



## PRINCIPAL PERFORMER BIOS

### KENTON BALES, Composer

The music of Kenton Bales has been commissioned and premiered by a wide variety of professional artists and ensembles. His music is influenced by themes from the Western Classical tradition and from Native American music and the music and spirit of the Great Plains and the Ozarks, where he grew up. Bales has twice been named the Nebraska Composer of the year, and has won composition awards from the Music Teachers National Association, the Society of Composers, Incorporated, the American Composers Forum, and the Nebraska Arts Council.

A previous president of the Nebraska Music Teachers Association, Bales teaches music composition, technology and theory as a professor of music at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where he has won an Excellence in Teaching Award. He is a Fellow of the Center for Great Plains Studies.

His music is published by Southern Music Company, Alliance Music Publishers, Incorporated, and Amber Waves Publishing. Bales received his doctorate in music performance and master's of music in composition at the University of North Texas and his bachelor of music education from Drury College.



### DUNG, A Trumpet Choir

As long as there has been music, there have been trumpets. Whether it's the cupping of the hand against the lips, blowing into the horn of an animal, or buzzing the mouthpiece of a brass instrument, humans have always had an innate sense of how to trumpet.

Beginning in the Stone Age in southeast Asia, trumpeters began to gather in groups to share techniques, music and to play together. The Indian word for conch shell (a beloved type of trumpet all over the world) is 'dung'. When the word migrated to the landlocked Tibet, it became the root word for all their various trumpets. As the word crept towards the West, it also became a shorthand for trumpet gatherings as well.

These gatherings were very informal and diverse. It could be a chance meeting of 2 trumpet players, exchanging calls on a rooftop, or it could be a force of 1,000 trumpeters assembled for a sonic assault on an invading army.

Until the mid-20th century, dung were always considered somewhat of a secret, although it's next to impossible to keep the sound of a dung from attracting onlookers. In the late 1960's, American and European trumpeters began to arrange public dung performances. Today's dung carry on this long aural tradition, presenting a variety of repertoire that showcases the entire range of what the trumpet can do.



## STUART GERBER, Percussion

Stuart Gerber is currently Assistant Professor and Percussion Coordinator at Georgia State University in Atlanta. Gerber has performed extensively throughout the US, Europe, Australia, and Mexico.

An active performer of new works, Gerber has been involved in a number of commissions and world-premiere performances, including several works by Karlheinz Stockhausen. Since 2005, he has been the faculty percussionist for the Stockhausen-Courses in Germany. He has also worked with many other notable composers, including Kaija Saariaho, George Crumb, and John Luther Adams.

Gerber is a founding member of the Atlanta-based new music group Bent Frequency, performs internationally with the Australian pianist Michael Fowler in ENSEMBLE SIRIUS, and is regularly heard as extra percussionist with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Recent performances include a performance with Stewart Copeland (the legendary drummer for The Police) at the Savannah Music Festival and an appearance at the Spoleto Festival, where his performance was described as having “consummate virtuosity” by the New York Times.

Gerber received his Bachelor of Music degree from the Oberlin College Conservatory and was awarded a Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.



## JOHN KLINGHAMMER, Clarinetist & Conductor

John Klinghammer is a clarinetist for the Omaha Symphony, where he has been a member since 2001. He has also played with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, Des Moines Metro Opera, the National Repertory Orchestra, and the Breckenridge Music Festival.

Klinghammer is an active member of ANALOG *arts ensemble* and a former member of the Board of Directors. At ARTSaha! 2004, he conducted the world premiere of Rudolf Kämper's 'Baltasar & Blimunda' and, in 2006, the reduction of Jean-Philippe Rameau's baroque opera 'The Festivities of Hebe'.

He received his bachelor of arts degree in music from the University of Oregon and his master of music and doctorate in clarinet performance from the University of Southern California. He has won competitions at the University of Oregon, USC, and with the YMF Debut Orchestra.



## THE MICROSCORE PROJECT

Johnny Chang (violin) and Jessica Catron (cello) met at the MFA music program at the California Institute of the Arts. Jessica's short attention span and Johnny's fiery virtuosity led to the commissioning and performance of over 250 miniatures from 2001 to the present, from artists around the globe (including distinguished composers such as Pauline Oliveros, Peter Ablinger, Philip Brownlee, and James Tenney). The spirit of experimentalism results in adventures involving materials such as glass bottles, wool gloves, Snapple caps, tree branches, AM/FM radios, and margaritas.

The idea for this project was originally born with a concert in December 2001 of all newly commissioned “microworks,” resulting in over 60 pieces from around the globe. Their second commission resulted in over 130 submitted compositions. The project has been performed in Los Angeles and New Zealand.



## MONUMENT PIANO TRIO

Monument Piano Trio was founded in 2004 by three friends and musicians who love and embrace chamber music: Igor Yuzefovich (violin), Dariusz Skoraczewski (cello), and Michael Sheppard (piano).

Monument Piano Trio has quickly proven itself as a talented and promising ensemble. Coming from different musical backgrounds, each member of the trio brings something unique in their style of playing. Together, the styles and genres unify into one distinctive sound. Critics have called the trio "Excellent" and "Breathtaking", and their concerts have been consistently well received by the public.

After a critically acclaimed debut, the Trio was invited to be the first Artists-in-Residence at An die Musik, a chamber music venue in the heart of Baltimore's cultural district, where they also presented a six-concert series in their third season. In 2007, the Trio joined musical and creative forces with the ANALOG arts ensemble and established a Composition Competition. The group is working on its debut recording, which will include the winning composition from the Composition Competition.

