

PITTSBURGH STATE UNIVERSITY'S  
*Department of Music*

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Festival of New Music

*focus on PSU*

## CONCERT I

3/7/05

ELIZABETH FARNUM, SOPRANO  
MARGARET KAMPMEIER, PIANO

20<sup>TH</sup>/21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY



NIKOLAI ROSLAWEZ (1880-1944)  
Zarnitsa (Konstantin Bal'mont)  
Kuk (Vasilisk Gnedov)  
Margaritki (Igor Severjanin)

ANTON von WEBERN (1883-1945)  
**Vier Lieder** - texts by Stefan George  
Erwachen aus dem tiefsten Traumes-schoße  
Kunfttag I  
Trauer I  
Das lockere Saatgefülle lechzet krank

CHARLES IVES (1874-1954)  
The Children's Hour (Longfellow)  
A Farewell to Land (Byron)  
The Greatest Man (Anne Collins)  
Serenity (Whittier)  
General William Booth Enters Into Heaven (Vachel Lindsay)

IRVING BERLIN (1888-1989)  
**I Got Lost in his Arms** - from *Annie Get Your Gun*

KAIKHOSRU SHAPURJI SORABJI (1892-1988)  
**Trois Poèmes**  
Correspondances (Baudelaire)  
Crépuscule du Soir Mystique (Verlaine)  
Pantomime (Verlaine)

**INTERMISSION**



MATTHEW BARNSON (1976-)

Winged Words - from *Black Iris* (Mary Coleridge)

*Guest Artist: Richard MacDowell, clarinet*

JOHN C. ROSS (1962-)

Threshold (Tony Hoagland)

**Deux Mélodies d'Aspel** (Paulène Aspel)

Nouveaux venus

Mon Dieu Quelle Aube

HUBERT BIRD (1939-)

**A Gift of Self - A Cycle of Eight Songs**

When Death to Either Shall Come (Robert Bridges)

I Hide Myself Within My Flower (Emily Dickinson)

The Rose Did Caper On Her Cheek (Dickinson)

The Bell (Maxwell Bodenheim)

A White Rose (John Boyle O'Reilly)

The Gifts (Richard Wilbur)

The Avowal (Wilbur)

June Light (Wilbur)

JASON ROBERT BROWN (1970-)

Stars and the Moon - from *Songs for a New World*

LOUIS KARCHIN (1951-)

Carmene de Bohème (Hart Crane)

**Translations**



# NIKOLAI ROSLAWEZ (1880-1944)

*Zarnitsa -- Summer Lightning* (1894) by Konstantin Bal'mont

## SUMMER LIGHTNING

As in the skies, gripped by heavy sleep,  
At times the summer lightning quickly flashes,  
But the distant thunder does not answer, —

Just so sometimes in my mind  
Flicker dreams, and shapes, and faces,  
Dying in the dark of distant years, —

But their fragile light is fleeting,  
My soul is speechless, like a tomb,  
In it there is no reply to the calls

**Kuk** (1913) by Vasilisk Gnedov

Kuk!

I.

But where is the bustard?

Quails' nests have swelled\_

Nestlings have yellowmouthed the wood.

Kuk!

I.

The bustard chicks whistled sullenly\_

The wood yellowed the whitestake.

The cuckoo cuckooed:

Kuk!

Jackdaws encamped the beech\_

Their Kuk is a Guk!

But where then are the bustards?

**Margaritki – Daisies** (1909) by Igor' Severjanin

## DAISIES

O, look! So many daisies –

Over here and over there...

They flower; so many; so profuse;

They flower.

Their three-edged petals are like wings,

Like white silk...

You are the summer's power, you are the joy of abundance,

You are a bright regiment!

Earth, make the flowers a drink of dewdrops,

Give the stem juice...

O, girls! O, stars of daisies!

I love you...



# ANTON WEBERN (1883-1945)

## Vier Lieder – *Four Songs* by Stefan George

### Erwachen aus dem tiefsten traumes-schöne – *Awaking from the thrall of deepest dreams*

Awaking from the thrall of deepest dreams  
As if from long reflection,  
he leaned to the pale lips.

Offering her only great tenderness.  
She gratefully responded to his ardor  
And they embraced then with such passion,

She offered answers against highest hopes  
That he, still doubting, yielded to.  
O how the blissful minutes flow!

### Kunfttag I – *Advent I*

For one you are a child, for another a friend.  
I see in you the god  
I perceived amid trembling  
and whom I now worship.

You came on the final day  
when, sick with impatience  
and tired of praying,  
I lost myself into night:

I knew you from the beam of light  
that flowed through my darkness  
>From your step that instantly  
made the seed blossom forth.

### Trauer I – *Mourning I*

Do wait for me to proclaim this to you:  
That I long for you, yearn for you.  
A day without you is pure sin.  
Dying for you is an honor.

If Dark Forces have swept someone away,  
then I must ascend the sorrowful steps.  
Night casts me down to the ground.  
Please answer my urgent cry...

"Let me soar upwards to heaven!  
Now lift yourself up with renewed vigor!  
Bear witness and sing praise to my miracle  
And tarry below with the living!"

### Das lockere Saatgefilde lechzet krank -- The field of loosened earth is sick and thirsty

The field of loosened earth is sick and thirsty  
For now after hard frost it senses  
Springtide and the teeth of the plow  
While still cowering under last year's stormy blasts:  
Be now my fertile bath and slaking drink  
the flowery quivering of your breast  
The fragrance of your lightly disheveled locks,  
Your breath your tears the moistness of your mouth.



# KAIKHOSRU SHAPURJI SORABJI (1892-1988)

## Trois Poèmes – *Three Poems*

### Correspondances – *Correlatives* by Charles Baudelaire

Nature is a temple, whose living columns  
From time to time let out a Babel of confusion;  
Man traverses it through forests of symbols  
That watch him with all-knowing glances.

Like extended echoes which merge with one another far off  
To become a mysterious, deep oneness,  
As vast as darkness and light together,  
The fragrances, the colors and the sounds relate each to the other.

There are scents, sweet like children's skin,  
Mellow like the sound of oboes, green like meadows,  
-And others, corrupted, sumptuous and exultant,

With the expansive power of the infinite,  
Things like amber, musk, benjamin and incense,  
Which voice the rapturous ecstasy of the mind and of the senses.

### Crepuscule du Soir Mystique – *Mystical Evening Twilight* by Paul Verlaine

Memory with Twilight reddens  
And trembles at the fiery horizon  
Of hope in flames,  
Flames that subside and then seem to rise up  
like a mysterious wall  
Where many a blossoming flower  
-Dahlia, lily, tulip and buttercup-  
Shoots up, winding itself around a trellis,  
Amid the sickly exhalation  
Of hot, suffocating scents, whose poison  
-Dahlia, lily, tulip and buttercup-  
Drowns my senses, my soul and my reason,  
and mixes together, in an all-consuming swoon,  
Memory with Twilight.

### Pantomime – *Pantomime* by Paul Verlaine

Pierrot, who has nothing about him of a Clitander,  
Empties a flagon without a second thought,  
And right away makes a start on a pate.

Cassandra, at the bottom of the road,  
Privately sheds a tear  
For her disinherited nephew.

This creature of Harlequin connives  
In the abduction of Columbine  
And pirouettes four times.

Columbine dreams, taken aback  
To sense a heartbeat in the air  
And to hear voices in her own heart.



# JOHN C. ROSS (1962-)

## *Deux mélodies d'Aspel – Two Songs by Aspel*

### Nouveaux venus

Les amoureux prient dans les chapelles.  
Les amoureux prient dans les prairies.  
Chérissant toutes nefs, ils adorent dans les champs.  
Des rangs de haut maïs abritent à jamais leurs louanges.

Ils sont entrés dans le sentier étroit  
entre les jeunes troncs vernis de soleil vert.  
Lents et légers, ils portent un très ancien  
précieux bilan, prêts sans freyeur  
à décoder des abîmes et des futurs épars.  
Leur secret, un sillon qui n'en fini pas  
sous l'arche de feuilles . . . Soudain, paume à paume  
ils touchent la terre, ils la touchent, ils l'aiment . . .  
Gables d'épis sont parfondus d'azurs.  
S'en élève en chant divin.  
Y cajole un geai, sans projet . . .

### *Newcomers*

*Lovers pray in chapels.  
Lovers pray in prairies.  
Fond of all naves they worship in cornfields.  
Row of tall maize forever shelter their praise.*

*They have entered into the narrow path  
between young trunks varnished with green sun.  
Slow and light, they carry an old  
precious ledger-page, ready without fear  
to decode abysses and spread futures.  
Their secret a furrow that does not end  
under a leafy arch . . . Suddenly, palm to palm  
they touch the earth, they touch it, they love it . . .  
Gables of corn blend with heavenly blue.  
From within a divine song arises.  
There chatters aimless a jay . . .*

### Mon Dieu Quelle Aube

Doucement elle monte sur sa passerelle  
de fils de rosée,  
portée qui espère des notes  
jamais encore entendues . . .

J'ouvre ma fenêtre.  
Je l'ouvre toute grande.  
Un battant, deux battants.  
Bonjour, le monde.  
Touche ma joue  
et que mes yeux respirent.  
J'écoute tes voix.  
Je te tends la main.  
Entre, tu es chez toi,  
lieu d'échanges, d'amour.  
Ici, bientôt tu seras refait à neuf,  
mes vœux fervants  
vont relier, unir, apaiser  
tes multiples fragments.

### *My God, What a Dawn*

*Softly it climbs its ladder  
of dewy threads,  
a staff hoping for notes  
never heard before . . .*

*I open my window.  
I open it wide.  
One side, two sides.  
Hello, world.  
Touch my cheek  
and let my eyes breathe.  
I'm listening to your voices.  
I'm reaching out my hand.  
Come in, you're home,  
a place for give-and-take, for love.  
Here you'll soon be made new again,  
my devotion  
will gather, unite and soothe  
your separate strands.*

Paulène Aspel



## FEATURED GUEST ARTISTS

ELIZABETH FARNUM  
&  
MARGARET KAMPMEIER

**Elizabeth Farnum**, soprano, is a specialist in contemporary music. In addition, she is active performer in many diverse musical styles, and her performances of modern music and musical theater have taken her throughout the United States, Europe and Japan. She has premiered pieces by prominent composers in many venues including Alice Tulley, Merkin Hall, Bargemusic, London's Institute for Contemporary Art and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, collaborating with such composers as Charles Wuorinen, Ricky Ian Gordon, Anthony Braxton, John Zorn, Anthony Newman and Toby Twining. She has been a guest soloist with many of New York's modern music ensembles. Ms. Farnum's background is in musical theater, and she most currently appeared on Broadway in "Riverdance." She has starred in several Off-Broadway and regional productions and has performed with the chorus of the Metropolitan Opera. She is featured on recordings of Koch International, Bis, New World, Vox, CRI, Helicon, North/South and Pro Organa. She has recorded six CDs for Deutsche Grammophone and Allegro with Pomerium, of which the third, "Creator of the Stars," was nominated for a Grammy. Ms. Farnum lives on City Island, New York.

Pianist **Margaret Kampmeier** is active as a soloist, chamber musician, orchestral keyboardist and teacher of piano. She has performed across the United States, in Canada, Mexico, Europe and Asia, and has recorded for Centaur, CRI, Koch, Nonesuch, and Bridge Records. Ms. Kampmeier is a founding member of the Naumburg award-winning New Millennium Ensemble, and performs regularly with numerous other New York ensembles such as the Orchestra of St. Luke's and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra. A dedicated educator, Ms. Kampmeier teaches at Princeton University, has presented forums on the music of women composers and contemporary techniques, and has performed numerous concerts for young people throughout the United States. Ms. Kampmeier earned a bachelor's degree and performer's certificate from the Eastman School of Music. She received a master's degree and a doctoral degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook.



PSU ALUMNUS AND FEATURED GUEST COMPOSER  
HUBERT BIRD

Dr. **Hubert Bird**'s compositions range in scope from solo songs and chamber music through works for symphony orchestra. Presently an independent composer, some of Bird's most recent commissions have come from Providence College; the U.S. Army Band (Washington, DC); the Orquestra Sinfonica Nacional (Quito, Ecuador); and the University of Scranton. His compositions have been published by major American music publishing houses.

Dr. Bird has received various prizes and honors for his music throughout his career including the Ithaca College Choral Composition Prize (four times); Baroque Choral Guild of San Francisco National Prize; New Music for Young Ensembles, New York City; and several awards from the American Guild of Organists. As a result of a national competition, in 1976 he was named the composer of the anthem for the U.S. Bicentennial celebration.

Born in Joplin, Missouri, Dr. Bird grew up in Baxter Springs, Kansas, where he now resides. He holds degrees from Missouri Southern State University, Pittsburg State University, and the College of Music, the University of Colorado at Boulder. Dr. Bird taught at the University of New Hampshire southwest campus for 30 years where he was awarded the Distinguished Teacher award in 1982. He has been on the emeriti faculty since 1997. In 1990, Pittsburg State University presented him its Alumni Meritorious Achievement Award.

PSU FACULTY MEMBER  
JOHN C. ROSS

A native of New Jersey, **John C. Ross** received training in composition at Florida State University and the University of Iowa; his principal teachers were John Boda and D. Martin Jenni. Thanks to a Fulbright grant, he has also studied with Philippe Manoury in Lyon, France. His music has been performed at the Society of Composers, Inc. National Forums, several university music schools, and in France. His awards include the first Abraham Frost Prize from the University of Miami, several ASCAP awards (including a young composer grant), a summer residency at Yaddo, and the 2002 Rudolf Nissim Award. *After a Line By Theodore Roethke*, a work for soprano and orchestra, was one of three works chosen for the Sixth International Composer Readings by the Riverside Orchestra of New York City and was performed at the Mid-American Center for Contemporary Music at Bowling Green State University.

Of Ross's piece *Passages*, Daniel Ginsberg of the Washington Post has said, "a beguiling exploration of color and melody ... soaring figures nestled in a dreamlike haze of sound."

His music is published by Cimarron Music and by himself. *Encore*, a work for cello and piano, is recorded on Innova; and *After a Line* will be released in 2005 on Albany Records.



