New Music North 2009-10

Yoko Hirota, piano

“Small is Beautiful: Miniature Piano Pieces”

Program

Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951)  
*Piano Pieces Op. 19 (1911)*

Ernst Krenek (1900-1991)  
*Eight Piano Pieces, Op. 110 (1946)*

Luciano Berio (1925-2003)  
*Brin (1990)*
*Leaf (1990)*

Elliott Carter (b. 1908)  
*Retrouvailles (2000)*

Intermission

Aris Carastathis (b. 1957)  
*Traces I & II (1991 rev. 2002)*

Gary Kulesha (b. 1954)  
*Two Pieces for Piano (1994)*

Robert Lemay (b. 1960)  
*Tanze vor Angst... Hommage à Paul Klee (2006)*

Bruce Mather (b. 1939)  
*Fantasy (1964 rev. 1967)*

John Weinzweig (1913-2006)  
*Can On Stride (1986)*

Brian Cherney (b. 1942)  
*Elegy for a Misty Afternoon (1976)*

Yoko Hirota, Pianist

Having been praised by the press as “precise and keenly projective” and demonstrating “the highest level of proficiency,” Japanese-Canadian pianist Yoko Hirota is considered one of the leading interpreters of contemporary piano repertory of her generation.

After undergraduate and graduate studies at the State University of New York in Buffalo, Ms. Hirota obtained her doctoral degree in piano performance at McGill University (1999) where she pursued her commitment to contemporary piano literature with the prominent Canadian pianist and pedagogue, Louis-Philippe Pelletier.

Ms. Hirota is a strong advocate of contemporary music, in particular music by Canadian composers. She has performed in solo and chamber recitals across North America and has been the guest soloist with orchestras, including the world premiere of “Oiseau de Givre” a concerto written for her by Canadian composer Robert Lemay. Her excellence in contemporary music interpretation is reflected in the many awards she has received and the many broadcasts of her performances on Société Radio-Canada.

Ms. Hirota’s professional activities also include recordings. Her first CD, “The Piano Music of Arnold Schoenberg with 17 Fragments,” was released to critical acclaim and was listed as one of Essential Tracks by The Globe and Mail. Her latest CD “Small is Beautiful: Miniature Piano Pieces”, made possible through funding from the Canada Council for the Arts and Ontario Arts Council, was released in 2009.

Yoko Hirota is Professor of Piano and Chair of the Music Department at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario, and co-founder and co-artistic director of 5-Penny New Music Concerts.

For more information please visit: www.yokohirota.com and www.5pennynewmusic.ca.

New Music North was founded in 2001 with a mission to promote contemporary concert music by Canadian and international composers in Northwestern Ontario. It is the first organization of its kind in the region and, with individual, corporate and government support it brings new concert music closer to the general public. New Music North is a non-profit, incorporated organization exclusively run by volunteers.

Many thanks to the Lakehead University Department of Music for hosting tonight’s concert.

Next New Music North concert

New Music of Local Flavour

Penelope Clarke, flute
Anthony Bacon, violoncello
Derek Oger, piano
Jean-François Breton, percussion

Friday, April 9, 2010
8:00 pm, Jean McNulty Recital Hall
William H. Buset Centre for Music and Visual Arts

www.newmusicnorth.org

Small Is Beautiful: Miniature Piano Pieces

Yoko Hirota piano

Friday, February 12, 2010
8:00 p.m. Jean McNulty Recital Hall
William H. Buset Centre for Music and Visual Arts
Lakehead University, Thunder Bay

www.newmusicnorth.org