

12:15 p.m.
February 18, 2021
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Contemporary Piano Miniatures by Woman Composers Marvin Rosen, piano

Program Notes

The Castle at Sunrise by **Jennifer Castellano** (USA) (www.castellanomusic.net)

Anyone who tunes into *Classical Discoveries* on Wednesday mornings will recognize the opening of the first work on today's program, which is the opening theme for the show. According to the composer the title refers to the magnificent castle located on the Manhattanville College campus in Purchase, NY. Jennifer Castellano is a visually- and hearing-impaired pianist and composer who studied at Manhattanville College and at Purchase College, Purchase, New York.

Lavender Field by **Karen Tanaka** (Japan) (www.musicsalesclassical.com/composer/short-bio/karen-tanaka)

The Japanese composer Karen Tanaka studied French literature as well as music, and currently lives in Los Angeles, where she teaches composition at California Institute of the Arts. Tanaka studied with Akira Miyoshi, Tristan Murail, and Luciano Berio, and has written instrumental, chamber and orchestral works with and without electronic sounds. The composer wrote the following about "Lavender Field," the work we hear today: "Imagine weaving color and scent with sounds. The harmonic series on E-flat appears and disappears into space at the end."

Requiem for Silenced Souls by **Susan T. Nelson** (USA) (www.susantnelson.com)

The composer writes: "I come from a musical family, so it is not surprising that I chose it as my profession. I have been published since 1991 and recently earned an M.M. in Music Technology and Composition from the University of Valley Forge. I wrote 'Requiem for Silenced Souls' July 20, 2016 for those that perished in the South Carolina and Florida tragedies. The 9 down-stemmed notes in the opening and 9-note melodic figure are for the victims in Charleston, while the 49 repeated 'A4' quarter notes in this 49 measure long work are for those that died in Orlando. The harsh tone clusters represent how the trauma of these events are always with us, and perhaps still haunt those who have passed."

Submerged by **Dosia McKay** (USA) (www.dosiamckay.com)

The composer writes: "I am an American composer of music for concert stage, film, and modern dance. My music weaves elements of classical harmony, avant-garde, ambient soundscapes, lyricism of Slavic folk melodies, and my own visual art into the fabric of my compositions. My portfolio includes works for symphony orchestra, chamber ensembles, choir, soloists, as well as electro-acoustic installations. When I was in ninth grade my friend played for me 'The Sunken Cathedral' by Claude Debussy. I remember the feeling of calm and mystery the piece evoked. I wanted to create the same emotion in 'Submerged'. The piece is characterized by long stretches of the sustain pedal and absence of rests - the sound fills every crevice and floods the space as if with water."

History by **Beth Anderson** (USA) (www.beand.com)

Ms. Anderson is a composer of new romantic music, text-sound works, and music theater events. Her recordings are available on MSR, New World, Albany, Pogus, and Other Minds. According to the composer, " 'History' begins with monks chanting and moves swiftly through the centuries and aesthetics (spending most of the time in the modern era) until it arrives at the brink of no music. But wait, it's back. Hopefully. I wrote it for my friend, the composer Boudewijn Buckinx's birthday."

Waiting by **Rain Worthington** (USA) (www.rainworthington.com)

The composer writes: "I strive to compose emotionally evocative works to captivate and touch the heart with a deep musical interiority that is nuanced, delicate, powerful, and transporting. World music, minimalism, and romanticism have influenced my compositional style. My music has been performed nationally and internationally in Spain, Belgium, Italy, Brazil, India, and Iceland. The poignancy of waiting as witness to a process of profound inevitability, 'Waiting' was written as I was witnessing my mother's progressing dementia, and was composed for Hayk Arsenyan's call for solo piano miniatures."

To Solace My Heart by **Rebecca Oswald** (USA) (www.rebeccaoswald.com)

Rebecca Oswald studied at Westminster Choir College of Rider University and at the University of Oregon School of Music. She has written a large variety of music and currently lives in Oregon where she is a full-time pianist and composer. "To Solace My Heart" is a very beautiful, expressive work that comes from the composer's collection "Whereas," dating from 2011.

Reflections by **Ana Milosavljevic** (Serbia) (www.anamilo.com/index.html)

Ana Milosavljevic is a Serbian native and New York City-based composer, violinist, and Viper electric violinist. Her "inventive," "graceful," "showpiece" works (New York Times) have been premiered at Carnegie Hall, Off-Broadway, Le Poisson Rouge, and the Tribeca New Music Festival; commissioned by visual artist Vittoria Chierici, and artist, architect and writer Corrado Levi; performed by ETHEL, Ensemble Metamorphosis, Robert Mirabal, Kathleen Supove and Vicky Chow; and featured in choreography by Takehiro Ueyama (TAKE Dance) and in the art film *Luci in the Sky*. The composer writes: "In late 2008, a colleague of mine asked me to write a new work for violin and piano, to be premiered by the two of us at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall. Since its Carnegie premiere, 'Reflections' was performed in various venues in the USA and Europe. In addition to its concert version, I adapted 'Reflections' into music for an off-Broadway play. Also, the New York City-based contemporary dance company TAKE Dance uses a solo piano version of 'Reflections in Flight'."

Frantic by **Janet Gieck** (Canada) (www.gieckmusic.com)

The composer writes: "I grew up surrounded by rural Saskatchewan culture and landscape, a fact, which has profoundly affected my musical output. After completing music degrees from Prairie Bible College (Three Hills, AB) and the Royal Conservatory of Music, I have had my compositions performed at many concerts, New Music Festivals and on CBC radio. My pedagogical compositions are now listed on many different syllabi across Canada. Currently, I am working as a member of the Fine Arts Department at Millar College of the Bible in Pambrun, SK, where I live with my husband and three children. I am also in demand as a piano teacher, adjudicator and clinician. 'Frantic' was composed in 2008 and explores the rhythmic excitement of changing time signatures and the octatonic scale. The flurry of sound at the end brings the piece to a climactic finish."

The Rabbit-Melancholy by **Dorothee Eberhardt** (Germany) (www.doroeeberhardt.de)

The composer writes: "Born in Memmingen, Bavaria, I received accordion and piano lessons already as a child and later took up saxophone, clarinet, and finally the violin. After high school I pursued oriental studies, philosophy and Greek at Würzburg and Tübingen Universities, graduating with a Ph.D. Inspired by the English saxophonist Barbara Thompson I moved to London where I studied both at Trinity College of Music, London, gaining a Licentiate (LTCL) in clarinet, and at Goldsmiths College, University of London, graduating with a B.Mus in composition and musicology. I now live near Munich. My works are being played and commissioned by internationally renowned musicians. 'The Rabbit-Melancholy' was composed in 2010, when I, together with some colleagues, was asked to write a short piece for the 85th birthday of our friend, the composer Herbert Baumann, taking as a starting point a motive out of his work 'The Blue Rabbit'."

Impulse One (from set of six) by **Zibuokle Martinaityte** (Lithuania) (www.zibuokle.com)

Named by WQXR a "textural magician" Lithuanian-born composer Zibuokle Martinaityte has a growing reputation for her innovative chamber and orchestral music. She studied composition at the Lithuanian Music Academy with Bronius Kutavicius and Julius Juzeliunas and later participated in numerous composition courses, including Darmstadt New Music Summer Course, Ircam/Acanthes, Royaumont and others. Currently residing in New York she has had commissions from the MATA festival and Barlow Endowment, and won the Look&Listen Composers Competition Prize (NYC). Her piece "A Thousand Doors To The World" was commissioned by the Lithuanian Radio on the occasion of *Vilnius – Culture Capital of Europe 2009* and was broadcast by Euroradio, the "virtual concert hall" with 4 million listeners. This and "Horizons" received the Lithuanian Composers Union Award as Best Orchestral Performance (2010, 2014). The composer writes: "Speaking of 'Impulses' (2007-8), there are only a few words that I can say. These 6 miniatures ('Impulses') resemble drawings on the water... they disappear before they can ever be perceived..." We hear the first of these miniatures today.

Goodnight by **Helen Jane Long** (England) (www.helenjanelong.com)

Helen Jane Long is known for her music for film and television as well as for her pieces for piano. In 2003 she was hired by Howard Shore to be the Musical Score Continuity Director for the *Lord of the Rings* films. Helen Jane Long has also written a number of scores for television commercials. As a pianist she has recorded several albums of her music.

Carousel by **Sylvie Bodorova** (Czech Republic) (www.bodorova.cz)

Sylvie Bodorova studied in Bratislava and at the Janacek Academy of Performing Arts. She has been composer in residence at the University of Cincinnati and has written a large variety of works. Sylvie Bodorova is one of the most well known living women composers from her country. The very brief "Carousel" is a rhythmically exciting work and would be a welcome encore on any piano recital.