

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The  
**Boston**  
**New Music**  
**Initiative**

**BOSTON NEW MUSIC INITIATIVE PRESENTS INAUGURAL CONCERT**  
Features Nine Composers and Twenty-Five Area Performers

Jamaica Plain, MA, [01/27/10] – The Boston New Music Initiative, in conjunction with JP Concerts, will present its inaugural concert on Thursday, February 4 at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. The event, which begins at 7:30 pm, is free and open to the public, with a suggested donation of \$10 at the door. The concert is part of a three-part series by BNMI hosted by JP Concerts at St. John’s. All the works on the program are by living composers and were chosen following an international call for scores.

Nine works by nine different composers will be featured on the program, performed by twenty-five local and international performers:

*brutal arithmetic*, by Delvyn Case, is a setting of three poems by Christopher Hood. Although “not intended as a set by their author,” the composer writes, “they are linked to one another by a profound sadness and sense of isolation.” Dr. Case works professionally as a composer, conductor, scholar, and educator, and serves on the faculty of several area colleges and universities, including the Longy School of Music in Cambridge. The work will be performed by Boston-based soprano Rachele Schmiede (B.M., Western Michigan University; M.M., New England Conservatory), with the composer performing on the piano.

Daniel Houglum’s *Onward*, for solo piano, was written for Chicago-based pianist Mabel Kwan, who will perform on the concert in what will be the world premiere of the work. Mr. Houglum writes of the piece: “*Onward* refers to the concept of acceleration after a period of rest, a fall, or a pause... In this work, musical acceleration results from the compression of time and space.” Mr. Houglum, from Alaska, is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Iowa, and has earned degrees from Gonzaga University and Northern Illinois University. As a performer, Ms. Kwan maintains a particular interest in the performance of contemporary works, especially those by composers of her generation. She is a member of the performing group Ensemble Dal Niente and is a founding member of the piano and percussion duo Nothing in Common.

Aaron Alon’s work sets Gerard Manley Hopkins’s poem *Spring and Fall (to a young child)* for mezzo-soprano, cello, and piano. “The speaker asks Margaret why she is weeping,” writes Dr. Alon, “concluding that she weeps for a universal human condition, something we all feel but can scarcely name.” Dr. Alon serves as the composition department head for the American Festival for the Arts in Houston, Texas, and is on the faculty at Alvin Community College. Mezzo-soprano and New Hampshire native Amanda Robie (B.M., Bucknell University; M.M., Boston

Conservatory), pianist Beth Karp (B.A., Cornell University, M.M., Longy School of Music), and cellist Will Roseliep (B.A., University of Iowa) will perform the work.

*the flower lover* by Vanessa Anne Wheeler sets the poem of the same title by Charles Bukowski for string quartet and soprano. “I felt oddly close to his thought process, his psychoses, fears, dreams, thoughts on sex and addiction, to name only a few,” the composer writes about Bukowski. “The implementation of the female voice originates from the desire to provoke thoughts not merely related to gender roles, but rather to question habitual social norms which are so innately foreign to me.” Ms. Wheeler currently studies composition at the New England Conservatory of Music, which follows a successful career in the popular music industry. Performing on the work will be five current New England Conservatory students: soprano Ceceilia Allwein; violinists Rhiannon Brandert and DMA candidate Emily Deans; violist Samuel Gold (B.M., University of Iowa); and cellist David Meyer (B.M., University of Southern California).

Composer Ingrid Stölzel, a native of Germany, writes that “words are the inspirational seeds for much of the music I write.” Her work, *Loveliness Extreme* for piano quartet, was inspired by Gertrude Stein’s 1913 poem, “Sacred Emily.” Dr. Stölzel serves as President of the Board of Directors for the newEar Contemporary Chamber Ensemble based in Kansas City, Missouri. The work will be performed by Peru native Yhasmin Valenzuela (B.M., Lima Conservatory; M.M., Texas Christian University; GPD, Longy School of Music) on clarinet; Japan native Yuko Tanaka (B.M., Mukogawa University; M.M., Kobe College; GPD, Longy School of Music) on piano; Samuel Stapleton (B.M., University of North Carolina; M.A., University of Iowa; M.F.A., University of Iowa) on violin; and England native and current Longy graduate student Chris Welch (B.M., Stetson University) on cello.

On her piece, *Hverfa* for piano quartet, composer Kirsten Volness writes, “The title... means ‘disappear’ or ‘vanish’ in Icelandic, but the word also has connotations of revolution, spiraling, and change.” She continues, “I had this image of a long winter’s journey in my mind, as well as the theme so commonly found in Scandinavian short stories that the forest and sea are places of (super)natural danger. If one chooses to go venturing, one may or may not return (and who knows what mischief one may meet along the way).” Dr. Volness, who earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Minnesota and her graduate degrees at the University of Michigan, is a native Minnesotan who currently teaches privately in Providence, Rhode Island, in addition to producing new music concerts in New York and New England. Performing on the work will be violinist Samuel Stapleton; Chicago native and New England Conservatory graduate student Rebecca Matayoshi (B.M., University of Illinois) on viola; cellist Will Roseliep; and pianist Leah Kosch (B.M., Ohio State University; M.M., Longy School of Music).

Mexican-American composer Laura Macias sets her own poetry to music in *Brisa Pasajera* (“Fleeting Breeze”). The poem captures the theme of escape; the final words translate in English to: “Take me with you fleeting breeze, before I drown.” Ms. Macias is an active educator in the Boston area, directing and teaching at ZUMIX, a non-profit music organization in East Boston, as well as teaching at the Edward Devotion School in Brookline. She has earned degrees from the Petrie School of Music (B.M.) and the Longy School of Music (M.M.), and is currently working toward receiving a Kodaly Certification from the New England Conservatory of Music.

*Brisa Pasajera* will be performed by soprano Sarah Kornfeld (B.A., Brandeis University; M.M., Rider University) of Brookline and violinist Megan Seiler (B.M., University of North Carolina).

Composer Oliver Caplan writes, “The ephemeral has many forms: two strangers passing in the night; sun-dappled Monarchs migrating South; and all too familiar to us artists, fleeting bursts of inspiration evanescent like shooting stars into the darkness.” *Illuminated by the Light of Two Ships Passing in the Night*, for piano trio, is “an ode to moments of illumination.” Mr. Caplan earned his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College and did his graduate work at the Boston Conservatory. Pianist Beth Karp, New England Conservatory violin graduate student Wayne Chin (B.M., University of Arizona), and cellist Chris Welch will perform the work.

The final work on the program, *I Am Not Yours*, is a song cycle for soprano and string quartet, by BNMI Founder and President Timothy A. Davis. Dr. Davis (B.A., Boston College; M.M., University of Massachusetts; Ph.D., University of Iowa) is a Massachusetts native who recently relocated back to the area after completing his doctoral studies in Iowa. Performing in what will be the world premiere performance are soprano Erin M. Smith (B.M., Western Michigan University; M.M., University of Iowa), for whom the work was written; Longy graduate student and Russia native Olga Kradenova (B.M., Royal Northern College of Music) and Ukraine native Olga Patramanskaya (B.M., R.M. Glier Kyiv State Higher Music College; M.M., Longy School of Music) on violin; violist and Longy graduate student Brooke Carroll (B.M., Biola Conservatory of Music); and Longy graduate student Matthew Laughlin (B.M., Indiana University) on cello.

The Boston New Music Initiative will offer two more concerts in their inaugural concert series, with entirely new programs for each performance. The next concert will be on Thursday, April 8 at 7:30 PM and the third concert is scheduled for Thursday, June 3 at 7:30 PM. All concerts will be hosted by JP Concerts at St. John’s as part of the First Thursday concert series.

### **About the Boston New Music Initiative**

The Boston New Music Initiative is an organization committed to the composition and performance of new music on the local, national, and international fronts. Founded in September of 2009, the Initiative's vision is to establish a network of composers, performers, conductors, directors, and champions of new music in order to generate new music concerts, compositions, collaborations, and commissions. Membership is open to all at no cost or obligation. The organization aims to advance the careers of its members in the field of new music as a networking and programming resource. For more information, please visit: [www.BostonNewMusic.org](http://www.BostonNewMusic.org)

### **About JP Concerts**

**JP Concerts** is an arts outreach program of St. John's Episcopal Church in Jamaica Plain.

**St. John's Church** is a eucharistically based faith community of neighbors and families celebrating different understandings of the Christian faith within the Episcopal Church. As a community of individuals from many religious backgrounds, we strive to be a beacon of justice-seeking and creativity. The community of St John's is pleased to be the host of the JP Concerts series. We hope that many in Jamaica Plain, and in the wider community of music lovers, will

find their way to one or more of the various concert offerings. For further information about St. John's please see [www.stjohns-jp.org](http://www.stjohns-jp.org).

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