

2013 Feedback

• **Morris Rosenzweig (Distinguished Professor of Music, University of Utah):** *I had a very good time at the symposium. It was, clearly, a big success. The students' spirit was admirable, I liked meeting you and all the guests; Great group. The concerts were diverse and terrific. I had two very fine performances and met a whole lot of interesting artists, thinkers, and listeners. The job you did getting this to work is simply beyond.*

You did a wonderful thing for the culture and mind set of the community, and proved what I've always believed: We are not in major centers, but doing these sorts of things is so difficult in those places that the advantage swings to people like you who can make the desert bloom. I look forward to continuing our alliance and friendship.

• **Panaiotis (composer):** *This was a great idea and I am pleased that you decided to break the concert up with alternating sections, and requested no applause until the end. This was an inspired approach that did much for the evening. Chatter gets credit for fine performances, but Peter's conducting contribution was certainly helpful as needed. Thank you for putting this together. I think the format is excellent and hope that something similar occurs in the future. I would certainly enjoy participating.*

• **Ken Ueno (Associate Professor of Music, University of California Berkeley):** *Big kudos to Karola Obermüller and Peter Gilbert for organizing the John Donald Robb Composers Symposium this year! From their curatorial vision to daily details and warmth of hospitality, everything was great—THANK YOU! What a really great festival! I was honored to be included and happy to be there with so many wonderful musicians!*

Having been an invited guest to many festivals around the world, I thought Peter and Karola's vision and detailed execution was one of the best! I had a great time interacting with your composition students too. I could tell from their questions and talking to them that they were well-prepared and that many of them had already an advanced framework, to contextualize our discussions. I was happy to see that some of your students, during the masterclasses, are working at a high level, equal to many of the top-tier schools that I know. I think Jonah Elrod is a standout. His grasp of timbre-based orchestration is already quite advanced. There was an undergraduate in one of the sessions who brought up Baudrillard. The whole festival was impressive, and, no doubt, a lot of work to plan and manage. But, I appreciated how you guys always managed to make me feel comfortable, attended to, taken care of. You guys are the perfect team.

• **Lauren Hood (Keller Hall Manager):** *I have to say this was the easiest, most enjoyable Symposium yet. Huge thanks to my staff and the recording studio for taking on a huge part. This was the nicest, coolest group of guest composers and performers I've had the privilege of meeting and working with, even if it's just from a logistical stand point!*

• **Eric Lau (Associate Chair, UNM Department of Music):** *Thank you! I enjoyed the opportunity to meet, learn from, and hear Naomi [Sato] and DuoX. The morning masterclass was perfect, and the students had a great time experimenting with improvisation during the afternoon session. Thanks for all you do.*

• **Bob James (audience/attendee):** *I came three years ago and tired of it quickly, but this has been great! I'm so glad I gave the symposium another chance.*