

The Smithsonian Resident Associate Program Presents

# 21st CENTURY CONSORT

October 21, 2006

Nan Tucker McEvoy Auditorium, Smithsonian American Art Museum

# The Smithsonian Resident Associate Program presents

# 21st Century Consort

Christopher Kendall, Artistic Director Peter Robinson, Manager

Elisabeth Adkins, Violin
Paula Akbar, Violin
Paul Cigan, Clarinet
Lisa Emenheiser, Piano
Gabrielle Finck, French Horn
William Sharp, Baritone
James Stern, Viola
Sara Stern, Flute
Rachel Young, Cello

Curt Wittig, Electronics

Saturday, October 21, 2006
Pre-Concert Discussion 4:00 p.m.
Concert 5:00 p.m.
Nan Tucker McEvoy Auditorium
Smithsonian American Art Museum



The 21st Century Consort's 2006–2007 Season is sponsored by The Smithsonian Resident Associate Program and funded in part by generous contributions from The Cafritz Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and the Board and Friends of the 21st Century Consort.



### **Pre-Concert Discussion**

Christopher Kendall with David Froom

## **Program**

#### "AMERICAN RETROSPECulaTIVE"

Poème Électronique Edgard Varèse			
Mr. Wittig			
Suite for Toy Piano in five movements John Cage			
Ms. Emenheiser			
Amichai Songs David Froom			
I. Now, when the waters are pressing mightily			
II. In a man's life			
III. The house of lovers			
Mr. Sharp, Ms. Stern, Mr. Cigan, Ms. Finck, Ms. Logan, Ms. Atkins, Mr. Stern, Ms. Young, Mr. Kendall			

#### **INTERMISSION**

#### **Charles Ives and His Sources**

The Things our Fathers Loved	Charles Ives
Little Annie Rooney (1891)	Michael Nolan
Waltz (ca. 1895, rev. 1921)	Ives
Nearer, My God, to Thee (Bethany, 1856)	Lowell Mason
Down East (1919)	Ives
Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult (Dorrnance, 1845)	Isaac B. Woodbury
The Housatonic at Stockbridge (1921)	Ives
Is That You, Mr. Riley? (1883)	Pat Rooney
The Side-Show (1896, rev. 1921)	Ives
Charlie Rutledge	Lake Ponchartrain
Charlie Rutlage	Ives

Mr. Sharp, Ms Emenheiser

Mr. Cigan, Ms. Emenheiser, Ms. Adkins, Ms. Akbar, Mr. Stern, Ms. Young

The audience is invited to join the artists in the lobby for an informal post-concert reception, sponsored by the Board and Friends of the 21st Century Consort.



# Notes and Texts

### Note from the Artistic Director

On behalf of all of us in the Consort, I want to welcome everyone to what I calculate is the ensemble's 32nd year on this earth. As if this were not enough cause for wonder, it is also remarkable to consider that in that first, far-off season, our very first concert took place on Saturday, October 25th at 2:00 pm in the National Collection of Fine Arts, now the Smithsonian American Art Museum! My chief memory of the concert was that the audience was far larger than any of us had expected, and the museum guards were in an absolute state about the proximity of standing audience members' behinds to the paintings on the gallery walls. The music wasn't bad either.

How extraordinary, then, to be back at this very museum, which may have changed more in the interim than the Consort. What a handsome new hall in a beautifully restored building. The collection and the artistic commitment to American art remain, and this is what provides such a wonderful aesthetic context for our concerts this year. Before making a few observations about this evening's program, I'd like to encourage in advance that you join us for the remaining concerts of the season:

#### II. December 2, 2006: SOUND OBJECTS

Inspired by the SAAM Joseph Cornell exhibition, the program features music by Dexter Morrill, Paul Schoenfield, Richard Wernick and James Primosch that frames old forms and fragments in new boxes in much the way Joseph Cornell did with his art. We'll be

joined by the distinguished soprano Susan Narucki as vocal soloist.

### III. February 3, 2007: ERROR OF THE MOON

Joining the city-wide Shakespeare celebration, the Consort presents Susan Botti's riveting mono-drama on Desdemona with the composer as soprano soloist, along with other works reflecting the genius of Shakespeare and women.

#### IV. April 7, 2007: GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

The season closes with a celebration of SAAM's Saul Steinberg exhibition, spinning a program of playful work mirroring the spirit of whimsy and satire of the artist's work. Featured will be a new work by composer Thomas Albert and soprano Lucy Shelton along with musical sketches based on Steinberg doodles, by Jessica Krash, Bruce MacCombie and James Fry.

As for this evening's program, we simply exult in the connection with this museum's collection, by mounting a speculative retrospective of American music. The modifier suggests the folly of seriously undertaking such an enterprise. Nevertheless, we hope the works selected do provide glimpses at some of the prominent moments of American music, acknowledging, however, that there are vast tracts missing. The problem is, we have to get our players over to the Kennedy Center for their 8:00 concert!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Manager of the Consort, Peter Robinson. Peter is a long-standing figure on the DC music scene as a jazz pianist, record producer and businessman. Somehow, this all emanated from roots in Kansas, as a Princeton English Major and as a staffer for congressmen. We're delighted he's agreed to make work with the Consort a new chapter in his career!

## Poème Électronique

Edgard Varèse

Having lived and worked in the U.S. after 1915, Edgard Varèse (1883–1965) composed most of his music in this country, and in fact his first "mature" work was *Amériques* for large orchestra (1921), which presages a creative life of groundbreaking sonic

experimentation. His works are positively bristling with fierce dissonance, extreme rhythmic complexity and compositional forms that moved in radical new directions. After composing a series of works for large orchestra and small ensembles featuring winds and percussion, Varèse developed a strong interest in electronic instruments then under development (theremin and ondes martenot). Soon the tape recorder would open a whole new landscape of electronic sound possibilities. Following a period spent in planning for a simultaneous radio broadcast from around the globe entitled Espace (it was actually performed as Etude pour Espace for chorus, pianos and percussion in 1947), Varèse concentrated on pieces incorporating new electronic media. Poème *Électronique* was created for the Philips pavilion at the Brussels Exposition of 1958. By the time he finished *Poème Électronique*, his second composition for tape, the composer was 75 years old. The eight-minute work remains a classic in the form, using both concrete ("real" sounds including machines and fragments of voice, organ, and percussion) and electronically synthesized sonorities. Hearing the piece today, admittedly without benefit of the elaborate multimedia presentation at the World's Fair, one is simultaneously struck by its originality and also a kind of classicism of sound and style from an earlier century.

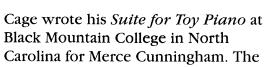
#### Suite for Toy Piano

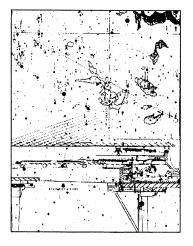
John Cage

John Cage, composer, philosopher and writer, was born in Los Angeles in 1912 and died in August 1992 a few weeks before his 80th birthday. His first works especially feature percussion or prepared piano; the rhythmic emphasis that grew naturally from these media led him quickly to working with dancers, particularly Merce Cunningham, his lifelong partner. By the late 1940s he was studying Eastern philosophies, especially Zen, and making use of the *I Ching*, the Chinese Book of Changes, to introduce elements of chance into his music. Indeterminacy played an increasing role in his music, particularly the kind of indeterminacy in which the form and elements of a composition are not known until its moment of performance. His guiding principle was the breaking down of the distinction between "art" and "life," sensitizing audiences to the sights and sounds around them

at all times. As he wrote in *Silence* (1961):

Our intention is to affirm life, not to bring order out of chaos or to suggest improvements in creation, but simply to wake up to the very life we're living, which is so excellent once one gets one's mind and one's desires out of the way and lets it act of its own accord.





Suite is among the composer's most charming and whimsical creations, filled with characteristic irony and humor. Its five short movements use only nine consecutive white notes, and the score is replete with exaggerated dynamic extremes, from ppp to ff, that require a great deal of imagination in a toy piano realization. The first performance of the *Suite for Toy Piano* took place on 20 August 1948 at Black Mountain College, North Carolina.

### **Amichai Songs**

David Froom

David Froom was born in California in 1951. His music has been performed extensively throughout the United States by major orchestras, ensembles, and soloists, including, among many others, the Louisville, Seattle, Utah, and Chesapeake Symphony Orchestras; The United States Marine and Navy Bands; the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center; the 20th Century Consort; the New York New Music Ensemble; the Haydn Trio Eisenstadt; violinist Curtis Macomber; and saxophonist Kenneth Tse. He also has had performances in England, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Holland, China, and Australia. His music is available on CD on the Delos, Arabesque, Capriccio, Centaur, Sonora, Crystal, Opus 3, and West Point Academy labels, and much of it is published by MMB Music, Inc.

Among the many organizations that have bestowed honors on him are the American Academy of Arts and Letters (Academy Award, Ives Scholarship); the Guggenheim, Fromm, Koussevitzky, and Barlow Foundations; the Kennedy Center (first prize in the Friedheim Awards); the National Endowment for the Arts; and the state of Maryland (four Individual Artist Awards). He had a Fulbright grant for study at Cambridge University, and fellowships to the Tanglewood Music Festival, the Wellesley Composers Conference, and the MacDowell Colony. He has taught at the University of Utah, the Peabody Conservatory, and, since 1989, St. Mary's College of Maryland, where he is professor and chair of the music department. Mr. Froom was educated at the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Southern California, and Columbia University. His main composition teachers were Chou Wen-chung, Mario Davidovsky, Alexander Goehr, and William Kraft.

#### The composer writes:

Yehuda Amichai (1924-2000) was Israel's leading poet. From a family of Orthodox Jews who emigrated from Germany to Palestine in 1934, he participated actively in the birth and life of Israel, as a soldier, a teacher, and a writer of the first rank. He spent a few years in the United States, teaching as visiting professor at the University of California at Berkeley and New York University, but always returned to his Jerusalem home. He was among the first poets of the new colloquial Israeli Hebrew (a language born, along with Israel, in 1948), and his writings reflect his love for his adopted homeland, his complex view of human relations, a knowing and sophisticated spirituality that does not shrink from questioning God, and a profound desire for a world of peace.

These three poems are recent translations by Leon Wieseltier (author and, for many years, the literary editor of the *New Republic*). To my ear, more than any other translator of Amichai's poetry, he shows an ear for the raw power and high musicality that my friends who read Hebrew tell me are hall-marks of Amichai's work.

Each of these three poems is full of spectacular images that, to me, cried out for musical embrace. Beneath the surface in each, though, is conflict and ambiguity: In the first, we hear of the strength needed to sing a small song. In the second, the burying in a second dream of dead resurrected in a first, an extremely dark image, shows the way we move beyond the past. In the third, we hope for the collapse of the "house of light" so the light can be released for all of us.

Amichai Songs was made possible by a grant from the Fromm Music Foundation. It is dedicated to Christopher Kendall, the 21st Century Consort, and William Sharp.

-David Froom

I. Now, when the waters are pressing mightily

Now, when the waters are pressing mightily on the walls of the dams, now, when the white storks, returning, are transformed in the middle of the firmament into fleets of jet planes, we will feel again how strong are the ribs and how vigorous is the warm air in the lungs and how much daring is needed to love on the exposed plain, when the great dangers are arched above, and how much love is required to fill all the empty vessels and the watches that stopped telling time, and how much breath, a whirlwind of breath, to sing the small song of spring.

#### II. In a man's life

In a man's life the first temple is destroyed and the second temple is destroyed and he must stay in his life, not like the people that went into exile far away, and not like God, who simply rose to higher regions.

In a man's life he resurrects the dead in a dream and in a second dream he buries them.

#### III. The House of Lovers

A house full of lights is hidden in great darkness in the garden.

If we are lucky the house will collapse and the light will be set free for the whole world.

-Translations by Leon Wieseltier

"Now, when the waters are pressing mightily" from "Now and in Other Days," original Hebrew © 1956 by Yehuda Amichai. "In a man's life," © 2005 by the estate of Yehuda Amichai. Both originally published in these translations in The New Yorker Magazine. "The House of Lovers," © 2004 by the estate of Yehuda Amichai. Originally published in this translation in the New York Times Review of Books. Text and translation used with permission of the estate of Yehuda Amichai.

#### **Charles Ives and His Sources**

Charles Ives (1874 - 1954) is universally recognized as one of the most original and quintessentially American composers. An insurance executive by profession, he composed prolifically in his spare time in almost every major genre. In relative isolation from the musical mainstream, Ives created far-reaching experiments in form, harmony, tonality, and rhythm, while nevertheless managing always to sound uniquely "Ivesian." His works are patriotic, religious, philosophical, political, or reminiscent of childhood and turn-of-the-century American life. As we will hear in William Sharp's selection of Ives' songs and their antecedents, the composer's music is filled with free associative quotes from traditional American songs, hymns, and marches as well as from sources as diverse as ragtime and the great European masters.

Nowhere does one get a more comprehensive grasp of Ives' range than in his songs. The songs heard this evening are all from Ives' 1922 compendium 114 Songs, printed, at the composer's own expense, primarily for friends who had occasionally asked him for copies of some of his songs. Nevertheless, Ives decided to send the anthology to randomly selected professional musicians, teachers, critics, and publishers. The Musical Courier thought

the songbook was a practical joke. Yet 114 Songs reached avant-garde musicians who were enthralled with its contents, feeling they had discovered a neglected genius, and spread the word through their circles. As for Ives, he explained his motives in the book's postscript: "Some have written a book for money; I have not. Some for fame; I have not. Some for love; I have not. Some for kindlings; I have not... In fact, I have not written a book at all —I have merely cleaned house. All that is left is out on the clothes line."

Sextet Aaron Copland

Aaron Copland was born in Brooklyn, New York, on November 14,1900, and spent his childhood living above his parents' Brooklyn shop. By the age of 15 had already taken an interest in music and aspired to be a composer. His musical education reached its apogee with Nadia Boulanger at the Fontainebleau School of Music in Paris from 1921 to 1924. Returning from Paris, Copland decided that he wanted to write music that was "American in character" and identified jazz as the quintessential American idiom. The integration of jazz into his overall compositional voice, resulting in early works of extraordinary complexity such as the Sextet, corresponded to a broad rejection of writing music for the elite during the Depression. American folklore, revival hymns, and cowboy songs served as the basis for much of Copland's work during the subsequent period, at a time when conservatories were teaching more astringent methods of composition. Copland maintained that he wanted to say what he had to say in the simplest possible terms. It was during this second (vernacular) period that many of Copland's enduring favorites were composed. During the McCarthy era, Copland was called to testify before congress as a suspected Communist, and was blacklisted. In 1953, his "A Lincoln Portrait" was pulled from President Eisenhower's inaugural concert due to the political climate. A compositional shift away from populism and toward a more abstract, "academic" style is sometimes associated directly with this political experience. Yet, like other composers, including Stravinsky, whose writing shifted toward the atonal during this period, Copland's musical voice remained unmistakably his own.

Copland died in North Tarrytown, New York (now Sleepy Hollow) on December 2, 1990.

Copland's *Sextet* is an arrangement of an earlier orchestral work, the *Short Symphony* of 1932-1933, which at the time was considered too difficult to perform in its orchestral version, and is, indeed, still infrequently attempted. The work employs some of the means of creating rhythmic unpredictability and excitement then in use by Stravinsky, Bartok and other European masters, but overlays a distinctly American and jazz inspired form of syncopation over the irregular meter. The result is astonishingly complex and vital.

The Composer wrote of the *Sextet*:

"The work is in three movements (fast, slow, fast) played without pause. The first movement is scherzo-like in character. Once, I toyed with the idea of naming the entire piece The Bouncing Line because of the nature of the first section. The second movement is in three brief sections—the first rises to a dissonant climax, is sharply contrasted with a song-like middle part, and returns to the beginning. The finale is once again bright in color and rhythmically intricate."

## About the Artists

ELISABETH ADKINS, violin, is Associate Concertmaster of the National Symphony Orchestra. She received her doctorate from Yale University, where she studied with Oscar Shumsky. She is active as a recitalist, concerto soloist, and chamber musician. Recent appearances include concertos with the National Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Dallas Symphony, and Eclipse Chamber Orchestra, and recitals at the Kennedy Center, the National Gallery, and the Phillips Collection. She is a founding member of the American Chamber Players; her recordings with the group can be heard on Koch International Classics. The daughter of noted musicologists, she and her seven siblings comprise the Adkins String Ensemble, which presents a concert series in Dallas and has recorded several CDs. Ms. Adkins is on the faculty of the University of Maryland School of Music.

- PAULA AKBAR, violin, attended Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, and received her Master's of Music Degree in Violin Performance from the Yale University Graduate School of Music. Prior to joining the National Symphony Orchestra in 1991, she played in the Oregon, New Haven, and Baltimore Symphony Orchestras and the Washington National Opera. Ms. Akbar has performed locally with the 21st Century Consort, the Library of Congress Summer Chamber Players, the Sunrise Quartet, and as concertmaster of the Virginia Chamber Orchestra. She is a founding member of the Eclipse Chamber Orchestra and has toured Latin America with the Wammie Award winning group QuinTango.
- PAUL CIGAN, clarinet/bass clarinet, began his musical education at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music studying under David Breeden and David Neuman, both of the San Francisco Symphony. After transferring to Temple University, he received a Bachelors degree under Anthony Gigliotti, former principal clarinetist of the Philadelphia Orchestra. While in Philadelphia, Paul performed with the Concerto Soloists Chamber Orchestra. He has performed as principal clarinetist with the San Antonio Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Virginia Symphony, and the Sarasota Opera. Other orchestras he has performed with include the National Repertory Orchestra, New World Symphony, and the Spoletto Festival USA Orchestra. Mr. Cigan is currently second clarinetist of the National Symphony Orchestra. He has performed as chamber musician with members of the National Symphony and National Musical Arts, Theatre Chamber Players and Eclipse Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Cigan is currently on the faculty of The Catholic University of America, a returning coach for the National Orchestral Institute at the University of Maryland, and former member of the clarinet faculty at the Peabody Institute of Music.
- LISA EMENHEISER, piano, is a graduate of the Juilliard School, where she received both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees as a student of Ania Dorfmann. She has performed in recitals at Alice Tully Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Recital Hall, and appears frequently at the Kennedy Center and National Gallery. She has served as acting principal pianist for the National Symphony Orchestra, and has appeared as soloist with both the Baltimore and Richmond Symphonies. As an established chamber musician, Ms. Emenheiser has performed across the globe with such artists as Julius Baker, Eugenia Zucherman, Ransom Wilson, Jean-Pierre Rampal and Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg. She has recorded for Pro Arte Records, VAI Audio, and Delos. Ms. Emenheiser is the pianist of the Opus 3 Trio.
- GABRIELLE FINCK, French horn, has been a member of the National Symphony Orchestra since 2003. In 2002-2003, Gabrielle played in the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and the Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra, and in 2001-2002, she was a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. She has also performed with the New World Symphony and the symphony

orchestras of Albany and Elgin, IL. An active chamber musician in the Washington area, Gabrielle performs regularly in the Kennedy Center chamber music series, the 21st Century Consort, the Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra, and the Washington Symphonic Brass and has presented chamber music and educational programs throughout the U.S. Gabrielle also takes opportunities around town to perform improvisational music in diverse styles and settings outside the classical realm. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Boston University, and has twice been awarded a fellowship at Tanglewood.

CHRISTOPHER KENDALL, conductor, is Dean of the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance, following nine years as Director of the University of Maryland School of Music from 1996-2005. Prior to 1996, he was Associate Conductor of the Seattle Symphony (1987-1993) then Director of the Music Division and Tanglewood Institute of the Boston University School of the Arts. He is also founder and lutenist of the Folger Consort, early music ensemble-in-residence at the Folger Shakespeare Library. He has guest conducted widely in repertoire from the 18th to the 21st century, with ensembles including the Dayton Philharmonic, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony (Ontario), the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, the New York Chamber Symphony, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Collage and Dinosaur Annex, and the Orchestra, Symphony and Chamber Orchestra of The Juilliard School. His performances can be heard in recording on the ASV, Centaur, Bard, Delos, CRI, Nonesuch, and Smithsonian Collection labels.

WILLIAM SHARP, baritone, appears frequently in Washington, DC with the 21st Century Consort, the Folger Consort, the National Symphony and the Cathedral Choral Society. He is the winner of several prestigious awards including the 1987 Carnegie Hall International Music Competition. He joined the faculty at the Aspen Music Festival in the summer of 1991. Also known for his performances of the early music repertoire, he frequently performs as soloist with the Handel & Haydn Society, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, and American Bach Soloists, in addition to his performances with the Bethlehem Bach Festival. A highly respected recording artist, William Sharp was nominated for a 1989 Grammy award for Best Classical Vocal Performance for his recording featuring the works of American composers (New World Records). His recording on the Koch label of Leonard Berrnstein's *Arias and Barcarolles* with the New York Festival of Song received a 1990 Grammy award.

JAMES STERN, violin and viola, has given recitals and chamber music performances at the Library of Congress, Alice Tully Hall, and Carnegie Hall and has appeared as soloist with orchestras throughout the United States. He is a member of two critically acclaimed ensembles, the Stern/Andrist Duo

with his wife, Canadian pianist Audrey Andrist, and Strata, a trio with clarinetist Nathan Williams that has performed at San Francisco Composers Inc, the Piccolo Spoleto Festival, and New York's historic Maverick Concerts. The duo has recorded music by Donald Erb on CRI Records, and did a recital tour of China in the spring of 2002. Now Associate Professor of violin and chamber music at the University of Maryland School of Music, he has appeared with the Twentieth Century Consort, at Strathmore Hall, at the Corcoran Gallery, and at the Smithsonian Institution in a recital demonstrating their collection of priceless ornamented Stradivarius violins. He received his training at the Juilliard School with Louise Behrend, Joseph Fuchs, Lewis Kaplan, and members of the Juilliard Quartet, leading to the Doctor of Musical Arts degree.

SARA STERN, flute, has performed much of the 20th century's most important solo and chamber music and has premiered and recorded significant compositions as solo flutist with the 21st Century Consort. As solo flutist with the American Chamber Players she concertizes and tours extensively. Primarily a self-taught musician, though much influenced by such flutists as Julius Baker and Marcel Moyse, her career has taken many unusual turns, from street musician in San Francisco to guest artist with the Emerson Quartet. She has performed solo recitals in the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Carnegie Recital Hall and many other venues, and is heard as principal flutist with numerous ensembles in and around the Washington, D.C. area.

RACHEL YOUNG, cello, a member of the National Symphony Orchestra, enjoys a varied career of orchestral, chamber and solo playing. Prior to her appointment to the National Symphony she was the Principal Cellist of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra. Her solo and chamber playing have taken her across the country and abroad to Europe and the Middle East. She has appeared as soloist with the National Philharmonic, the Peabody Symphony Orchestra, the New England Conservatory Chamber Orchestra, and the National Symphony Orchestra's Summer Youth Ensemble. She has appeared as a chamber artist at the Garth Newel Music Center, with the National Musical Arts Society, the Embassy Series, the Washington Music Ensemble, the Contemporary Music Forum, on WGBH and WGMS Radio and at the White House. In addition, Young has added her sound to a short film, a CD of bluegrass music, and a soon-to-be released DVD of works of Schoenberg. She also serves on the Board of the Kindler Cello Society.

# The 21st Century Consort gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Friends of the 21st Century Consort:

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