

CLEVELAND CHAMBER SYMPHONY

Steven Smith, Music Director

~ *music that dares to explore* ~

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“NEOSonicFall”
Cleveland Chamber Symphony Concerts
Steven Smith, Music Director
Baldwin Wallace, Gamble Auditorium
Sundays, September 18 and 25, 2022 7pm
Free Admission

CLEVELAND, OH (August 31, 2022) - The Cleveland Chamber Symphony is pleased to announce NEOSonicFall, an extension of the annual NEOSonicFest traditionally held each Spring and sponsored by CCS.

Two free concert announcements:

“Celebrating Ohio Composers,” will be held on Sunday September 18, 2022.

Live-stream: <https://boxcast.tv/view/09-18-22ccs-na0b7ug8rwlx1upj1oaz>

“Young & Emerging Composers,” will be held on Sunday September 25, 2022.

Live-stream: <https://boxcast.tv/view/09-25-22ccs-bkpf8ttao76bxu7y2kp1>

Both concerts will be at **7pm in Gamble Auditorium**, Kulas Musical Arts Building, 96 Front St., on the campus of Baldwin Wallace University in Berea.

Admission is free with donations gratefully accepted at the door.

Celebrating Ohio Composers, Sunday, September 18 at 7pm

This concert will feature the music of five composers connected to Northern Ohio, **Marilyn Shrude, Hale Smith, Julia Perry, Steven Smith and Nicholas Underhill.**

“Chant” by **Marilyn Shrude**, was commissioned and premiered in 1998 by the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble. As Distinguished Artist and Professor of Music at Bowling Green State University, she has been a longtime major champion of American music as a composer, performer and teacher. Shrude’s music has been described as “characterized by warmth and lyricism, rich timbre, multi-layered constructions, and a complex blend of tonality and atonality. The result is a bright, shimmering and

delicately wrought sound world that is at once both powerful and fragile.” Among her many prestigious honors are those from the Guggenheim Foundation (2011 Fellow), American Academy of Arts and Letters, Rockefeller Foundation, Chamber Music America/ASCAP, Meet the Composer, Sorel Foundation (Medallion Winner for Choral Music 2011), and the National Endowment for the Arts. She was the first woman to receive the Kennedy Center Friedheim Award for Orchestral Music in 1984 and the Cleveland Arts Prize for Music in 1998.

“Introduction, Cadenzas, and Interludes” by 1973 Cleveland Arts Prize recipient **Hale Smith**, was originally written in 1979 for the Sea Cliff Chamber Players. It is a virtuosic work for eight solo players; flute, oboe, clarinet, harp, piano, violin, viola and cello. Hale Smith was born in Cleveland in 1925 where he learned piano at an early age and as a teenager played jazz piano in local nightclubs. When he was sixteen, he met Duke Ellington, who commented favorably on his compositions. After being drafted in the early 1940s he worked for the U.S. Army as an arranger. Following his Army service he studied composition at the Cleveland Institute of Music from which he received B.M. and M.M. degrees. Hale Smith enjoyed a long and active career as a composer and arranger encompassing both classical and jazz styles, and as a teacher at C.W. Post College on Long Island and the University of Connecticut-Storrs. He passed away in 2009 after a lengthy illness.

“Pastoral” for flute septet, by **Julia Perry**, was composed in 1959. Born in Lexington, Kentucky in 1924, she moved with her family as a child to Akron, where she grew up. After receiving B.M. and M.M. degrees from Westminster Choir College she studied further at the Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood and the Juilliard School of Music. She was awarded two Guggenheim Fellowships, which enabled her to study in Paris with Nadia Boulanger and in Florence with Luigi Dallapiccola. After holding teaching positions she returned to Akron in the 1960s and achieved wide acclaim, with performances by the New York Philharmonic and other major orchestras. In 1971, however, she suffered the first of two strokes which left her hospitalized for several years. She taught herself to write with her left hand so she could continue to compose. By the time of her death in Akron in 1979, Perry had completed 12 symphonies, two concertos, and three operas, in addition to numerous smaller pieces.

“Chromo-Synchrony” was written in 2015 expressly for the Cleveland Chamber Symphony by its Music Director, **Steven Smith**. The title is a combination of "chromo," meaning color, and "synchrony," describing the simultaneous manner of actions, developments or events. The word combination was suggested by the idea of shifting and developing coloristic, melodic and harmonic elements, as well as a rhyming play on “Chamber Symphony.” As a composer, Steven Smith’s works have been performed by numerous orchestras, small ensembles and soloists throughout the world. He has served as CCS Music Director since 2004, and previously was Assistant Conductor of The Cleveland Orchestra and Music Director of the symphonies of Richmond, Virginia and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

“Pulp Schumann” by **Nicholas Underhill** will be receiving its premiere performance as a chamber orchestra work in this concert. Originally written for sextet, the composer relates: “It was surprising that when in 2008 I was asked to write a piece for the Cleveland Chamber Collective, that [the Schumann Second Symphony] Scherzo movement should come roaring back into my head in a version that was inverted and turned into a savage folk dance. I was supposed to be writing Heavy Metal influenced music for this project, and I guess this was as close as I was likely to come, not really being familiar with that genre. I arranged the piece for Chamber Orchestra for the Cleveland Chamber Symphony.” Nicholas Underhill studied composition at Hampshire College, Amherst College, and the New England Conservatory of Music. Well-known in Boston, New York and Cleveland as a champion of new music for the piano, he has performed solo recitals in Carnegie Recital Hall and Merkin Concert Hall. He has taught composition and other music courses at Cleveland State University and is a member of No Exit New Music Ensemble and a Founding member of the Cleveland Chamber Collective.

Young & Emerging Composers Concert, Sunday, September 25 at 7pm

The Cleveland Chamber Symphony will perform a concert of new works by the composers selected for the annual Young & Emerging Composers project. Featured composers will be:

Genevieve Kramer – Baldwin Wallace University
(continued)

Aaron Chung – Bowling Green State University
Kristian Schembri – Cleveland Institute of Music
Jimmie Parker – Cleveland State University
Tylor Davis – Kent State University
Curtis Lacey – University of Akron

The Young & Emerging Composers project has been a mainstay of the Cleveland Chamber Symphony's activities from the beginning of its over 40-year history. It provides the opportunity for college composers in Northeast Ohio to compose expressly for, and to hear their work rehearsed and performed by the fully professional Cleveland Chamber Symphony. Each student is selected for participation by their composition teachers, who then work with them to complete their pieces.

The new works will be read and rehearsed on Friday, September 23 from 10:30am to 2:30pm in Gamble Auditorium on the campus of Baldwin Wallace University. This event is free and open to the public.

CCS supporters include The Ohio Arts Council, The George Gund Foundation, the Bascom Little Foundation, The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, the American Federation of Musicians Music Performance Trust Fund, and the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation. Support also includes ongoing residency partnerships with Baldwin Wallace University and with The Music School Settlement, ensuring stability and growth in our mission and in our impact.

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