

THE
JOHN
DONALD
ROBB
COMPOSERS'

SYMPOSIUM

A **STREAMING** FESTIVAL
OF NEW MUSIC

May 1-4, 2021

"House Music"

Information at robbtrust.org

"An enchanted landscape on the edge of the United States and a place for innovative ideas and sounds that are a result of the exchange between different cultures, this lively new music scene gets to express itself annually at the John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium in Albuquerque."

— Egbert Hiller, Music Journalist

Presented by the
University of New Mexico Department of Music
and the UNM Robb Musical Trust

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The Symposium is made possible with generous support from The Mr. and Mrs. Sanford N. McDonnell Foundation, The Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, the UNM College of Fine Arts and the Robb Trust.

John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium

Composers

Joshua Aguiar	Cord Meijering
Cecilia Arditto	David Dean Mendoza
Sergio Azevedo	Shawn Okpebholo
Hwei-Lee Blumenthaler Chang	Vivienne Olive
Leo Brouwer	Christopher Orphal
Miguel del Aguila	William Osborne
Doug Falk	Beth Ratay
Matthew Forte	Patrice Repar
Gabriel Gonzales	Sourena Sefati
Meera Gudipati	Faye-Ellen Silverman
Durwynne Hsieh	Nur Slim
Matthew Lind	Annika Socolofsky
Don Lopez	Jonathan Spiller
Carrie Magin	José María Vitier
Michael Mauldin	Grace Weaver
	Ben Work

Special Presenters

Ana Lopes Aréchiga, choreography

Abbie Conant, trombone

Daniel Lippel, guitar

Performances by

Amity Trio	James Flora
Astralis Chamber Ensemble	Olga Perez Flora
Bella Cosi String Quartet	Kim Fredenburgh
Coalescence Percussion Duo	Luke Gullickson
ensemble united berlin	Kaitlin Innis
Glass City Singers	Matthew Koester
Musikkollegium Winterthur	Will Liverman
National Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra	Emily Santa Maria
University of Nebraska Graduate Woodwind Quartet	Darragh Morgan
Zuky Au	Evan Runyon
Lea Rahel Bader	Paul Sanchez
Volker Blumenthaler	James Shields
Fee Blumenthaler	Ben Silva
Sonia Bologna	Laura Steiner
Aaron Burr	Leo Sussman
Lisa Collins	Jesse Tatum
Sebastian Dao	Leslie Umphrey
Kristin Ditlow	Toby Vigneau
Nadja Falk	Kevin Vigneau
David Felberg	Uta Walther
	Jannis Wichmann

John Donald Robb

John Donald Robb

(1892-1989) led a rich and varied life as an international attorney, composer, arts educator, folk-song collector and preservationist, and author. He was the Dean of the College of Fine Arts at the University of New Mexico from 1942-57 and was responsible for starting the UNM Symphony and



John Donald Robb and Harriet Robb

many other educational initiatives. Robb studied composition with leading composers of the day such as Horatio Parker, Roy Harris, Paul Hindemith, Darius Milhaud, and Nadia Boulanger. He composed symphonies, concertos, sonatas, chamber and other instrumental music, choral works, songs and arrangements of folk songs, two operas and a musical comedy, and his music often reflected his love for the culture and landscape of the Southwest.

In his 70s, after becoming one of the first in the country to purchase a Moog synthesizer, he turned to composing electronic music and is considered a notable pioneer in that field where he is represented by more than 65 electronic works. Publications by Robb include *Hispanic Folk Songs of New Mexico* (1954; revised edition by UNM Press, 2008); his authoritative book, *Hispanic Folk Music of New Mexico and the Southwest: A Self Portrait of a People* (1980), which was re-published by UNM Press in 2014, and *Cancionero: Songs of Laughter & Faith in New Mexico* (UNM Press, 2015).

During his tenure at UNM, Robb's fascination with Hispanic folk music led him to collect 3,000 field recordings of traditional songs and dances from the American Southwest, South America and Nepal. These songs, now easily accessed digitally through the UNM Libraries' Center for Southwest Research (CSWR), form the nucleus of the John Donald Robb Archive of Southwestern Music, which is housed in the CSWR. Robb received numerous honors and grants, including the honorary Doctor of Music from the University of New Mexico, and all genres of his works are still performed today.

About the Trust

The UNM John Donald Robb Musical Trust supports the musical legacy of Robb, furthers his inspiring commitment to education and advances the music of the Southwest.

What we do

- The Trust's many initiatives include the editing, arrangement, performance and recording of Robb's original compositions, as well as the work of other composers.
- Each fall, the Trust puts on the annual John D. Robb, Jr. ***¡Música del Corazón: A Celebration of Nuevomexicano Music!*** Concert at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, which is dedicated to keeping the rich traditions of Southwestern and Hispanic folk music alive and well in New Mexico.
- The annual UNM John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium brings to the UNM campus composers from around the world, and also showcases the work of UNM student and faculty composers. The internationally recognized Symposium is one of the longest ongoing festivals of new music in the world.
- The UNM John Donald Robb Trust has a biennial commissioning project which has talented composers of our time compose new works based on folk-song material or a derivative thereof from the John Donald Robb Musical Archive in the UNM Libraries' Center for Southwest Research (CSWR). The new composition is premiered at the Composers' Symposium.
- Additional initiatives include underwriting opportunities for projects that advance the Trust's mission, the Robb Awards for Excellence in music education, contemporary music and southwestern music, and a Robb Graduate Music Assistantship to support the John Donald Robb Archive of Southwestern Music, the Robb manuscript collection at the CSWR, and the Composers' Symposium.



Discover more about the Trust at www.robtrust.org

We invite you to share comments about the symposium and to be our friend at www.facebook.com/robtrust

John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium

Streaming Events

Saturday, May 1st

5:00 PM [CONCERT #1 \(Youtube\)](#)

7:30 PM [CONCERT #2 \(Youtube\)](#)

Sunday, May 2nd

5:00 PM [ROBB CONCERT \(Youtube\)](#)

7:30 PM [CONCERT #4 \(Youtube\)](#)

Monday, May 3rd

9:30 AM [COMPOSITION MASTERCLASS](#) (Registration required)
Cecilia Arditto

12:00 PM [COMPOSITION MASTERCLASS](#) (Registration required)
Shawn Okpebholo

7:30 PM [CONCERT #5 \(Youtube\)](#)

Tuesday, May 4th

9:30 AM [TALK: From Discrimination to Art](#)
(Registration required)
Abbie Conant / William Osborne

12:30 PM [TALK: Making an Album: From Recording to Release](#)
(Registration required)
Dan Lippel

2:00 PM [COMPOSITION MASTERCLASS](#) (Registration required)
Annika Socolofsky

7:30 PM [CONCERT #6 \(Youtube\)](#)

Concert Programs

Saturday, May 1 5:00 PM

- Annika Socolofsky *Quell*
Evan Runyon, bass
Colin Knapp, recorded organ
- Shawn Okpebholo *Two Black Churches*
Will Liverman, voice; Paul Sanchez, piano
- David Dean Mendoza *Garden Trio*
i. *Field and Forest Call*
ii. *The Garden*
iii. *The Garden of Kama: Kama the
Indian Eros*
Kevin Vigneau, oboe; Kim Fredenburgh, viola;
Toby Vigneau, bass
- Cecilia Arditto *Tissue*
Musikkollegium Winterthur;
Pierre-Alain Monot, conductor



Saturday, May 1 7:30 PM

- Cord Meijering *Tombeau de Hans Werner Henze*
Lea Rahel Bader, Violoncello;
ensemble united berlin; Vladimir Jurowski
- Vivienne Olive *Prometheus meets Purcell*
Uta Walther, piano
- Hwei-Lee
Blumenthaler Chang *The Butterfly—ein Lied*
Volker Blumenthaler, cello;
Fee Blumenthaler, piano;
Sebastian Dao (narrator/tape)

John Donald Robb

ODA:

I am very old tonight
String Quartet No.3 :Allegretto
Tears
Sandovalito

Ana Lopes Aréchiga, choreography & editing
Sonia Bologna & Kaitlin Innis, dance
Cesar Lopes Aréchiga & Ryan
Grady, videography

Leslie Umphrey, voice; National Polish Radio
Symphony Orchestra, David Oberg, conductor
Bella Cosi String Quartet



Sunday, May 2 7:30 PM

Meera Gudipati

Javārī Ratios
Leo Sussman, flute;
Meera Gudipati, electronics

Sergio Azevedo

Petite Musique de Table
i. *Pastorale*
ii. *Menuet*
iii. *Jig*
Kevin Vigneau, oboe; Kim Fredenburgh, viola;
Toby Vigneau, bass

Beth Ratay

Helical Bricks
Coalescence Percussion Duo

Patrice Repar

Iridium Gone Gold
Matthew Koester, soprano saxophone
Emily Santa Maria, alto saxophone
Aaron Burr, tenor saxophone
Zuky Au, baritone saxophone

Durwynne Hsieh *Interruptus*
Kevin Vigneau, oboe; Kim Fredenburgh, viola;
Toby Vigneau, bass

Faye-Ellen Silverman *Musicians of the Air*
Darragh Morgan, violin



Monday, May 3 7:30 PM

Grace Weaver *Arrival*
David Felberg, violin;
Laura Steiner, viola; Lisa Collins, cello

Doug Falk *FIGHT!*
Jesse Tatum, flute; James Shields, clarinet

Joshua Aguiar *Vesperpool*
Dan Lippel, guitar

Jonathan Spiller *Trio*
David Felberg, violin;
Laura Steiner, viola; Lisa Collins, cello

Doug Falk *Hilde und Sabine (Zartbitter)*
Nadja Falk, harp

Sourena Sefati *Duo*
Jesse Tatum, flute; James Shields, clarinet

Christopher Orphal *Siaynoq*
Dan Lippel, guitar

Gabriel Gonzales *Axaxaxas mlö*
Toby Vigneau, bass



Tuesday, May 3 7:30 PM

Matthew Lind Excitations
Jesse Tatum, flute; James Shields, clarinet

Joshua Aguiar Shipwrecked
University of Nebraska
Graduate Woodwind Quartet

Don Lopez Euphrates
Luke Gullickson, piano

Gabriel Gonzales Conflagrations
fixed media

Christopher Orphal Embrace, Again, and Tremble
I. Nocturne
David Felberg, violin;
Christopher Orphal, guitar

Doug Falk Heterogeneity
Dan Lippel, guitar

Sourena Sefati String Trio (The Fall)
David Felberg, violin;
Laura Steiner, viola; Lisa Collins, cello

Ben Work An Orchid Tree
Ben Work, bass



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49th Annual UNM Composers' Symposium

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James Linnell	James Wright
Martin Mathisen	

*Deceased

**A few of the
Symposium's
many notable
guests:**

Emanuele Arciuli
Arditti Quartet
Robert Ashley
Milton Babbitt
Anthony Braxton
Martin Bresnick
John Cage
Raven Chacon
Chen Yi
Michael Colgrass
George Crumb
Joséph Daley Trio
Halim El-Dabh
Pozzi Escot
Julio Estrada
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Lisa Moore
Thea Musgrave
Valerie Naranjo
Susan Narucki
Pauline Oliveros
Hilda Paredes

A History of the Composers' Symposium

In 1972, William Wood invited Norman Lockwood to have works of his performed at the University of New Mexico alongside UNM student composers during a late-April concert program. This marked the beginning of what is now known as the UNM John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium, an event that has occurred annually and uninterrupted since then, making it one of the longest-running festivals of new music in the world.

The next years included a cavalcade of significant composers including Ned Rorem, Karel Husa, John Harbison and John Cage, among others. Always, experimentation was encouraged. It didn't take long for the symposium to gain an international reputation.

One featured guest was invited to each symposium until 1989. In honor of the university's centennial that year, the symposium honored 40 UNM Music Department alumni and friends, with special tributes going to John Donald Robb, former dean of the UNM College of Fine Arts. That year, the Robb Concert was established, beginning a tradition in which a composition of the former dean would be performed at every symposium. A decade later, the symposium was renamed the John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium to honor the former dean who had been instrumental in developing the music program at UNM. As the Department of Music faculty became more involved, a full schedule of daytime masterclasses and lectures featuring visiting guests was introduced, providing exciting opportunities for students. The symposium is now presented jointly by the UNM Department of Music and the John Donald Robb Musical Trust.

Beginning in the 1990s, the symposium experimented with themes, such as film music and music theory and jazz. More recent themes have included music and movement, social issues in contemporary music, and the influence of Native American culture and composers on new music.

Vincent Persichetti
Roger Reynolds
Ned Rorem
Steven Schick
Maria Schneider
Gunther Schuller
Cecil Taylor
James Tenney
Augusta Read
Thomas
Joan Tower
Christian Wolff

In 2019 the Symposium hosted the Society of Composers national conference, performing works by more than 80 composers from around the country. That year also featured three concerts by the celebrated Arditti Quartet which included nine UNM student premieres.

Through generous support of the Robb Musical Trust, The Mr. and Mrs. Sanford N. McDonnell Foundation, The Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation and the UNM Department of Music, all events on the UNM campus are free and open to the public, which continues another long tradition: making the music available to everyone.

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**Robb Archives of
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