



NACUSA CONCERT

Night Music

Music by NACUSA SF Composers

St. Teresa of Avila

1490 19th St, San Francisco

Saturday, February 9, 8:00 pm

P R O G R A M

Sheli Nan

Lament for a Butterfly

for recorder quartet

Judy Linsenberg, soprano recorder

Mary Ellen Reed, alto recorder

Alan Paul, tenor recorder

Glen Shannon, bass recorder

JOHN BILOTTA

This Silver Minute of Evening

Libby Kardontchik, piano

DAVIDE VEROTTA

Sonata Fantasia per il Pianoforte

Davide Verotta, piano

Intermission

MARK ALFENITO

Romance

Be'eri Moalem, violin, Mark Alfenito, piano

NANCY BLOOMER DEUSSEN

Two Pieces for Violin and Piano

Be'eri Moalem, violin, Nancy Bloomer Deussen, piano

JACOB E. GOODMAN

Three Nocturnes for Violin and Piano

Be'eri Moalem, violin, Libby Kardontchik, piano

SIMON BOKMAN

Aria, Courante, and Jig

Vicky Ehrlich, cello

Sheli Nan composes music that defies boundaries. She is a composer, teacher, pianist, harpsichordist, percussionist and author. Her Baroque and Classical training coupled with having lived all over the world produce a unique sound; a 21st century harmony. Giving credit to earlier musical iterations what she composes is fresh, invigorating, accessible and moving. Her music is performed locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. She composes from solo harpsichord and piano up to string quartets, chamber music and orchestra. Her choral music encompasses opera, (and librettos) Oratorios and Requiems. Sheli has over 50 pieces that have been published by PRB Productions, Screaming Mary Music, and Tech-Clazz Publishing Co. In addition to her classical performances Sheli has performed with The World Connection – Afro-beat music, Salsa and Reggae bands. Her books and CDs are available on Amazon.com and can also be ordered on her website. For more information please go to: shelinan.com.

Lament for a Butterfly - As we reckon with the great plague of cancer in our time, we are seeing more and more younger and younger people succumb to this ravaging disease. *Lament for a Butterfly* honors the fallen youths who's colors, beauty and all too brief lives have affected us greatly. We mourn them and treasure what they have given us. We will never know how much they accomplished in their short lives. We are nevertheless grateful for having shared with them this gift of life.
In memory of Ariel.

John G. Bilotta was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, but has spent most his life in the San Francisco Bay Area where he studied composition with Frederick Saunders. His works have been performed by soloists and ensembles around the world including Rarescale, Earplay, the Talea Ensemble, the Washington Square Contemporary Music Society, Chamber Mix, North/South Consonance, Musica Nova, the Avenue Winds, the Presidio Ensemble, the Boston String Quartet, the San Francisco Composers Chamber Orchestra, the Kiev Philharmonic, the Oakland Civic Orchestra, San Francisco Cabaret Opera, Bluegrass Opera, Boston Metro Opera, the Thompson Street Opera, New Fangled Opera, and VocalWorks. His music is available on Capstone Records, New Music North, Beauport Classical Recordings, ERMEDIA, Bouddi Music/Australia and Navona Records, and are distributed by Naxos. He serves on the Board of Directors for Goat Hall Productions and on the Executive Committee of the Society of Composers, Inc.

This Silver Minute of Evening -

*notice the convulsed orange inch of moon
perching on this silver minute of evening.
We'll choose the way to the forest—no offense
to you, white town whose spires softly dare.
Will take the houseless wisping rune
of road lazily carved on sharpening air.*

- E. E. Cummings

This Silver Minute of Evening is a set of six piano variations based not on a theme but on two underlying and contrasting harmonic progressions. Each variation re-uses this material a whole tone higher than the previous variation. The variations migrate, then, not through a circle of fifths or thirds, but through a whole-tone scale. As a result, the final variation uses the same harmonic progressions as the first.

Davide Verotta was born in an Italian town close to Milano and moved to San Francisco in his late twenties. He studied piano at the Milano and SF conservatories, and composition at SFSU (MA) and UC Davis. Professor (now emeritus) at UCSF, he is actively involved in the new music scene in SF where he also teaches piano and composition at the Community Music Center and privately. Recent compositions include works for orchestra, string quartet, percussion, two pianos, piano and violin solo, and voice. He is

recipient of multiple ASCAP Plus and Zellerbach foundation awards. Please visit his web site at www.davideverotta.com.

Sonata Fantasia per il Pianoforte - Fresh from winning Honorable Mention in the Opus Dissonus international piano composition competition, my Sonata tonight receives its premiere.

Mark Alfenito has a Ph.D. in molecular biology and biochemistry, having gotten his training at Cornell, Harvard, and Stanford. He makes his living starting, growing and running biotech companies, focusing on the discovery and development of drugs and vaccines that combat various infectious diseases and cancer. So, Mark is not a professional musician. However, he loves music and is an avid, amateur piano and organ player. While in high school, Joseph Schaefer, his music teacher spent extra hours and weekends to teach Mark the fundamentals of theory. At Cornell, he studied music composition and organ improvisation under Dr. Stephen May. Today, he continues to compose for diverse instruments, as the mood strikes.

Romance was written as a love letter to my husband, for no special occasion, nearly 25 years ago. I lost Jeff to cancer a little over 2 years ago, and it does my heart good to re-experience and remember these feelings of long ago.

NANCY BLOOMER DEUSSEN is well known as a composer, performer and arts impresario. She is a leader in the growing movement for more melodic, tonally oriented contemporary music and is co-founder and President Emeritus of the SF Bay Chapter of the National Association of Composers, USA. Her original works have been performed in the USA, Canada, Europe, Australia and China and she has received numerous commissions both locally and nationally. Ms. Bloomer Deussen holds BM and MM degrees from The Manhattan School of Music and a BM in Music Ed from the USC School of Music. Upcoming are a performance of "American Hymn" by The Missouri Symphony Orchestra and "The Transit of Venus" by The Peninsula Symphony. For further information please visit www.nancybloomerdeussen.com.

"Two Pieces for Violin and Piano" was actually only the first song "Julia's Song" which is a meditative, nostalgic piece about my mother whom I lost at age 6. Her name was Julia. For a while it was a stand alone piece. I then decided to add a second piece "Jubilate" with a different mood of joy to balance the first piece and thus "Two Pieces for Violin and Piano" were created. The work has been recorded on a CD along with my piano trio and has been performed many times with different violinists on both and east and west coasts.

Jacob E. Goodman, founder of the New York Composers Circle in 2002, is Professor Emeritus of mathematics at City College (The City University of New York). He studied composition with, among others, Ezra Laderman and David Del Tredici. His works have been performed in New York, Nebraska, Delaware, Toronto, Buenos Aires, and Tokyo. Recent compositions include a set of variations for piano trio; three song cycles; a set of variations for orchestra on a Beethoven theme; a quintet for flute, piano, and strings; a set of intermezzi for piano; a prelude for saxophone and piano; a set of variations for piano; a duo for cello and piano; a set of nocturnes for violin and piano; and three bagatelles for piano; as well as the score for the documentary film Meet Me at the Canoe, produced for the American Museum of Natural History by his daughter Naomi Goodman-Broom.

Three Nocturnes for Violin and Piano - These are three separate pieces, intended to be played as a set in the order written. Like the Chopin nocturnes that inspired them, they are short pieces in what might be called a "nocturnal" mood. They are all based on the interval of the fifth, the interval from C up to G. The first nocturne begins with a rising fifth in the piano, and when the violin comes in, the same interval appears in descending

form. In the second one, the fifth is used mainly harmonically -- in the left hand of the piano. And in the third nocturne the piano plays a melody made up of fifths in succession, with the violin singing over it.

Semyon Bokman graduated in 1974 from the Rimsky-Korsakov College of Music, St.-Petersburg where his composition teacher was Galina Ustvolskaya, former pupil of Dmitry Shostakovich; and his piano teacher was Gennady Baumsteyn.

Mr. Bokman has lived in the United States since 1998. He teaches piano, composes, and writes poetry and prose. A collection of his poems in Russian *On the Edge of the Universe* was published in Baltimore, MD in 2006. He also published in Germany book about his teacher *Variations On the Theme Galina Ustvolskaya* in English in January 2007. This book got interesting reviews in German, Belgian and Oxford (England) musical magazines. His music has been performed in England, Russia and in the United States. As a pianist Mr. Bokman successfully performed his piano compositions and classical music in different events and recitals in the United States and in Russia. He is member of American Music Teacher Association. He's the member of NACUSA, *The National Association of Composers, USA*, and he also member of THE ASCAP FOUNDATION, (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers), as composer and publisher. Mr. Bokman was awarded by ASCAP in 2007, 2008 and 2009 for composer's activity. His creative Credo is Romanticism, what means the warmth and depth of feelings and senses, and the driving force behind Universal, Cosmic Creativity.

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