

AHN TRIO
Lucia Ahn, Piano
Angella Ahn, Violin
Maria Ahn, Cello

Program 1, Mexico, August 2008

Divertissement for Violin, Cello and Piano (Moscow, 2005)

Allegro
Adagio
Allegretto
Allegro vivace

Nikolai Kapustin
[b. 1937]

Dies Irie Kenji Bunch
 [b. 1973]

Lullaby for My Favorite Insomniac

Kenji Bunch

Contacto Permanente
 [b. 1971, Buenos Aires]

Fernando Otero

Intermission

Yu-Ryung (Mexico Premiere)
 One Movement

Pat Metheny
 [b.1954]

My Funny Valentine**

Richard Rodgers

Tremors

David Balakrishnan
 [b. 1954]

Skylife

David Balakrishnan

*Commissioned by the University of Florida Performing Arts/Written for Ahn Trio

** Transcribed for Ahn Trio by Kenji Bunch

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Nikolai Kapustin (b:1937, Gorlovka, Ukraine) Divertissement for Piano Trio, Op.126.

Program Notes: Although I have written quite a few chamber works, before this Divertissement there had been only one trio among them, and that with a flute instead of the traditional violin. The thing is, I felt I had no special liking for piano trio's sound. But this prejudice vanished when I was lucky to hear the Ahn Trio for the first time and so I decided to write something for them. The Divertissement in four movements was written in the summer of 2005. As is true of all my music, the Divertissement has no program and is in my usual fusion style with several quasi-improvisations, which in reality are written out. This opus may turn out rather difficult for some people ... but not for Ahn Trio! Although I was composing it with a great pleasure, I suspect it is the last trio in my life. Thus a suitable subtitle might be such: "The Suite for Trio" number one. The second won't be ever done.

Kenji Bunch: *Dies Irie:* One day in the spring of 2004, I was trying to write down the words *Dies Irae*, the Latin term for "Day of Wrath" used famously in the Requiem Mass. I noticed later that I had inadvertently written instead "*Dies Irie*" which I found really amusing. In the Jamaican Patois, *Irie* is a wonderful word that suggests a state of being perfectly content- of a certain peace with the universe- that is light years away from a day of wrath. In a sense, I had stumbled upon a new term meaning "Day of Everything Being Just Right". Because of the long tradition of musical settings of the *Dies Irae*, I immediately began to wonder what a *Dies Irie* would sound like, and ended up with this short, sweet work for piano trio.

Fernando Otero (b: Buenos Aires) Fernando Otero was born in Buenos Aires, into a family of musicians. He received his first singing and piano lessons from his mother, Elsa Marval, a renowned opera singer and pianist. Since early childhood he has studied piano, harmony and composition, which prepared him for his later master classes in orchestration and conducting with Domingo Marafiotti (resident conductor of the Symphonic Orchestra of the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires). The inspiring environment of his upbringing allowed Otero to absorb diverse musical styles such as the traditional tango, local folklore, classical music and jazz. Still in his student years, Otero started writing music for piano, choir, strings and brass quintets. However, his special interest in Argentine folklore led him to explore intensely the instruments, which are characteristic for such music, like the bandoneon, guitar, charango, accordion and percussion. It was not long after that he started to incorporate the use of the bandoneon in most of his compositions. By combining elements of the popular music of his nation with improvisational jazz solos and classic piano cadenzas woven together by traditional techniques, Fernando arrived at his own unique style. It is a style that generates moods and taps into the increasing appetite of sophisticated audiences for a new authentic sound. Tonight's "Contact Permanente" is the first movement (of three) from his most recent composition, *Contact*, a piece which the Ahn Trio premiered in September 2005.

Chick Corea (b: 1941, Chelsea, MA) Chick Corea's name has become synonymous with new ideas in music. By the age of four Chick was studying piano and enjoyed a childhood home filled with the sound of Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie - not to mention Beethoven and Mozart, who inspired Chick's compositional instincts.

"It was from these beginnings that he started to play with the likes of Mongo Santamaria, Stan Getz and Miles Davis. Moving on to assemble many famed groups (including Circle, Return to Forever, the Elektric Band, the Akoustic Band and Origin) and having played with nearly every jazz great of the modern era (from Herbie Hancock to Gary Burton), Corea's career reads like a jazz history book. Constantly stretching the limits of his art (and winning 12 Grammys in the process) Corea is undoubtedly one of jazz's most influential keyboardists and composers." (2004, *The Harvard Crimson*, Inc.)

While he has gained legendary status performing in the world of jazz, he continues to prove his diversity by his ability to write in Classical forms as well as modern ones. "Addendum" comes from Corea's Children's Songs album—his first attempt at writing for solo piano. These pieces

were begun in 1971 and were added to gradually over the next nine years, culminating in a total of twenty pieces. The Songs are reminders of Robert Schumann's "Scenes from Childhood" and the Children's Pieces of Mussorgsky in that they are short, to the point and are quite contrasting in their natures. They are fun to play because while being simple and direct in their statements they are sometimes quite probing and colorful in their nuances, not unlike children themselves.

Michael Nyman (b: 1944, England) Michael Nyman is an English composer of minimalist music, pianist, librettist and musicologist, perhaps best known for the many scores he wrote during his lengthy collaboration with the filmmaker Peter Greenaway. Nyman studied music composition at the Royal Academy of Music in London. In 1969, he provided the libretto for *Down by the Greenwood Side's* opera, and directed the short film *Love Love Love* before settling into music criticism, where he is generally acknowledged to have been the first to apply the term "minimalism" to music (in a 1968 article in *The Spectator* magazine about the English composer Cornelius Cardew). Nyman's popularity increased significantly after he wrote the score to Jane Campion's award winning 1993 film *The Piano*. The album became a classical music best seller.

David Balakrishnan- (b: 1954) – Program Notes: David says of his work, “Syklife” is a slow burning, heavy-metal grinding kind of number. If this were the 60’s, the comparison would be to Led Zeppelin...” It was arranged by Kenji Bunch for the Ahn Trio.