

 **PRISM** players - in concert **Music for winter**

Roger Zahab, violin
David Cerutti, viola
Robert Frankenberry, piano

Opera America Rehearsal Hall
330 Seventh Avenue (between 28 & 29th Streets), 7th floor
Free admission (donations accepted – see QR code below)

December 19, 2024, Thursday at 8:00 pm.

for David, Marc, and Luke (2023)
for violin and viola - first performance

Roger Zahab

Formation (2020)
for violin and viola

Megan DiGeorgio

Elegy for a Tanguero (2014)
for violin and piano

Reed Robins

This Weight That Wants to Fall (2018)
for violin and piano

Aaron Wyanski

living kindness of the viola (2024)
for sola viola - first performance

Roger Zahab

Winter Music (2012)
for violin and piano

John Fitz Rogers

the far reaches (2008)
for violin and viola

Roger Zahab

Sonata for viola and piano (2018)

Gilbert Galindo

- I. Passionate, elegant
- II. Very quick
- III. Interlude: Freely
- IV. Finale

Our Elastic Hearts Dancing Closer Still (2024)
for violin and piano- first performance

Ken Topham

tambourin/dabke (2010 – from *A Christmas Carol*)
for violin, viola and piano

Roger Zahab

some notes...

Roger Zahab – for David, Marc, and Luke was written as after dinner music. Perhaps it is a digestif? RZ

Megan DiGeorgio – Formation

Formation is the third in a set of three pieces written for Roger Zahab. All three were premiered by Roger and the composer over the course of several years. Formation captures a sense of fragile stability, with moments of uncertainty, but overall serves as a joyful ending to this set of works. Many thanks to Roger for his continued support and friendship!

M DG

<https://www.megandigeorgio.com>

Reed Robins – Elegy for a Tanguero

Octavio Brunetti (May 12th 1975 - August 29th 2014) was a very special artist and human being who left us way too soon at the age of 39 years old. His dedication to tango music through his piano artistry was well known in the tango community. This piece, written for Roger Zahab and Robert Frankenberry shortly after his passing in 2014, is dedicated to his legacy.

RR

<https://www.reedrobins.com>

Aaron Wyanski - This Weight That Wants to Fall

While in the early stages of writing this piece, I read a poem by Ursula K Le Guin that ends with the line: "This weight that wants to fall, and falling, sing." Though the poem is about a pestle, it struck me that the line also works as a description of a violin bow. For whatever reason, in that moment my concept of the piece clicked into place, and this work explores the nuances of repetition, weight, friction, and, much like the metaphoric pestle, what is released through that friction.

AW

<https://www.aaronwyanski.com/>

Roger Zahab – living kindness of the viola was written for David Cerutti with love and admiration of his way with music and his chosen instrument. I have been very fortunate to have had his friendship and music all these years.

RZ

John Fitz Rogers – Winter Music was commissioned by Rebecca Hunter and Lynn Kompass.

The composer writes:

I grew up in a small town in Wisconsin, so as a child, I was accustomed to long and sometimes harsh winters. But winter is a complex season. Intense blue skies and bright, reflected light often complement bitter temperatures, and there is noble beauty in stark landscapes. In one moment, a single gust of wind may interrupt the frozen stillness, blowing snow in great, tempestuous swirls. In *Winter Music*, I wanted to evoke some of these images. Solitary, gentle melodies give way to passionate outbursts, and then recede once again into quieter textures both bleak and hopeful.

JFR

<https://www.johnfitzrogers.com/>

Roger Zahab - the far reaches was written for Sarah Albani, a Pitt student at the time of many things musical and medical while not neglecting to explore the far reaches of mountains and rivers, and continuing as a devoted friend and musician.

RZ

Gilbert Galindo - Sonata for viola and piano

After having performed my piano quartet and string quartet in Random Access Music around 2015, Liuh-Wen Ting asked me to write a viola piece for her, utilizing the lyrical viola writing found in those works. I wanted to make this piece special and took my time with it as there was no set performance date. I wrote the work from the fall of 2017 to the end of 2018, while writing other works and having moved back to NYC during that time.

I constantly assess and reflect on my music and this piece is the realization of my reflections. The work contains lyrical passages with extended jazz-inspired harmonies in the first movement. The second movement utilizes

mixed driving pulses and tunes, fragmented or fully realized. The interlude is what I like to describe as abstract nostalgia, chords that float in a soundscape and that can evoke sentiments within the listener. And the final movement is - as it seems to me - an organic development out of what occurred before: a heartfelt song for viola.

GG

<https://www.gilbertgalindo.com/>

Ken Topham - Our Elastic Hearts Dancing Closer Still

The composer writes: This is a scene in which the two instruments are expressing their love for each other. Elation overwhelms them as they begin to dance together, pushing and pulling the flow of time, until their hearts beat in unison.

KT

<https://www.ktopham.com/>

Roger Zahab – tambourin/dabke is a musical cue from my setting of Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol. In the first vision the Ghost of Christmas Past shows Ebenezer his younger self caught up in tales of Ali Baba from the Arabian Nights. An Irish/Lebanese confection – with the “Irish Boree” from The Dancing Master, 17th ed., London 1721 could easily have been mixed up with an imagined Arabia in the youngster’s mind. RZ

David Cerutti, Viola, has given his entire professional life to the versatile art of freelancing in New York City (and beyond), as soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player. He is co-principal Violist at the Orchestra of St. Luke’s and has worked tirelessly in the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra since 1994.

He is both grateful and elated to be playing a concert of living, breathing composers with two of his most longtime and best friends this evening.

Robert Frankenberry enjoys a multi-faceted relationship with music as a singer, pianist, conductor, orchestrator, producer, director, and composer. He has conducted operas in a Hookah lounge (Carmen, reconfigured for ensemble cast and using his own folk-ensemble orchestration), on and around a cemetery lake (Ricky Ian Gordon’s Orpheus and Euridice), and on and in Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater (Daron Hagen’s Shining Brow). He can be heard singing and playing on the Naxos, Albany, New World Records, Roven Records, New Dynamic Records, and Innova labels, as well as various streaming platforms. Robert is currently a member of the Voice Faculty at Point Park University, Associate Producer for Resonance Works, and Residency Faculty of the MFA in Music Composition program at the Vermont College of Fine Arts.

Roger Zahab enjoys instigating fairly complex and unpredictable interactions through his activities as composer, violinist/violist, improviser, conductor, teacher, and writer. His interests have ranged far and wide - his work as a musician involving everyone from young students to experienced new music specialists is primarily focused on music’s place in society at large. Roger is a founding core faculty member (and a current co-chair) of the Vermont College of Fine Arts MFA in Music Composition program as well as Director of Undergraduate Studies, Teaching Professor and conductor of the Orchestra at the University of Pittsburgh.

If you wish to support our adventures – either link should work:

https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=ZUYWK2YLCD7RC

