

American Modern Ensemble celebrates its 10th year with a season of concerts and collaborations

Kicking off the 2014-15 10th anniversary season, AME presents a whimsically themed “Ghosts & Ghouls” on Thursday, October 30, 2014 at Merkin Concert Hall featuring music of Crumb, Del Tredici & NYC premiere of Paterson’s “Hell’s Kitchen”

Ten years ago, the **American Modern Ensemble** set the New York new music scene ablaze with sizzling performances of music by living American composers. Early reviews praised the artful programming and top-notch talent that would become AME’s hallmarks. *The New York Times*, reporting on a standing-room-only performance by AME at the Tenri Cultural Institute, wrote, “Pessimists about the future of classical music may be looking in the wrong place.” The same paper recently hailed AME’s ability to turn even the headiest of programs into a party. For composer and AME founder Robert Paterson, his vision was always to throw open the doors to the rarified world of new music and bring in curious people from all walks of life, saying “one of the highest compliments I’ve ever received is when a friend said, ‘I love coming to AME gigs because I see people here that I never see at any other new music concerts.’”

AME concerts, often pulling a diverse array of repertoire around a theme or concept, have become highly anticipated New York City happenings. To celebrate its 10th anniversary, AME embraces the otherworldly preoccupations of new music in **Ghosts & Ghouls (October 30)**, hosts top string ensembles for an evening of premieres and contemporary favorites on **String Theory (January 15)**, and dabbles in synesthesia for **Blue at SubCulture (March 3)**.

AME is also excited to continue its collaboration with the Mazzini Dance Collective, to partner with ChamberMusicNY and Cutting Edge Concerts, and to perform and work with students at Princeton and Adelphi Universities. For those keen on pairing adventurous music with a stiff drink, you’ll be happy to know that the eclectic downtown club SubCulture will be AME’s principal home for the upcoming season.

American Modern Ensemble 2014-15 Season Calendar

AME and Mazzini Dance Collective at Ailey Citigroup Theater

Saturday, September 6 at 8pm

Sunday, September 7 at 3pm

The Joan Weill Center for Dance – 405 West 55th St.

ChamberMusicNY presents Ashley Jennifer Jackson with the AME Quartet

Saturday, September 20 at 8pm

Bruno Walter Auditorium at the NYPL for the Performing Arts – 40 Lincoln Center Plaza

10th ANNIVERSARY SEASON CELEBRATION: GHOSTS & GHOULS

Thursday, October 30 at 8pm

Merkin Concert Hall – 129 West 67th St.

Co-presented with ChamberMusicNY

George Crumb: *Music for a Summer Evening (Makrokosmos III)* 2 pianos / 2 percussion

David Del Tredici: *Dracula*

Robert Paterson: *Hell's Kitchen – *Closet Full of Demons** – *Ghost Theater****

* NYC premiere

IT'S ALIVE!! Or at least the composers are. Intrepid guest conductor David Alan Miller, fresh off his GRAMMY® victory with the Albany Symphony, leads AME in a trio of works that inhabit the shadowy corners of the universe. George Crumb transforms the great cosmic unknown into a famously kaleidoscopic score in one of his seminal works, *Music for a Summer Evening (Makrokosmos III)* for amplified pianos and percussion. A soprano undergoes a horrific transformation, set in motion by a famous Transylvanian count and a touch of theremin, in David Del Tredici's monodrama *Dracula* based on Alfred Corn's poem "My Neighbor, the Distinguished Count." In Robert Paterson's terrifying triptych, the lost souls of deceased soldiers refuse to crossover (*Ghost Theater*), playful poltergeists play everything INCLUDING the kitchen sink (*Hell's Kitchen*) and bedroom monsters stage a noisy Boschian nightmare (*A Closetful of Demons*). While some modernist composers may have unwittingly scared off their audiences, the eerie mysticism and uncanny terror of these pieces is entirely intentional. Costumes are encouraged, of course!

***The Scarlet Ibis* at Prototype Festival**

January 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17 at 7pm; January 11 at 2pm

HERE – 145 Sixth Ave.

STRING THEORY

Thursday, January 15 at 8pm
SubCulture – 45 Bleecker St.

Jacob Bancks: *String Theory*

Sidney Boquiren: *in a mirror dimly*

Robert Paterson: *I See You*

+ Other works TBD

Three world premieres and a listening party are the engines of this exciting all-star string summit. *Danse sacrée et profane* meets Tom & Jerry in Jacob Bancks's rollicking new work for string quartet *String Theory*, heavenly meditations bubble to the surface in Sidney Boquiren's *in a mirror dimly* for string quintet and harp, and the persistent bleeps and bells that overlay the existential silence of the ICU are the building blocks of Robert Paterson's *I See You* for string quartet and recording. AME will also be joined by a phenomenal lineup of guest ensembles, each of which has been asked to perform one of its favorite contemporary pieces in a fresh live take on an "old-fashioned" listening party.

AME at Princeton

Tuesday, February 10 at 8pm
Princeton University

BLUE AT SUBCULTURE

Tuesday, March 3 at 8pm
SubCulture – 45 Bleecker St

Margaret Brouwer: *Lonely Lake*

George Crumb: *Vox Balanae*

Amanda Harberg: *Subway*

Laura Kaminsky: *Full Range of Blue*

Robert Paterson: *Deep Blue Ocean*

Frederic Rzewski: *Winnsboro Cotton Mill Blues*

With this fascinating exploration of our most musical hue, AME celebrates the release of its groundbreaking new CD of all-American piano duos, featuring pianists Stephen Gosling and Blair McMillen and music by John Adams, Mary Ellen Childs, John Corigliano, Amanda Harberg, Doug Opel, Frederic Rzewski and Robert Patterson, produced by Grammy-winner Adam Abeshouse. Gosling and McMillen will be on hand to perform a few colorful tracks from the CD live: Amanda Harberg's pulsating "Subway" from her *Tenement Rhapsody*, Robert Paterson's powerful *Deep Blue Ocean*, and Frederic Rzewski's raging industrial masterpiece "Winnsboro Cotton Mill Blues" from *Four North American Ballads*. Their AME compatriots step in for the rest of the program, which includes Margaret Brouwer's onomatopoeic sound poem *Lonely Lake*, George Crumb's ethereal take on whale songs *Vox Balanae*, and Laura Kaminsky's synthaesthetic expedition *Full Range of Blue*.

AME at Adelphi

Saturday, March 7 at 8pm

Adelphi University

Cutting Edge and AME at SubCulture

Monday, April 6 at 7:30pm

SubCulture – 45 Bleecker St.

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ABOUT AME

Founded in New York City in 2005 by Robert Paterson and Victoria Paterson, **American Modern Ensemble** is a dynamic, creative force in the modern music scene. Robert serves as artistic director as well as house composer, and Victoria is Executive Director as well as one of the violinists on the roster. With a world-class ensemble made up of NYC's finest, AME is "simply 'first-rate'" (*The New York Times*). AME has performed over 150 living composers in venues ranging from Lincoln Center to The Roulette, and has "consistently demonstrated a flair for inventive programming" (*Steve Smith, Time Out New York*).

AME programs both cutting edge and traditional works, presenting unique, engaging events that encourage dialogue between artists and audiences. Sold out crowds at Merkin Hall, Dimenna Center, the Rubin Museum, SubCulture and many other venues are a winning testament to AME's tremendous fan base and ever expanding popularity. AME has done and continues to do educational and outreach concerts and residencies at universities such as the CUNY Graduate Center, Princeton, Yale, Adelphi, James Madison, Lafayette, and many more. Recent collaborations include the Prototype Opera Festival, American Opera Projects, the Dance Theater of Harlem, and the Talujon percussion ensemble. AME presents thematic programs using a robust combination of instrumentalists, vocalists, and conductors.

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