

GLOBAL
MUSIC
MEETS
CREATIVE
JAZZ

NOW

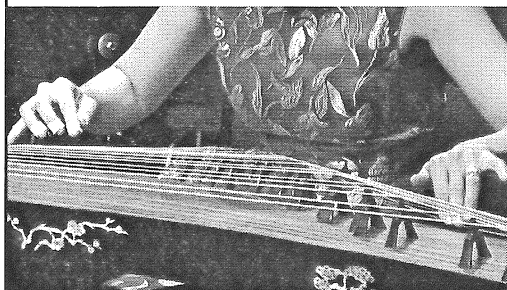
NEW ORCHESTRA
WORKSHOP SOCIETY

VICO

VANCOUVER INTER
CULTURAL ORCHESTRA



ORBITS AND REVOLUTIONS
STORIES OF THE WORLD



March 2 & 3, 2007 8pm

The Vancouver East
Cultural Centre



NOW: 30 Years of Great Music

I am very excited to welcome you to *Orbits and Revolutions: Stories of the World*, the first concert of the New Orchestra Workshop Society's 30th Anniversary year. I want to give thanks to the long line of great artists that have made NOW survive and flourish for such a long time: founding players Lisle Ellis, Gregg Simpson, Paul Cram, Paul Plimley, Ralph Eppel and Don Druick and other important figures like Clyde Reed, Ron Samworth, Kate Hammett-Vaughan, Bruce Freedman and Graham Ord.

Since our inception in 1977, we have kept our focus on developing and presenting artists and groups that reflect a uniquely west coast perspective of imagination and diversity. As we build our work on the foundation of the oral/aural tradition of the improvised musics of the world, we follow a thread that brings us to many kindred musical spirits.

With that in mind, it is a privilege and very fitting to start our year with this project that features Vancouver's own NOW Orchestra and the Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra. Over the course of two nights we'll premiere six powerful and varied new works, performed by an amazing array of Canada's greatest musician/improvisers.

I am proud to have been involved with the organization for 29 years. One of my proudest contributions to the organization was starting the NOW Orchestra twenty years ago, and since that time, I have seen it continue to grow and evolve as we have had the good fortune to record, tour and perform with some of the foremost exponents of improvised music in the world.

Thank you for joining us, and I hope you continue to join us in our musical journey for many years to come.

Coat Cooke

Artistic Director
New Orchestra Workshop Society

Inter-Cultural and Improvisational

On behalf of the Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra, let me say that it is a great honour and pleasure to be collaborating with the New Orchestra Workshop Society. This first time collaboration between our two organizations is one that will bear much fruit for future endeavours, both individually and hopefully, again together. Let me congratulate the NOW for reaching its 30th year – may the spirit of your creativity only deepen in the years to come.

It is a natural marriage that brings together non-western musics and the principles of improvisation. Much of the art music of the non-western world is transmitted aurally, from generation to generation, and holds a significant place in it for the art of improvisation. To be sure, these musics of the world – among them Persian, Arabic, and Indian – practice different forms of improvisation than that of the free jazz of the western world, of which the NOW is a major exponent. But the aurality of all improvisation traditions is an excellent starting point for a successful blending of the musical aesthetics of different cultures.

Improvisation is all about being 'in the moment'. It is this present tense which gives improvisation its interest, and – if I may be permitted to share a little advice – the listener is encouraged to look for the immediacy of expression in what he or she hears. This is our moment, a moment in the world which is all of ours for the sharing. Here and now we can say to each other, within the embrace of music, that the planet and its stories belong to each and every one of us.

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Moshe Denburg

Artistic Director
Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra

NOW Orchestra

Coat Cooke - alto and tenor sax, flute
Graham Ord - soprano and tenor sax, flute
Saul Berson - alto and tenor sax, clarinet, flute
JP Carter - trumpet
Bill Clark - trumpet, flugelhorn
Rod Murray - trombone
Brad Muirhead - bass trombone
Ron Samworth - electric guitar
Paul Blaney - bass
DB Boyko - voice

VICO

Randy Raine-Reusch - zheng, dulcimer, bawu, khane, bamboo flute, guanzi, voice
Gordon Grdina - ud, guitar
Joseph "Pepe" Danza - percussion, shakuhachi
Mei Han - zheng
Navid Goldrick - santur, ud
Bic Hoang - danbau, bass danbau, koni, soprano voice

Guest Conductor

John Zoltek

Production Staff

Chris Gestrin - Recording Engineer
Jon Bentley - Assistant Recording Engineer
Lawrence Anthony - Stage Manager
Steve Bagnell - Production Manager
Allyson McGrane - Administrative Director
Emma Lancaster - Publicist

Program

Set One

*Green Wind** (2007)
by Jin Zhang

*Strathcona (a short walk)** (2007)
Music and Text by Ron Samworth

*Agua Azul**
by Coat Cooke

*Camel Hop at the Caravanserai** (2007)
by Moshe Denburg

Set Two

*Spirit House** (2007)
by Mark Armanini

*King of Wands**
by Joseph "Pepe" Danza

*World premieres commissioned by the NOW Orchestra and VICO

Notes

Green Wind (2007)

by Jin Zhang

soprano sax, alto sax, clarinet, flute, danbau, soprano voice, dulcimer, zheng, bawu, bass, percussion, drum kit.

Green fields and fresh air, what beautiful nature and a great environment! The music of *Green Wind* is based on a Mongolian tonality, and is meant to bring you a feeling of relaxation and delight as you face the light wind and the greenery all around fills your eyes. The piece is in two sections, one slow and one fast.

Strathcona (a short walk) (2007)

Music and Text by Ron Samworth

sax, flute, guitar, bass, voice, danbau, zheng, percussion

This composition is constructed around a piece of original text of mine evoking my experience of walking through Strathcona on a spring day. The juxtaposition of beauty and decay gradually reveals a poetical wholeness – everything belongs as it is.

Agua Azul

by Coat Cooke

flute, trumpet, trombone, bass trombone, voice, danbau, ud, percussion, zheng, bass

Agua Azul is a piece about a perfect place. A place that exists in solitude, and in friendship. Great simplicity and complexity simultaneously. Ever constant-ever changing. The piece features a latin-influenced melody, unaccompanied solos on zheng, danbau, a trio of voice, zheng and danbau, and improvisation on ten cells by the ensemble.

Camel Hop at the Caravanserai (2007)

by Moshe Denburg

tenor sax, trumpet, trombone, electric guitar, bass, 2 zhengs (chinese long zithers), ud (arabic lute), santur (persian hammered dulcimer), hand drums

The Caravanserai was an inn along the Silk Road, in the area of modern Iran, where Caravans could stop for refreshment. So it is easily a metaphor for a meeting place where stories of the world are shared, and, we fervently imagine, music jamming happens nightly. Aah my friend, remember the night the camels in the courtyard began to dance?

Spirit House (2007)

by Mark Armanini

koni, dan bau, bass dan bau, male and female voice, zheng, ud, santur, khane, bamboo flute, guanzi, shakuhachi, percussion, hand drums, electric guitar, string bass, 3 flutes/tenor saxes, 2 trumpets, trombone, bass trombone

Spirit House is my attempt to build a musical space we can all live in. The multitude of musical instruments and musical styles are a direct reflection of the outside world, and the music is a manifestation of the spiritual experience. The music provides a place to share the same experience. The work has six movements and uses musical forms such as drone, shuffle, and chorale to give maximum support for the instruments and the many solo passages which appear throughout the work. The improvisation will enable the work to change and transform depending on the players involved. At the same time I have tried to make a big sound, a sound that tests the outer limits of the large and the small delicate aspects, a sound that blends together into a fresh and everchanging textural landscape.

King of Wands

by Joseph "Pepe" Danza

flute, clarinet, flugelhorn, voice, percussion, santur, ud, bass

"If the King loves music there is little wrong in the land."

The King of Wands, in the Tarot tradition, is a figure of energy, positive thinking and optimism, sensuality and intuition. This is a groove piece with middle eastern colors. It was specially written for this event. My compositional technique generally is to let the piece arise almost by itself while I get out of the way. There is very little or no editing and lots of room for different choices and improvisation.

Composers

Mark Armanini was raised, and educated in Vancouver, Canada and holds a B.Mus. (1981) and M.Mus. (1984) in composition from the University of British Columbia. Since 1989 Mark has been composing for various combinations of Chinese, Asian, and Western instrumentation and has received numerous commissions and awards for his work. His compositions have been performed by many orchestras and ensembles including the CBC Radio Orchestra, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the Edmonton Symphony, the Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra, the BC Chinese Orchestra, and ensembles such as Orchid Ensemble and Silk Road. With a catalogue of over 40 works for choir, solo voice, chamber and orchestral ensembles, Mark has built on his Vancouver roots. This 'Vancouver style' has resulted in several concertos: '...of Wind and Water' for Pipa; 'Concerto for Erhu'; 'Concerto for Yangqin'; 'Dance of Many Colours' for two Dan Bau (a native Vietnamese one-string zither), and 'Incense and Flowers', a double concerto for Yangqin and Harp with intercultural orchestra. The delicacy, refinement, and versatility of the oriental instruments, in combination with orchestra makes for a refreshing sound palette for western ears. Mark is an associate composer of the Canadian Music Centre and since 1994 has been on faculty as composition instructor at Capilano College in North Vancouver.

Coat Cooke is the NOW Orchestra Artistic Director and one of Canada's most lyrical and inventive saxophonists and composers. His work has included a wide selection projects with dance, theatre, multi-media and film over the last thirty years, and his catalogue includes more than one hundred compositions. Coat has toured Canada, the USA and Europe performing in major festivals in Berlin, Lisbon and Chicago, and his collaborations include work with George Lewis, Wadada Leo Smith, Roscoe Mitchell, Butch Morris, Marilyn Crispell, Oliver Lake and most recently with Diane Labrosse, Pierre Tanguay and John Oswald. His most recent Coat Cooke Trio recording, *Up Down Down Up* is available on Cellar Live Records (www.cellarlive.com), and you can also hear his work on a number of NOW Orchestra CDs available in the lobby or learn more at our website at www.noworchestra.com.

Joseph 'Pepe' Danza is a native of Montevideo, Uruguay, where he studied extensively at the National Conservatory. Pepe's interest in world music developed during more than 5 years of travel and study – Shakuhachi in Japan, Indian Music in India and Sri Lanka, Gamelan in Indonesia, and other studies in Korea, the Philippines and Brazil. Since moving to Canada in 1989 he has established himself as one of the foremost all-round musicians on the West coast, performing, composing, arranging and serving as a musical director. He has toured extensively in North America, Europe, Korea and New Zealand. Among his composition credits, he has written two large scale compositions for the Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra, *The Hermit and the Princess* (2001) and *I Saw a Mountain* (2002).

Moshe Denburg has studied music extensively, both formally and informally. He has travelled worldwide, living and studying music in Israel, India, and Japan. From 1986-90 he studied composition with John Celona at the University of Victoria. His compositions reflect his Jewish roots as well as an ongoing commitment to the principle of inter-cultural music making. He has written a good number of chamber works utilizing instruments from non-Western cultures (East Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic and more). His works have been performed and broadcast at festivals and on radio, both in Canada and abroad. Moshe has been the moving force behind the Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra's establishment and ongoing activities since its inception in the year 2000.

Ron Samworth is known on the Canadian improvised/contemporary music scene as an inventive textural improviser and a strong fluid soloist inspired by a variety of traditions including jazz, rock, contemporary and world musics. He leads the Vancouver-based quartet Talking Pictures and co-directed the acclaimed NOW Orchestra from 1993-2003. He is also a member of The Unexpected, a Montreal-Vancouver collective, the Peggy Lee Band, DarkBlueWorld, François Houle's electro-acoustic quartet and the Hard Rubber Orchestra. He has appeared at all the major Jazz Festivals across Canada, the Festival International de Musique Actuelle de Victoriaville, at New York's Knitting Factory, and the New York Improvisation Festival, New Music America, Vienna's "Let's Cool One" Chamber Jazz Festival, Chicago and Berlin jazz festivals, and other leading venues in Europe. He has performed with many of the leading voices in contemporary music such as John Zorn, Dave Douglas, Evan Parker, Barry Guy, George Lewis, Wayne Horvitz, Kuzuhisa Uchihashi, Yasuhiro Otani, Butch Morris, Han Bennink, Barre Phillips, Marilyn Crispell, Claude Ranger, René Lussier, and Jean Derome.

Jin Zhang received his musical education at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing and at Toho Gakuen School of Music in Tokyo, where he studied conducting with Prof. Morihiro Okabe. He has also studied with maestro Kazuyoshi Akiyama and took master class instruction from Seiji Ozawa. Jin has worked with many ensembles and choirs including: the China Broadcasting Troupe, Nara Chorus, and the Capital Philharmonic Orchestra. In Canada since 1990, he has conducted and composed actively, for Symphony Orchestras, Chinese Folk Orchestras, Small Ensembles, and Choirs. Jin's work has been heard in concert, on radio, television, film, and recordings. He is presently Music Director and Conductor for the New Westminster Symphony Orchestra and the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra. He also conducts for the West Coast Symphony Orchestra and the BC Chinese Music Association Ensemble.

Guest Conductor

John Zoltek is entering his tenth year as Music Director and Conductor of the Glacier Symphony and Chorale. He holds degrees in music composition from The University of British Columbia (1983, M.M.), and Berklee College of Music in Boston, (1981, B.M. cum laude). His previous positions include: Conductor of the Vancouver Pro Musica Orchestra; Conductor for Marzena, a Seattle-based new music ensemble associated with Seattle Spring; Music Director of the Renton Youth Symphony Orchestra, and Music Director of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Seattle. He has also conducted the Southwestern Honors Orchestra in Knoxville, Tennessee and made his European debut with the Philharmonic Bohuslav Martinu in Luhachovice, Czech Republic. Mr. Zoltek appears as conductor with that same orchestra on *The Spirit Emerges*, a CD of music of Canadian composer Mark Armanini. John's other recordings include: *The Music of Diane Thome* on the Opus One label and three live CD concert recordings of the Montana Summer Symphony where he conducts the music of Rossini and Dvorak.

The NOW and the VICO wish to acknowledge the generous support of our many funders – government departments, foundations and private donors – without whom our work would not be possible.

The NOW Orchestra wants to offer a special thanks to Laurence Svirchev for his photographic contributions over the years. Thanks to Steve Bagnell for his important contributions musically and administratively and to Andrew Laurenson, Sean Lang and Radix Theatre. Also a warm thanks to composers Jin Zhang, Pepe Danza, Ron Samworth and conductor John Zoltek.

The Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra wishes to acknowledge the dedicated work of administrator Melanie Thompson and consultant Richard Marcuse. Our heartfelt gratitude for keeping the VICO moving forward.

