University of Alberta
Department of Music Presents

Teach Yourself to Fly:

Contempo + XiMe, with the Jen Mesch Dance Conspiracy

Acoustic and electroacoustic music composed and improvised by student artists

Monday, Dec. 12. 7 pm, Convocation Hall

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PROGRAM

Tuning Meditation XiMe + JMDC (ca 5')	Pauline Oliveros
Nebulous For voice, tenor saxophone, marimba, and conductor (ca 6')	Emily Casavant
Madness: The Unconscious Mind For piano, euphonium, and tenor saxophone (ca 6')	Isael Huard
Word Salad For voice, tenor saxophone, marimba, and conductor (ca 6')	Taran Plamondon
Crazy Mad Love XiMe + JMDC (ca 5')	Christian Wolff

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Mythomania electroacoustic music, with solo horn (ca 6')	Michelle Glen
Tomorrow electroacoustic music (ca 6')	Sean Borle
Improvisation XiMe + JMDC (ca 15')	XiMe

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PERSONNEL

XiMe: *Sean Borle, Michelle Glen, Treena Gould, Hossein Hosseiniparvar, Olivia Imbrogno, Greg Mulyk, Nathan Spasiuk, Nancy Xu and Scott Smallwood (director)*

Contempo: *Alexis Wood (flute), Holly De Caigny & Augustin Nguyen (tenor saxophone), Olivia Imbrogno (horn), Travis Kutz (euphonium), Nancy Xu (piano), Ben Vanderkruk (marimba), Michelle Glen (voice), and Andriy Talpash (director, conductor)*

Jen Mesch Dance Conspiracy: *Ainsley Hillyard, Alison Kause, Krista Posyniak, Kate Stashko, Jen Mesch (director)*

NOTES

Nebulous is inspired by interstellar phenomena. The uncertainty and depth of space is expressed in the sections of staggered and slow changes in pitch, while the contrasting section of short, abrupt rhythmic ideas is representative of a spontaneous meteor shower. Nebulae, after which the piece is named, are illustrated by the colours produced by timbral effects throughout the piece.

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Madness: The Unconscious Mind is an interactive piece that incorporates the ideas of psychoanalysis, mental disorder and the Rorschach Inkblot Test. It is a dramatic *mise en scène* of the Rorschach test in a clinical consult, where the conductor is the psychoanalyst and the musicians represent a single patient with a mental illness. Indeed, every instrument is an alternate personality, interpreting inkblots individually but simultaneously, mimicking complete madness. It is the journey of a multiple personality disorder diagnostic represented in music.

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Beyond its comically absurd exterior, *Word Salad* tackles a difficult aspect of human nature; our tendency to ignore opinions incompatible with our own, and our inclination to respond emotionally when our views are challenged. The interactions between the speaker and the ensemble steadily become tainted with confirmation bias, and ultimately the debate is dominated not by carefully considered arguments but loudly emphasized ones. Through the progressive deterioration of order and respect, I hope to reflect real interpersonal disagreements in a hyperbolic way.

The piece functions as a dialogue between the moderator and the speaker, with increasingly frequent interruptions from the instrumentalists. The debate topics are trivial and the responses are irrelevant; this removes emphasis from the text itself, instead highlighting the interactive dynamic between the performers.

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Mythomania shows the perspectives of two characters: the perspective of a pathological liar and that of the person they are lying to. Movement one, the perspective of the person being lied to, features the sounds of the "real world" layered and intertwined to create feelings of confusion, frustration and anger. Movement two is the dazzling, elevated delusional fantasy world of the pathological liar.

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Tomorrow: This piece is not meant to be listened to, so much as sunk into. It is meant to evoke a place, a setting. Somewhere warm and quiet. Somewhere away from the bitter cold just outside. Somewhere calm, where you have all the time in the world to sit and rest and breathe.

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This concert is dedicated to the memory of the great composers
Jean Claude Risset (1938 – 2016) and Pauline Oliveros (1932 – 2016),
who left us in November.

The world will miss their voices.