

SHATTER THE HEAVENS

A response to gun violence in Chicago



We are grateful for our season sponsors!



Adler Bassoons Leitzinger Bocals F. Lorée Oboes Fox Oboes & Bassoons Renard Oboes & Bassoons Yamaha Oboes Oboe & Bassoon Rentals Oboe & Bassoon Reeds Reed Making Tools Reed Making Supplies Books & Music Accessories

www.forrestsmusic.com

www.facebook.com/forrestsmusic

1849 University Ave., Berkeley, CA 94703 800-322-6263 510-845-7178 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM Pacific Time Weekdays 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Pacific Time Saturday



To donate or learn more about us and our mission please visit us at 5thwavecollective.com facebook.com/5thwavecollective



This program is sponsored in part by Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.



This concert is free, and we will be taking donations for Notes for Peace, an INCREDIBLE Chicago organization: they help families of the victims of gun violence cope with tragedy and grief by composing original songs, and providing musicians to perform alongside the family members.

Notesforpeace.org

This concert was inspired by Megan DeJarnett's work Shatter the Heavens.

DeJarnett's honest reaction to the events around the country inspired us to take a stand and do the same. Because of her honesty we hope to shine a light on others who were honest and put together a concert of pieces bringing to light these horrible and terrifying events surrounding us.

Composers notes on Shatter the Heavens:

For the most part, I grew up in a world without school shootings.

Sure, we had Code Red drills every year, but they were more spectacle than anything - a day where every kid got out of an hour of class and was rewarded with a lollipop for doing a good job. I was a senior in high school when Sandy Hook happened, and I compartmentalized it. I wasn't in elementary school, therefore that wasn't going to happen to me. I wasn't going to teach, so that wasn't going to happen to me. And when Ed Carroll and Luke Storm asked me to write for the CalArts Brass Ensemble, I wasn't initially sure what I'd create. In fact, I danced around a few ideas as I tried to find one that would stick.

And then the Parkland shooting happened. Seventeen dead in a matter of six and a half minutes.

This one was different. Those kids didn't let the media or their local politicians control their story, they framed it themselves. As I'm writing this, it's been almost two months since the shooting, and these students are still locked in a battle with certain media outlets who would deride them as "crisis actors" instead of engaging in productive discussions about what, if any, policy changes could prevent future occurrences. They behaved admirably, and they're shockingly composed on camera, but the thought I'm increasingly left with is how difficult it must be to venture deep into the grieving process while they're constantly interrupted with questions about their humanity. How acutely they must feel their dead classmates and teachers with every step they take.

Maybe, if we could shatter the heavens, we could bring them back down. But for now, we venture on.

Judith Zaimont (b. 1945)

Serenade for solo piano (2007)

Josephine Yang, piano

Maria Kaoutzani (b. 1993)

Speak, Mind for Wind Quintet (2018)

Erin Wallace, flute Ashley Ertz, oboe Shelagh Haney, clarinet Jamael Smith, bassoon Emily Whittaker, horn

Žibuoklė Martinaitytè

Attention! High Tension! For Tuba and Piano (2001)

Serena Voltz, tuba Josephine Yang, piano

Thea Musgrave (b. 1928)

Night Windows, Movement 4: Despair (2007)

Ashley Ertz, oboe Josephine Yang, piano

INTERMISSION

Natsumi Osborn (b. 1999)

Tumult for String Quartet (2017)

Alexandra Hill and Carmen Abelson, violin Hilary Butler, viola Roxanne Kieme, cello

Megan DeJarnett (b. 1995)

Shatter the Heavens for 3 trombones and 2 tubas (2018)

Collin Marusek, Lucas Steidlinger and Rob Blumstein, trombone Serena Voltz and Akshat Jain, tuba

Dana Kaufman (b. 1989)

Florida Man, Movement 6: Carried Skittles, Wore a Hoodie (2016)

Audrey Lidke, trumpet

L Viola Kinney (1890-1945)

Mother's Sacrifice for solo piano

Josephine Yang, piano

Maria Kaoutzani (b. 1993)

Speak, Mind for Wind Quintet (2018)

From the composer:

Speak, Mind for wind quintet was composed as a response to various current events occurring around the world: violence, injustice, and - most annoyingly - a general public apathy. A seemingly peaceful start gives way to increased activity, and after that the texture remains generally busy throughout, with a game constructed gradually from musical material, moving from chaos to playful and innocent-sounding passages, from conversations to arguments, as if the music is reacting to itself, as if it is trying to escape it's own reality.

Žibuoklė Martinaitytè

Attention! High Tension! For Tuba and Piano (2001)

From the composer:

... Being on the edge. Living in extreme situations. When a certain critical level of tension is reached, even the most common things transform themselves into something almost unrecognizable and incomprehensible. In order to survive, balance needs to be found...

The emotional atmosphere of this piece reveals various phases of tension, which are changing throughout the piece as well as the means for their expression. A large spectrum of extended techniques for tuba and piano are being utilized in the piece. The tuba part incorporates the usage of extreme registers of the instrument, techniques of singing vowels [a, e, i, o], glissandi throughout the entire register as well as roaring into the mouthpiece.

Thea Musgrave (b. 1928)

Night Windows, Movement 4: Despair (2007)

From the composer:

Walking down a darkened street it's hard to resist looking in through lighted windows and catching a glimpse of other people's lives. The imagination lingers. . .

Night Windows is the title of a painting by Edward Hopper of a scene in one such lighted window. However the scenes in this work - though reflecting something of the loneliness in so many of the Hopper paintings - are all imaginary: highly charged emotional moments.

Natsumi Osborn (b. 1999)

Tumult for String Quartet (2017)

From the composer:

In this piece I wanted to convey a frantic state of being: agitated and uncontrollable, unexpected and hellish. I began the piece with no clear path, rather simply exploring an atmosphere foreign to my previous compositions. At times, I pictured a chaotic place with people running in every direction, screaming, panicking. At others, I focused on the feelings of panic and fear inside our minds, sometimes prompted by turmoil, sometimes invisibly generated by our minds. There are three stages of turmoil depicted: the initial breakout of frenzy, the numbing sensation as time seems to freeze, and the ultimate hysteria as minds are thrusted back to reality. Some moments may be calm as shock makes time appear to slow down, but ultimately, chaos is unavoidable.

Megan DeJarnett (b. 1995)

Shatter the Heavens for 3 trombones and 2 tubas (2018)

From the composer:

Shatter the Heavens is designed to both illuminate the stark contrast between the reverence and anger that come with grief and explore the chaos the U.S. media cycle can inflict on a high school. A successful performance of Shatter the Heavens will be angry and upset and somber and a little bit lost.

Dedicated to the students and faculty of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School who lost their lives on February 14, 2018, and the millions of students - including this one-they inspired.

Dana Kaufman (b. 1989)

Florida Man, Movement 6: Carried Skittles, Wore a Hoodie (2016)

From the composer:

The song cycle highlights comedic Florida Man moments as well as atrocious and unforgivable injustices committed in Florida.

Movement 6 is In Memory of Trayvon Martin