



SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Presents

The Music of Blaise Ferrandino

May 1, 2023

7:00 PM

Pepsico Recital Hall

Program

Suite for Piano

- I. *Don't ask me why*
- II. *If you must know*
- III. *But, then again*
- IV. *It might not be so*
- V. *Can you be sure?*
- VI. *Were I to speak my mind*
- VII. *...that you and I might be*
- VIII. *by one another defined*

Daria Kiseleva - Piano

Frames of Reference

...at first light
Soliloquy

...at first light

...of new places and things

...at first light

Soliloquy

...of new places and things

Facets

Synthesis

Shauna Thompson – Flute

Juliette Herlin – Cello

Michael Bukhman - Piano

Litany for Peace, in troubled times

- i. *...have mercy on this broken world*
- ii. *O Lord, deliver us*
- iii. *Lord, hear our prayer*
- iv. *...we pray to you, O God*

David Begnoche – Solo Trombone

Axel Bevenssee - Trombone I

Xander Byrd - Trombone II

David Clary - Trombone III

Brendan Roth – Bass Trombone

Blaise Ferrandino – Narrator

Thomas Singletary – Conductor

The use of recording equipment or taking photographs is prohibited.
Please silence all electronic devices including watches, pagers, and phones.

Blaise Ferrandino – Recital

May 1, 2023

Program notes

These pieces were composed between late Fall of 2019 and 2022 with some final editing done earlier this year. It was a fruitful time. There are three other works from this period awaiting premiere.

Suite for Piano started with a thought during a period of confusion. It was during the lockdown and I imagine I was not the only one feeling this way. For some reason the phrase, “Don’t ask me why” resonated with me at that time. It went no deeper than that, but the phrase became somewhat of a mantra and, for a while, was of some comfort. Words and word rhythms always influence my writing, even when no text is present. Sometimes the affect or sentiment is what stands out to me, as is the case in the first movement. After this, I began something of a conversation with myself and, in turn, expressed the dialogue through the music (*Don’t ask me why... If you must know... But then again... etc.*). Reading through the titles, you might well get a feeling for the specifics of this dialogue and, in turn, navigate through the movements. This is not the only way to enjoy the work however as, hopefully, the music does stand on its own as absolute.

A special word of thanks to Kate Stevens, who served as sounding board and editor for this work. This is a premiere.

Frames of Reference explores the changing manner in which we might experience music, especially as it is first performed and heard. The experience of performer and audience alike will change as what is new becomes more familiar, and as we process the familiar into something more surely known. The five movements of this work are all carved out of the same raw material, but seek to explore this material from different aspects. So, in its creation, the changing frames of reference were an essential part of the structure. As the first three movements are cycled through several times, listen for the changing interpretations brought by the performers and the manner in which your perception of same might be altered each time through the material.

Frames of Reference was written on commission for the Clear Creek Music Festival held in Halfway, OR. The Festival was hosted and directed by Sheila Allen and David Yeomans. I most profoundly thank them for their support and inspiration. Tonight’s performance is the “live” premiere. The summer 2020 premiere of the work was done via recordings made and sent between performers (David Yeomans, Lydia Yan, and Tsun Kwok), a bit of engineering magic, and online release of the piece in increments to those in virtual attendance at the Festival.

Special thanks to Tsun Kwok for the aforementioned bit of engineering magic.

Litany for Peace, in troubled times is at once a memorial to the victims of gun violence and a prayer for the wisdom and fortitude to end these seemingly endless string of murders. The specific incident which led to this work was the August 3, 2019 attack at the Wal-Mart in El Paso, TX. 23 people were murdered, and 23 more were wounded.

The narrator, and the entire ensemble really, serve as intercessors here, beseeching the Almighty for mercy, deliverance, a ready ear, and, ultimately, peace. I adapted the text from prayers for peace found in a variety of faith traditions as well as the well-known *Prayer of St. Francis*.

I thank Dave Begnoche for suggesting this work and for serving as editor and muse as it was brought to completion. This is the premiere performance of the work in this format. It was previously performed by an ensemble of eight trombones and narrator.

As mentioned above, words are usually at the core of my compositions. The instruments are speaking as passionately and adamantly as is the narrator. It is my sincere hope that this collective prayer will be heard and that such pieces become anachronisms. But, until such time, we offer this work.