

# THE 39<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BOWLING GREEN NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19**

**8 pm, Kobacker Hall**

## Hub New Music

**1987** (2008).....**Anna Clyne**

**Pieces of Winter Sky** (2012).....**Aaron Jay Kernis**

with guests Yevgeny Yontov, piano and Henrique Batista, percussion

**- intermission -**

**Soul House** (2017).....**Robert Honstein**

- I. Bay Window
- II. Stairs
- III. Alcove
- IV. Hallway
- V. Backyard
- VI. Driveway
- VII. Copper Beech
- VIII. Landing
- IX. Secret Place

## Program Notes

Memories tucked away and tangled in threads of beads in the corner of her glass box. The tape part for *1987* comprises a melody and winding sounds from a music box that my father gave my mother in their early days of courting, and the sounds of the carousel and pebbles at Brighton Beach in the South of England—a place of fond memories.

Vocals recorded by engineer, Alan Labiner, with vocalists Caleb Burhans and Martha Cluver at Carfax Abbey Studios, Brooklyn. *1987* was commissioned and premiered by the Seattle Chamber Players at Ice Breaker IV: The American Future—a concert curated by Alex Ross at On the Boards, Seattle.

In 2012, Tzadik Records released a full album of my music, titled *Blue Moth*, that showcases a diverse range of electroacoustic chamber music, including *1987*. -AC

*Pieces of Winter Sky* evokes the still, lingering, misty, gray winter sky - hovering, immobile. There is occasionally turbulence on the surface but underlying lyricism is at its core. Rather than affecting a narrative arc or clear dramatic progression, *Pieces of Winter Sky* is a sequence of short episodes, some closely related and connected in sequence, others strongly contrasting and sharply juxtaposed. Fragments of bird song,

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most notably the song of the Winter Wren (heard in slow motion), are played by the clarinet, beginning a middle section which features soloists from the ensemble - clarinet cello, violin and piano. Flute/ piccolo is often highlighted, and percussion provide~ an ongoing shimmer. The soundworld of *Pieces of Winter Sky* is unified by the resonant sustained sounds of bowing - bowed piano, crotales, vibraphone, cymbals, and, in some performances, bowed glockenspiel. Schubert's aching, unyielding song cycle, *Winterreise* (Winter Journey) echoes from the distant past - like faint, spiritual radio waves....

In the ancient world a 'Soul House' was a model home buried with the dead. Intended as a vessel for the soul to inhabit in the afterlife, often stocked with clay food, tiny furniture, and even small servant figurines, these otherworldly structures provided sustenance and comfort, a connection to loved ones, and a spiritual home as the soul moved beyond the material world. While writing *Soul House* I thought about these ancient funerary objects and began to think of my own childhood home as a Soul House. Not for my soul, but rather for memories of family and childhood. Walking through the house now, it's impossible not to feel decades of memory infusing the house itself, seeping into the walls and floorboards, the air and soil. It is a constant reminder of all that life and living we shared. With that feeling in mind, I wrote this piece: a love letter to the house I grew up in.

Cast in nine movements the piece is a series of vignettes depicting various parts of the house with little dramas unfolding along the way. Each movement is a fragmented story representative of feelings and memories from that part of the house: a contemplative nook in a sun filled Bay Window; a cozy Alcove; the rush of action through the Hallway down the Stairs and a triumphal arrival on the Landing; the running, chasing play of the Backyard; the morning rush (and endless struggle for the 'front seat') of the Driveway; a stately old Copper Beach, majestic and noble in its rooted splendor; and finally a Secret Place, somewhere just for myself where all the dreams and frustrations of childhood mingle in private, a wondrous cocktail of confusion and delight.

### **Hub New Music Is:**

**Michael Avitabile, flute  
David Dziardziel, clarinet  
Zenas Hsu, violin  
Jesse Christeson, cello**

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