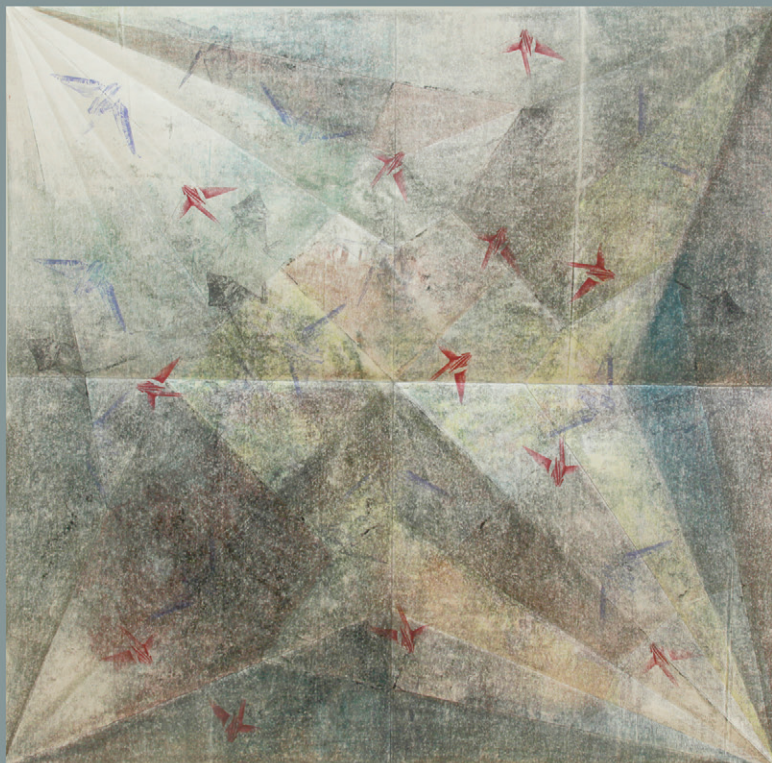


The University of New Mexico John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium  
The 44th Annual Exploration of Creativity and Music



Yoshiko Shimano, *Sadako's Diary* (2010), silkscreen and monoprint on colored paper. Courtesy of the artist.

# *Musical Retellings*

A five-day festival of concerts and workshops  
featuring the many treasures that today's composers  
have created using folk and classical music as inspiration

**March 22-26, 2015**

Includes concerts at UNM, Chatter  
and the Outpost Performance Space  
**All UNM events are FREE!**

**Chen Yi • Christoph Maria Wagner  
Luke Dahn • Vijay Iyer • Carter Williams**

For more information and to see a full schedule of events,  
please go to [www.robbtrust.org](http://www.robbtrust.org)

# Music on the Edge at Outpost



210 Yale SE 505.268.0044 www.outpostspace.org

## SPRING 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

Vijay Iyer Trio

Alice Blumenfeld: Sueños Flamencos

John Abercrombie

Baracutanga

Branford Marsalis

Raquel Rivera & Ojos de Sofia

Barbara Bentree

Eric Bibb

Tim Berne's Snakeoil

ABQ Songwriter Showcase

ICP Orchestra

Souren Baronian

3rd Annual Outpost Gala Fundraiser:

Taj Mahal



## MUSIC WORTH TALKING ABOUT

# CHATTER

**Sunday mornings — 50 times a year**

10:30am :: one hour of classical music from Baroque to yesterday,  
ten minutes of poetry, free espresso in an inviting, funky warehouse

**Sunday evenings — 6 times a year**

5:00pm :: Cabaret - vigorous classical music, adult beverages & tapas

Info and tickets online at **ChatterABQ.org**

# *The 2015 John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium*

## **Featured Musical Artists**

Matthew Arrellin  
David Bashwiner  
Steven Block  
Chatter  
Luke Dahn  
Kristin Ditlow  
Richard Hermann  
James Holland  
Dustin Hunter  
José-Luis Hurtado  
Jennifer Lau  
Le Chat Lunatique  
Keith Lemmons

Tzufen Liu  
New Music New Mexico  
Valerie Potter  
David Schepps  
Falko Steinbach  
Vijay Iyer Trio  
UNM Children's Chorus  
UNM Opera Theater  
UNM Wind Symphony  
Christoph Maria Wagner  
Carter Williams  
Chen Yi

## **UNM College of Fine Arts Administration**

Kymerly Pinder, Ph.D., Dean  
Steven Block, Ph.D., Chair, Department of Music  
Regina Carlow, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Student Affairs  
Keith Lemmons, Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs  
Mary Anne Newhall, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Research and Technology

## **UNM John Donald Robb Musical Trust Officers**

Elsa Menéndez, Chair  
Ellen Robb, Secretary  
Marc Woodward, Treasurer  
James Bonnell, Immediate Past Chair

## **Composers' Symposium Staff**

Karola Obermüller, Peter Gilbert, Co-Artistic Directors  
Nancy Harbert, Program Specialist, John Donald Robb Musical Trust  
Joseph Hay, Graduate Assistant, John Donald Robb Musical Trust  
Lauren Hood, Keller Hall Manager  
Manny Rettinger, Audio Engineer  
Liz Rincon, Technical Assistant

Cover image: *Sadako's Diary* by Yoshiko Shimano (2010), silkscreen and monoprint on colored paper. Courtesy of the artist.

# *A Note from the Directors*

In many cultures music is passed down as an oral tradition – an aural tradition, one might say – in which music comes out of the past into a reinvented present. This music is not of one time but of all time.

Music was being passed down in this way in the European Middle Ages when papal orders for a writing-out of the church's religious chants unified (relatively) the practice of the continent's aural tradition. Ironically, this push for clear notation led ultimately to a music that would become more specifically cultural, representing a time and a place and eventually even individuals.

When interest in historical musical repertoire began to emerge in 19<sup>th</sup>-century European concerts, a new relationship between music and culture was formed. Music of older times took on an increasing importance. Style changed more rapidly as differentiation from previous eras became more urgent. By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the aural tradition of Western music was still alive in the handing down of performance practices, but composition had grown away from that model. Instead of inheriting the responsibility for its own generation's musical diet, composers now had to share the stage and fight for time with every previous epoch.

It is perhaps, then, unsurprising that in this climate many composers found inspiration, clarity and purpose in the study, documentation and transformation of folk music. John Donald Robb would himself take up this mantle here in New Mexico and produce one of the world's most prodigious regional collections, including the briefest recording that unlocked a whole world for Luke Dahn's "Buffalo Dance."

Folk music reminds us and in some ways returns us to our roots as musicians of our culture outside of history. Composer Chen Yi shows us the way that contemporary music can marry the universal and personal. Her music doesn't attempt to be folk music. It is a synthesis of the vibrant aspects of a critical, personal art and the deep, penetrating reach of cultural history. The old stories can be told again.

Of course musical retellings are not limited to one type of source. Christoph Maria Wagner retells the folk music of the concert pianist (Beethoven and Debussy), while Vijay Iyer reinvents his heritage as a jazz pianist.

The 2015 Composers' Symposium is full of both exciting new stories and old stories made new. We hope you enjoy them.

—Peter Gilbert and Karola Obermüller



IMAGE BY A. JONES,  
COURTESY OF UNM  
LIBRARIES' CENTER  
FOR SOUTHWEST  
RESEARCH

## John Donald Robb

"New Mexico was a turning point in the life of John Donald Robb...As soon as he arrived in the region, he encountered the Indo-Hispano traditions of New Mexico. Fascinated by the complex rhythms and amazing synchronicity of Pueblo Indian dance music, captivated by the ancient violin and guitar melodies of the *Matachines* ritual dance as well as the so-called 'Spanish Colonial' social dances...he soaked up these musical forms...and learned the region's Spanish ballad traditions...Using aluminum wire, acetate disk, and then magnetic tape, he made the best quality recordings the technology allowed so that everyone could use them – performers as well as scholars."\*

Robb often alluded to the inspiration of folk music to the composer. In the appendices to his 1980 magnum opus\*, he included piano-vocal arrangements of 12 selected folk songs. These songs will be published by UNM Press in December 2015 as *Cancionero: Songs of Laughter and Faith in New Mexico*. Prefacing these arrangements, Robb wrote:

*In the course of an interview in Rio de Janeiro, Hector Villa-Lobos, who was known in his country as "Mr. Folklore," told me, "I am not a folklorist. I use folklore to form my musical personality." I confess that I have something of this feeling, too, and the result has been that I have made arrangements of folk songs and have used them as thematic materials in many of my musical compositions.*

Robb's compositions reflect his love of the culture of the people that he so treasured. After arriving in New Mexico in 1941 to join the faculty of the UNM College of Fine Arts, he recorded more than 3,000 folk songs, some of which he used as inspiration for his own compositions. He was a prolific composer of stage and classical music, and in his 70s, he turned to composing electronic music after he became one of the first in the country to buy a Moog synthesizer. He is recognized as a pioneer in that field. All genres of his works are still performed today.

\**Hispanic Folk Music of New Mexico and the Southwest: A Self-Portrait of a People* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1980; republished by UNM Press, 2014)

# About the Trust

The John Donald Robb Musical Trust at the University of New Mexico is dedicated to keeping alive the vibrant spirit and contributions of John Donald Robb, former dean of the College of Fine Arts, an accomplished composer and a music collector/arranger whose preservation of folk music in New Mexico is unmatched.

## What do we do?

### *Support*

new music through the UNM John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium

### *Encourage*

the work of emerging composers through the international UNM John Donald Robb Composers' Competition

### *Educate*

the community through concerts of John D. Robb's music and collected music from the Robb Archives

### *Collaborate*

with community organizations on educational initiatives.



"The Robb Trust is a hidden treasure at the University of New Mexico, contributing one of the premier archives of Southwestern music recorded by John Robb over half a century. These rare recordings provide a comprehensive history that is invaluable to understanding many local cultures. Robb had the foresight to capture history while it was in the making for us now to learn from and enjoy."

~ Dean Kymberly Pinder  
UNM College of Fine Arts

Discover more about the Trust at [www.robtrust.org](http://www.robtrust.org)

We invite you to share comments about the symposium and to be our friend at [www.facebook.com/robtrust](http://www.facebook.com/robtrust)

# *John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium*

## *Schedule of Events 2015*

### **Sunday, March 22**

- 10:30 AM      CHATTER CONCERT: The Kosmos  
See Concert Programs for details
- 1:30-3:00 PM    OPEN REHEARSAL: Keller Hall  
New Music New Mexico rehearses *Canon 2:3* by Christoph Maria Wagner
- 3:30-5:00 PM    OPEN REHEARSAL: Keller Hall  
UNM Children's Chorus rehearses *A Set of Chinese Folk Songs* by Chen Yi
- 5:30-7:30 PM    OPEN REHEARSAL: Room B-120  
UNM Wind Symphony rehearses music by Chen Yi
- 7:00 PM          PRE-CONCERT TALK: *Listening Creatively*: Keller Hall
- 7:30 PM          CONCERT: Keller Hall  
See Concert Programs for details

### **Monday, March 23**

- 10:00 AM          WELCOME and PANEL DISCUSSION: Room 2100  
Kristina Jacobsen-Bia, Raquel Rivera and guest composers
- 11:00 AM          MEET THE COMPOSER (1): Room B-117  
Carter Williams
- 12:00 PM          OPEN REHEARSAL: Room B-120  
UNM Wind Symphony rehearses music by Chen Yi
- 2:30 PM          MEET THE COMPOSER (2): Room 2100  
Chen Yi
- 7:30 PM          WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT: Popejoy Hall

## **Tuesday, March 24**

- 9:30 AM        MEET THE COMPOSER (3): Room 1111  
Christoph Maria Wagner
- 11:00 AM        LECTURE CONCERT: Keller Hall  
Music and performance by Christoph Maria Wagner
- 2:00 PM        COMPOSITION MASTER CLASS (1): Room 1108  
Christoph Maria Wagner & Luke Dahn
- 3:00 PM        MEET THE COMPOSER (4): Room 1111  
Luke Dahn
- 7:30 PM        JOHN DONALD ROBB CONCERT Keller Hall  
See Concert Programs for details

## **Wednesday, March 25**

- 10:00 AM        COMPOSITION MASTER CLASS (2): Room 2100  
Chen Yi & Christoph Maria Wagner
- 11:00 AM        LECTURE CONCERT: Keller Hall  
Music by Chen Yi  
Performed by Valerie Potter, David Schepps and Kristin Ditlow
- 1:30 PM        COMPOSITION MASTER CLASS (3): Room 1106  
Chen Yi & Luke Dahn
- 6:00 PM        CONCERT: Keller Hall  
See Concert Programs for details

## **Thursday, March 26**

- 1:00 PM        MEET THE COMPOSER (5): Keller Hall  
Vijay Iyer
- 7:30 PM        CONCERT: Outpost Performance Space  
Featuring Vijay Iyer Trio



# Concert Programs

## Sunday, March 22

### 10:30 a.m. Sunday Chatter at the Kosmos

Tickets are available at [www.chatterabq.org](http://www.chatterabq.org)

Chen Yi	<i>YangKo</i> , for solo violin and 2 percussion
Christoph Maria Wagner	<i>Audiodrome</i> , for solo violin and four-channel live electronics
Zhou Long	<i>Wild Grass</i> , for cello and narrator
Chen Yi	<i>Qi</i> , for flute, cello, piano, percussion

Chatter Ensemble: David Felberg, violin, conductor; James Holland, cello; Jesse Tatum, flute; Tzufen Liu, piano; Jeff Cornelius and Scott Ney, percussion; Zheng Yuan, narrator; Peter Gilbert, live electronics

### 7:30 p.m. Keller Hall

Zhou Long	<i>Wu Kui</i> for piano solo Falko Steinbach, piano
Carter Williams	<i>Turbulence</i> for prepared violin and live electronics Carter Williams, prepared violin
Christoph Maria Wagner	<i>Remixsuite</i> for piano solo Christoph Maria Wagner, piano
Falko Steinbach	<i>Pianoscapas</i> for piano solo Falko Steinbach, piano

## Monday, March 23

### 7:30 p.m. Popejoy Hall

Leslie Bassett	<i>Colors and Contours</i>
Ross Lee Finney	<i>Skating on the Sheyenne</i>
Chen Yi	<i>Wind</i>
Chen Yi	<i>Dragon Rhyme</i>

UNM Wind Symphony, directed by Eric Rombach-Kendall

## Tuesday, March 24

### 11:00 a.m. Keller Hall Lecture Concert No. 1

Music by Christoph Maria Wagner

Performed by Christoph Maria Wagner

### 7:30 p.m. Keller Hall John Donald Robb Concert

John Donald Robb

*Poem* for clarinet, cello, and piano

Keith Lemmons, clarinet; James Holland, cello; Tzufeng Liu, piano

Chen Yi

*Three Bagatelles from China West*

Jennifer Lau, flute; José-Luis Hurtado, piano

John Donald Robb

*Sonata* for violoncello and piano

James Holland, cello; Tzufeng Liu, piano

John Donald Robb

*Audio-Visual Fantasy*

Christoph Maria Wagner

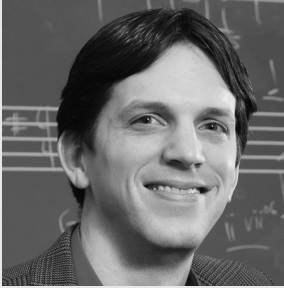
*Sostenutissimo* for piano solo

Christoph Maria Wagner, piano



### Mathew Arrellin Wins Scott Wilkinson Composition Contest

Mathew Arrellin, an undergraduate music student at the University of New Mexico, wrote the winning entry of the 2014-15 Scott Wilkinson Composition Contest – “A Piece for Solo Cello.” The piece is comprised of 24 self-contained phrases. These phrases can occur in any order. Many different orders can be created and every single one will not be a different version but a different piece. This allows for creative freedom, which complements the improvisatory nature of this particular composition. The purpose of this freedom is to have a very adaptable piece, and the goal of this format is to create a new and fresh piece every time it is performed. The title of the piece is also contingent upon the order in which the phrases are played and can be renamed by the performer at any time.



## **Luke Dahn wins 2014 John Donald Robb Composers' Competition**

Luke Dahn's composition, "Buffalo Dance," for alto saxophone and piano, has won the 2014 UNM John Donald Robb Composers' Competition. Dahn, a professor at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, based his winning composition on a Native American chant of the same name in the

Robb Musical Archives. He describes his work as "essentially a fantasy, freely using fragments and motifs from the chant." The international biennial competition requires that composers turn to the John Donald Robb Field Recordings in the UNM Center for Southwest Research for source material.

Mathew Arrellin

*Iolite* for cello solo  
Mathew Arrellin, cello

Luke Dahn

*Buffalo Dance*, for alto saxophone and piano  
Dustin Hunter, alto saxophone;  
Tzufeng Liu, piano

Steven Block

*Elisha and the Bears*  
An operetta, performed by UNM Opera Theater, directed by Leslie Umphrey and Sam Shepperson, conducted by Kristin Ditlow

## **Wednesday, March 25**

**11:00 a.m.      Keller Hall      Lecture Concert No. 2**

Chen Yi

*Night thoughts*  
Valerie Potter, flute; David Schepps, cello;  
Kristin Ditlow, piano

**6:00 p.m.      Keller Hall**

Chen Yi

*A Set of Chinese Folksongs: Volume 1*  
UNM Children's Chorus, directed by  
Regina Carlow

Luke Dahn

*Calder Cadences*

Performed by New Music New Mexico

Richard Hermann

*Rite Reaction*

Performed by New Music New Mexico

Christoph Maria Wagner

*Canon 2:3*

Performed by New Music New Mexico

Elliott Carter

*Double Trio*

Performed by New Music New Mexico

New Music New Mexico: David Felberg, direction; Sigrid Karlstrom, violin; Ian Brody, cello; Tina Termini, flute; Clara Byom, clarinet; Gabriel Longuinhos, piano; Will Kramer, percussion; Dalton Harris, trombone; Marina Hague, trumpet

David Bashwiner

*Serial 2015*

Le Chat Lunatique

## Thursday, March 26

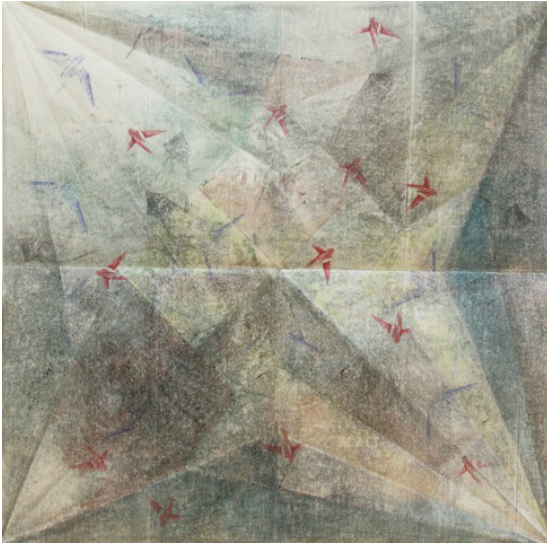
**7:30 p.m.**

**Outpost Performance Space**

Tickets at the Outpost box office

Vijay Iyer Trio





## *Sadako's Diary*

"SADAKO'S DIARY" is based on the story of Sadako Sasaki, a young Japanese girl who hoped the leukemia she contracted following the bombing of Hiroshima during World War II would be cured once she had folded 1,000 paper cranes. There is a common belief in Japan concerning the numbers 100 and 1,000. For example, if you make 100 hundred prayers at a shrine, your prayer will be heard, but if you make 1,000 paper cranes, your wish will come true. Obviously, the fulfillment of prayers or wishes does not happen for real often, but we as human beings would like to believe in something, especially when those prayers and wishes involve things beyond the control of our individual abilities or wisdom.

Sadako's and our prayers for peace on this earth are to learn how we can live together without nuclear weapons and that countries don't use the power of nuclear weapons as a deterrent for self-defense. The colors in this print were based on the testimony of people who witnessed the atomic bomb in Hiroshima.

During the process of repeating an action 100, or 1,000 times, our worries ease a little, and the time spent completing these tasks can calm us. This meditative time is real, unchangeable and universal. I am interested in expressing the beauty that can come from vanity, uncertainty, fragility, sadness and the weakness of being a human.

—Yoshiko Shimano

# Special Guests



## **Luke Dahn**

The music of Luke Dahn has been called “terrific, awfully damned good” (*Sequenza 21*) and “blessed with a vigorous rhythmic sense” (*Fanfare*), and has been performed by groups such as the Moscow Conservatory Studio for New Music, the League of Composers/ISCM, the NODUS Ensemble, the NEXTET Ensemble, Composers Inc., the University of Iowa Center for

New Music and the violin/piano duo Wolfgang David and David Gompper. Venues have included Carnegie Hall, Rachmaninoff Hall (Moscow), the Estonia Academy of Music (Tallinn), the Frankfurter KuenstlerKlub, Harvard University’s Memorial Church and the Miami ISCM Festival Series. Several of his works are available on the Albany record label. Dahn earned graduate degrees in composition from the University of Iowa and Western Michigan University, and his principal teachers include David Gompper, C. Curtis-Smith and Ann Gebuhr. Dahn teaches at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, where he also serves as chair of the music department. In addition, he is co-founder and serves as co-artistic director of Ensemble Périphérie, and also serves on the Board of Directors of the League of Composers/ISCM. [www.lukedahn.net](http://www.lukedahn.net)



## **Vijay Iyer**

Grammy-nominated composer and pianist Vijay Iyer has been described by the Los Angeles Weekly as “a boundless and deeply important young star,” and the New York Times wrote: “Presto! Here is the great new jazz piano trio.” Also a scholar and educator, in 2014 he began a permanent appointment at Harvard University’s Department of Music, as the Franklin D. and

Florence Rosenblatt Professor of the Arts. He was a 2013 MacArthur Fellow and the recipient of a 2012 Doris Duke Performing Artist Award. He has received numerous honors including an unprecedented “quintuple crown” in the 2012 DownBeat International Critics Poll (Jazz Artist of the Year, Pianist of the Year, Jazz Album of the Year, Jazz Group of the Year, and Rising Star Composer categories). He has released 18 albums, including *Mutations*, his 2014 debut on the prestigious ECM label. His collaborations are numerous with artists as diverse as Steve Coleman, Rudresh Mahanthappa, John Zorn, DJ Spooky, Karsh Kale, Mike Ladd and Amiri

Baraka. Iyer's compositions have been commissioned by Bang on a Can All-Stars, The Silk Road Ensemble and many more. His longtime trio mates are Stephan Crump, bass, and Marcus Gilmore, drums.

PHOTO BY: THEATER HAGEN



## **Christoph Maria Wagner**

Christoph Maria Wagner was born in 1966. He studied conducting, composing and piano at Cologne University in Germany. As a conductor, he has worked with Helmut Lachenmann, Mauricio Kagel, Klaus Huber and Ingo Metzmacher, as well as with groups including the Ensemble Modern and the Junge Deutsche Philharmonie. He has given guest performances,

conducting at the Cologne Opera House, the Cologne City Theater, for the DoelenEnsemble in Rotterdam and the WDR-Rundfunkorchester Cologne. He has been working with the e-mex ensemble for many years, performing not only premieres but also essential classics of the 20th century. As a composer, Wagner's catalogue of works comprises more than 40 compositions of the most diverse genres and instrumentation. In addition to piano music, musical theater also constitutes a main focus of his creative activity. Here he follows unusual and often bizarre paths in his choice of subjects and their realization. His recording of his own piano works won a four-star-rating at *Le Monde de la musique*. During the last repertory season he held a residency as composer at the philharmonic orchestra of Hagen, which includes several commissions and performances as piano soloist and conductor. He has been also invited by *Deutschlandfunk* to record a new CD containing some of his new compositions for ensemble and for piano solo in 2016.



## **Carter Williams**

Carter Williams is a composer, performer and computer musician focusing on new and experimental music. His music draws inspiration from the interaction between performers and technology, as well as being rooted in historical performance practice and world music traditions. Recent compositions have investigated extended instrumental techniques, nonstandard

instruments, improvisation, microtonality, live-electronics and live-video. His performance activities include work with traditionally notated music, graphic scores and free improvisation. A main focus of his work as a performer has been the revival of the viola d'amore, and he has premiered numerous new compositions for the instrument. He also plays violin

and live-electronics. His works and performances have been featured at numerous international festivals and new music centers including Acht Brücken Cologne, Musica Electronica Nova Wroclaw, Garde du Nord Basel, June in Buffalo, Logos Stifting Gent, Osterfestival Innsbruck, and Les Hivernales Avignon. In 2003 he completed a Ph.D. in music composition at the State University of New York at Buffalo with David Felder and Erik Oña, and studied computer music with Cort Lippe and Richard Dudas. Williams lives and works in Cologne, Germany.



## **Chen Yi**

As a prolific composer who blends Chinese and Western traditions, transcending cultural and musical boundaries, Chen Yi was born in 1953 in China. She is Distinguished Professor at the Conservatory of Music and Dance in the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and a recipient of the prestigious Charles Ives Living Award from the American Academy of

Arts and Letters. Her music is published by Theodore Presser Company, commissioned and performed worldwide by such ensembles as the Cleveland Orchestra, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the BBC Symphony and the Royal Philharmonic, the Seattle, Pacific, Singapore symphonies, the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra and Sachsische Staatskapelle Dresden, recorded on Bis, New Albion, New World, Teldec, Albany, Bridge, Naxos, and many labels. She has received bachelor and master degrees in composition (1983 and 1986) from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, and doctor of musical arts degree (1993) from Columbia University in New York. Major composition teachers are professors Wu Zu-qiang, Chou Wen-chung and Mario Davidovsky. She has been inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2005, and appointed to the Cheungkong Scholar Visiting Professor at the CCoM in 2006, and Distinguished Visiting Professor of Tianjin Conservatory in 2012.

# Composers and Musicians



## David Bashwiner

David Bashwiner is an assistant professor of music theory at the University of New Mexico. He holds a doctorate in the history and theory of music from the University of Chicago, a master's degree in music composition from the University of Illinois and a bachelor's degree in biopsychology from Cornell University. He publishes on music as it relates to emotion, neuroscience and multimedia. As a composer, he writes music for films and songs for his band, Cactus Tractor. He also studies the Manouche style of guitar playing, exemplified inspiringly by the Albuquerque band Le Chat Lunatique.



## Steven Block

Steven Block (b.1952, NYC) has appeared in the various personae of composer, music theorist, music critic, pianist, classical radio and disco deejay, mediator, and college-level administrator, among others. He chairs the Department of Music at the University of New Mexico. Block has studied with some of the most innovative composers and theorists in the world including David Stock, Robert Morris, A. Wayne Slawson, and Franco Donatoni. His compositions have been performed worldwide including performances in Sydney, Paris and Poland. His orchestral work, "Shadows", has been rereleased on Navona Records and a chamber work, "FireTiger" for violin and piano, has also been released on Parma Recordings.



## Chatter

Chatter is an eclectic classical concert series supporting the finest regional professional musicians (and friends of Chatter from around the globe). The series presents a full spectrum of classical music in unconventional venues. This includes challenging opportunities for musicians/composers, exhilarating programming, rarely heard works, a confluence of music and poetry, all offering an intimate connection with audiences of all ages.



### **Kristin Ditlow**

Kristin Ditlow, pianist, harpsichordist, vocal coach and conductor, enjoys a career in opera and recital collaboration in the United States and abroad. She is an alumna of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, Westminster Choir College, Tanglewood Music Center and Merola Opera Program. She is a 2014 graduate of the Eastman School of Music, with a doctor of

musical arts degree in accompanying and chamber music, Ditlow is the first fulltime vocal coach at the University of New Mexico. Highlights this season include conducting a world premiere opera written by Steve Block, and appearing as guest soloist with the New Mexico Winds.



### **James Holland**

James Holland holds performance degrees from the University of Alabama and Eastman School of Music. He is artistic director of Albuquerque Chamber Soloists and a frequent performer with Chatter, Placitas Artists' Series, Santa Fe Pro Musica and the Santa Fe Symphony. Holland has been principal cellist of the Breckenridge Music Festival since 1998. He maintains a large private

teaching studio and is orchestra director at the Montessori Middle School. He can be heard performing the music of Duke Ellington with jazz legends Eddie Daniels and Roger Kellaway on the IPO Recordings release, *Duke at the Roadhouse: Live in Santa Fe*.



### **Dustin Hunter**

Dustin Hunter is an active freelancer and music educator. In 2012, he was featured as a soloist with the Louisiana State University Wind Ensemble performing William Bolcom's "Concerto Grosso for Saxophone Quartet." Hunter competed in the 2014 MTNA chamber music competition with his saxophone quartet, Dionysus Saxophone Quartet, and received

second place in the divisional round. He holds a bachelor's of music performance degree from Louisiana State University and is currently pursuing his master's of music degree at the University of New Mexico, where he holds the teaching assistantship for the saxophone studio. His teachers include Sheri Oyan, Glen Kostur, Eric Lau and Griffin Campbell.



### **Jose Luis Hurtado**

Composer José-Luis Hurtado's music has been performed across continents by performers such as Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Jack Quartet, International Contemporary Ensemble, Talea, Quatuor Molinari, Tony Arnold, Garth Knox, Le Nouvel Ensemble Moderne and the Arditti Quartet among others. He has been the recipient of many important international composition

prizes in Mexico, the United States, Canada, Austria, Romania, France and Italy. He holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University, where he studied under Davidovsky, Czernowin, Lindberg, Ferneyhough and Lachenmann.



### **Jennifer Lau**

Flutist Jennifer Lau is on the music faculty at the University of New Mexico. She has served as the coordinator of the National Flute Association's Newly Published Music Competition and performs regularly with the Santa Fe Concert Association. As a soloist and chamber musician, she has performed at NFA conventions, World Saxophone congresses, the North American

Saxophone Alliance National Conference and the International Clarinet Association's ClarinetFest.



### **Keith Lemmons**

Keith Lemmons is associate dean, professor of clarinet and prestigious Presidential Teaching Fellow at the University of New Mexico. He combines an international reputation as a sought-after soloist, teacher and chamber musician with a distinguished teaching and administrative career. Critics acclaim "virtuosic and amazing," "a consummate artist" and "he had

the audience in sheer ecstasy." He has performed throughout the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Canada, Italy, Portugal and Sweden. He performs with the Taos Trio, Taos Chamber Music Group, New Mexico Winds Woodwind Quintet and La Catrina String Quartet. He is an artist-clinician for Buffet Crampon and D'Addario.



## **Le Chat Lunatique**

Le Chat Lunatique, which has kindly been awarded Best Band/Jazz Group a few times in 10 years by different folks here in Albuquerque, purveys a genre known as “Gypsy Swing” or “Jazz Manouch.”

And though they still uphold

this tradition, their music has, over time, melded into something different: jazz/pop/latin/rock with constant improvisation that causes the music to shift genres and feels. While their mainstay is mostly local jazz clubs, it is their great pleasure to have been allowed to visit lands hitherto unknown: Serbia, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.



## **Tzufeng Liu**

Tzufeng Liu holds graduate degrees from National Taiwan Normal University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). She appears regularly in recitals and chamber music concerts around Albuquerque and dedicates much of her energy toward bringing contemporary piano repertoire to her audiences. As the co-winner of UIUC’s 21st

Century Piano Commission Award, she has performed at festivals such as the Electronic Music Midwest Festival, CHASM New Music Festival, Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States, John Donald Robb Composers’ Symposium and the Santa Fe International Festival of Electroacoustic Music.



## **New Music New Mexico**

New Music New Mexico (NMNM) is the student contemporary music ensemble at the University of New Mexico. NMNM plays a variety of works from the early 20th century to today’s composers. The ensemble is made up of graduate students and advanced undergraduates. Highlights of this year’s season are its

appearance at the UNM Composers’ Symposium and a festival of the works of Steve Reich.



### **Valerie Potter**

Associate professor of flute at UNM since 1998, Valerie Potter performs as principal flutist of the New Mexico Philharmonic and has held the piccolo position with the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra. She received her bachelor of music degree from Indiana University with a performer's certificate. Potter also received a master of music from Yale University. She

has performed with many orchestras across the country including the Cincinnati Symphony, the Detroit Symphony, the San Antonio Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony and the Houston Symphony. She has been featured as a soloist with the New Mexico Symphony, performing music by CPE Bach, Mozart and Lowell Liebermann.



### **David Schepps**

David Schepps has been cello professor at UNM since 1999. His career includes concerts in the United States and abroad, including soloist with the Calgary Philharmonic, Christchurch- New Zealand Chamber Orchestra, Orquestra Sinfonica de Veracruz- Mexico and the New Mexico and Santa Fe Symphonies. He has performed recitals at New York's Lincoln Center Library, Washington

D.C.'s Phillips Collection, in Mexico, Switzerland and Taiwan. A master class teacher internationally, he studied at New York's Mannes and Manhattan Schools of Music, Arizona State University (DMA; thesis on Fournier's interpretations of Beethoven), Banff Centre and the Yale/Norfolk Chamber Festival.



### **Falko Steinbach**

Falko Steinbach is a worldwide recognized soloist, composer and piano pedagogue. He is a professor for piano performance and head of the piano area at the University of New Mexico. He also performs and teaches at many international festivals in America, Asia and Europe. Born in Aachen, Germany, he won his first piano competition at 17. Steinbach, a Steinway artist,

has founded music festivals himself. His repertoire includes a wide spectrum from Bach to contemporary music, which is his special interest. As a composer, Steinbach has created an extensive oeuvre for church music, chamber music and piano music.



## **UNM Children's Chorus**

The UNM Children's Chorus (UNMCC) was founded in 2006 with just 13 children. Today the group serves more than 100 children between the ages of 4-17 and has become an important part of the musical culture of the UNM campus. The

young singers on stage during the symposium represent two choirs of the UNMCC: Para Cantar (Grades 4-7), directed by Judith Castro, APS Choral Teacher and recent UNM graduate, and the HS Ensemble (Grades 8-12), conducted by Regina Carlow, founding director and UNM associate professor, music education. They appreciate the opportunity to work with composer Chen Yi, as well as their Chinese language coaches, Zheng Yuan and Yaqi Hu.



## **UNM Opera Theater**

The UNM Opera Theater is a nationally recognized program, winning two first-place awards from the National Opera Association. The program presents two productions every academic year. Students are given the opportunity to perform in the opera scenes, performances or the fully

staged opera production accompanied by the UNM Symphony Orchestra. All of the costumes come from the Santa Fe Opera. The goal is to educate and develop the talents of singers who have an interest not only in singing opera, but also in pursuing directing, musical theater and developing the "whole" singer. The UNM Opera Theater is directed by Leslie Umphrey and Sam Shepperson.



## **UNM Wind Symphony**

The nationally acclaimed UNM Wind Symphony is conducted by Eric Rombach-Kendall, director of bands. Comprised of 50 of the finest student musicians in the Department of Music, the Wind Symphony has performed around the country, at national and regional conventions of the College Band Directors National Association. The symphony has released five recordings on

Summit Records, featuring Philip Smith, principal trumpet, and Joseph

Alessi, principal trombone, both of the New York Philharmonic, along with members of the UNM woodwind and brass faculty. The Wind Symphony performs about six concerts on campus each year and several Chamber Winds and Brass Choir concerts.

## *Symposium Panelists*



### **Kristina Jacobsen-Bia**

Kristina Jacobsen-Bia holds a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from Duke University. Her forthcoming book, *Indians and Cowboys* (currently under review) is based on two-and-one-half years of singing and playing with Navajo country-western bands and examines ideas of authenticity and Navajo identity as they circulate in and through live performances

of classic country music on today's Navajo (*Diné*) Nation. Her research interests include: music and language, anthropology of the voice, politics of authenticity, indigeneity and belonging, music of Native North America and the Appalachian mountains, race and musical genre, music as cultural performance, indigenous language revitalization and American working-class expressive culture.



### **Raquel Z. Rivera**

Raquel Z. Rivera is a singer-songwriter and a visiting scholar at the University of New Mexico's Sociology Department. Her Caribbean Latino neo-roots band Ojos de Sofia explores the boundaries between tradition and innovation, and has received artist grants from the Rockefeller Foundation's NYC Cultural Innovation Fund and the National Association of Latino

Arts and Culture, among other institutions. Rivera is author of *New York Ricans from the Hip Hop Zone* (Palgrave Macmillan 2003), co-editor of *Reggaeton* (Duke University Press 2009), and author of numerous articles on Caribbean Latino popular music and culture.

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# UNM Composers' Symposium: Encouraging Experimentation

## **A Sample of the Symposium's Many Renowned Past Guests**

Robert Ashley  
Milton Babbitt  
Konrad Boehmer  
Anthony Braxton  
Martin Bresnick  
John Cage  
Michael Colgrass  
George Crumb  
Julio Estrada  
Lukas Foss  
Lou Harrison  
Alan Hovhaness  
Karel Husa  
John Harbison  
Ernst Krenek  
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Roger Reynolds  
Ned Rorem  
Maria Schneider  
Gunther Schuller  
Cecil Taylor  
James Tenney  
Joan Tower  
Christian Wolff

In 1972, William Wood joined the faculty of the University of New Mexico as composer-in-residence and associate professor of composition-theory. That year, he invited his former teacher, Norman Lockwood, whose compositions were performed, along with the works of 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 second year brought in Pulitzer Prize winner Ned Rorem, followed by David Raksin, Max Schubel, Karel Husa, John Harbison and John Cage, among others. Some years, students were invited to play in an orchestra directed by the guest composers. 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 Department of Music alumni and friends, with special tributes going to John Donald Robb, former dean of the UNM College of Fine Arts; John Lewis, a UNM graduate who went on to become musical director of the Modern Jazz Quartet and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Michael Colgrass.

That same 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. 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. The Department of Music faculty became more involved. In addition to concerts during the multi-day event, a full schedule of daytime masterclasses and lectures featuring visiting guests was introduced, providing exciting opportunities for students and the public.

In celebration of the New Mexico Centennial in 2012, the works of more than 50 composers were featured during the symposium. With this year's theme, Musical Retellings, the symposium continues its long tradition of creative exploration. All events on the UNM campus are free and open to the public, which continues another long tradition: making the music available to everyone.



