall in London. Other notable performers with whom he has worked include flutist Betty Bang Mather, bassist Robert Black and the National Chinese Dance and Opera Orchestra. Hu's music can be heard on the ERM Media's *Masterworks of the New Era* CD series and on the Albany Records CD *Finnegan's Wake*. Hu is currently the Bayley-Bowen Fellow and associate professor of composition and theory at Denison University.

## MEET THE PERFORMERS

In the space of a few short years, **Wolfgang David** has ensconced himself on the international stage, both as a recitalist, and as a guest soloist with many of the world's leading orchestras, such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Berne Symphony Orchestra and New York Virtuosi. He has been well received by the press—the *Washington Post* writes that he has "scaled the heights of music-making," while *The Strad* praises his playing for being as "emotionally wide-ranging as one could hope for." Thomas Frost, senior executive producer at SONY Classical, foresees for him "a significant international concert and recording career."

Admitted to the University for Music in Vienna at the age of eight, David studied there for many years with Rainer Kuechl, the concertmaster of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. He subsequently continued his studies at the Musikhochschule in Cologne with Igor Ozim and at the Guildhall School of Music in London with Yfrah Neaman.

The winner of many competitions and prizes, David has performed in major halls such as Konzerthaus and Musikverein Hall in Vienna, Carnegie Hall in New York, Cerritos Center in Los Angeles, the Wigmore Hall in London and Philharmonie in Cologne. He has concertized in over 30 countries and tours regularly throughout Europe, the United States, South Africa and South Korea. In 2006, David recorded an album of compositions by the King of Thailand, Bhumibol Adulyadej, with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (London) under the baton of Emmanuel Siffert.

Highlights of his career have included concerts at the Great Assembly Hall of the United Nations in New York, in the presence of Secretary General Kofi Annan, and a concert in Bangkok, given for the Queen of Thailand.

He performs on a violin built in 1715 by Carlo Bergonzi, Cremona, on exclusive loan to him from the Austrian National Bank. David has recorded a CD with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of



Emmanuel Siffert, and two albums with the American pianist David Gompper.

**David Gompper** has lived and worked professionally as a pianist, a conductor and a composer in New York, San Diego, London, Nigeria, Michigan, Texas and Iowa. He studied at the Royal College of Music in London with Jeremy Dale Roberts, Humphrey Searle and Phyllis Sellick. After teaching in Nigeria, he received his doctorate at the University of Michigan, taught at the University of Texas, Arlington, and since 1991 has been a professor of composition and director of the Center for New Music at the University of Iowa. In 2002–2003 Gompper was in Russia as a Fulbright Scholar, teaching, performing and conducting at the Moscow Conservatory.

Gompper's compositions care heard throughout the United States and Europe. In 1999 his *Transitus* (for wind ensemble) premiered at Carnegie Hall and a number of his works have premiered in London's Wigmore Hall, including: *Hommage à W. A. (William Albright)* for piano and *Shades of Love*, a song cycle on the poetry of Constantin Cavafy. The Slovak Radio Orchestra will record Gompper's *Violin Concerto* later this fall.

Subsequent returns to Moscow have included premieres and performances of *Crossed*, *Music in the Glen*, *Six Love Poems*, *Star of the County Down* and *Butterfly Dance*. His *Outside Cage* for piano and electronics was premiered at the Institute of Music and Acoustics in Karlsruhe, Germany, this past June. Gompper's "An Elm We Lost" and "Kuta Muela" appear on the CDs *Monsterology* and *Musica segreta*, both on Albany Records.