
“THEY ARE COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE OF NEW MUSIC, AND THEY KNOW HOW TO CONVEY THAT COMMITMENT THROUGH THEIR PLAYING.” - CLEVELAND CLASSICAL



Chartreuse

A string trio based in Chicago, San Francisco, and New York City, and devoted to the music of living composers.

MISSION

Chartreuse is driven to expand the string trio repertoire through close collaboration with emerging and established composers.

BIOGRAPHY

Chartreuse string trio is violinist Myra Hinrichs (Chicago), violist Carrie Frey (New York City), and cellist Helen Newby (San Francisco). The tricoastal trio pools the strengths of their cities of residence, commissioning new works from composers across the globe and collaborating with fellow performers on "Chartreuse +/-" projects. The trio has toured extensively in the U.S. Northeast, the Midwest, and California, as well as in Norway.

Uniquely committed to repeat performances and developing the string trio repertoire through adventurous commissions, Chartreuse has premiered works by Kurt Isaacson, Peter Swendsen, Katherine Young, Marek Poliks, Bethany Younge, Leah Asher, David Bird, Tyler Futrell, Daniel Tacke, Kristina Warren, and Aaron Holloway-Nahum, among others. Cleveland Classical described the trio in concert as “a maelstrom almost tactile in its grittiness.”

Equally devoted to education, the trio has given performances and workshops for students of all ages at institutions including SUNY Fredonia, Oberlin College's Winter Term Chamber Music Intensive, the Norges Musikkhøgskole in Oslo, Toneheim Folkehøgskole, Tromsø University, middle schools in Philadelphia and Cleveland, and Kendal at Oberlin.

Upcoming season highlights include workshopping a commissioned piece with Sabrina Schroeder and preparing U.S. premieres of trios by Katherine Young and Mauricio Pauly.

PRESS

“Most striking were the first [movement of Kurt Isaacson’s trio], with the friction between Hinrichs’s and Frey’s ethereal vocalizations and Newby’s coarse bowing, and the last [movement], a maelstrom almost tactile in its grittiness.”

“The trio allowed silences to stretch and breathe, both drawing out tension and heightening the contrast between their playing and the ambient noise in the hall. Amidst the strange clamor of these pieces, silence became unusually charged.”

“...mercurial, alien, volatile music...”

— Cleveland Classical, January 8, 2015 by Mike Telin

“Violist Carrie Frey and cellist Helen Newby passed musical lines back and forth as though they were in the middle of an animated conversation over a drink – it was as much fun to watch as it was to listen to.”

— Cleveland Classical, January 10, 2015, by Mike Telin

“Students past and present, faculty, and others packed Clonick Hall to hear [Chartreuse’s] aural topographies heave and flex under shattering collisions between tectonic plates of sound – a sonic maelstrom of craggy strings, animalistic bass clarinet, flute squalls, snarling bassoon, and ethereal singing.”

– Oberlin Conservatory Magazine, Spring 2015, by Daniel Hautzinger

CURRENT TOURING PROGRAMS

TRIO PROGRAMS

Pattern Recognition 46'

Marcos Balter: Vision Mantra (2009) 8'

Leah Asher: Let me know what you find (2017) 10'

Klaus Lang: Weisse Äpfel (2014) 20'

Matthew Ricketts: Another Round (2016) 8'

Architextural 57'

Eliza Brown: Figure to Ground (2016) 8'

Bethany Younger: waterswaterwaters (2015) 9'

Andrew Norman: The Companion Guide to Rome (2010) 30'

Pauline Oliveros: 13 Changes: For Malcolm Goldstein (1986) 10'

Inside Voices 56'

Klaus Lang: Weisse Äpfel (2014) 20'

Kurt Isaacson: as a family of civilian ghosts phase-shifts through the fog lights (2014) 10'

Salvatore Sciarrino: Codex Purpureus I (1983) 8'

Kristina Warren: the chance that time takes (2017) 8'

Jeff Weston: Ruler Piece No. 3 (2016) 10'

Medieval Mystical 61'

Henry Purcell: Fantasias a3, Z. 732-734 (ca. 1680) 10'

Sciarrino, Salvatore: Codex Purpureus I (1983) 8'

Daniel Tacke: Symbolum: Palilogia (2017) 15'

Sofia Gubaidulina: String Trio (1989) 20'

Matthew Ricketts: Another Round (2016) 8'

Scandinavian / American Crossings 56'

Peter Swendsen: Four Moments Near Water (2015) 8'

Tyler Futrell: Technology of Muses (2016) 10'

Kaija Saariaho: Cloud Trio (2009) 15'

Cecilie Ore: Non Nunquam (1999) 5'

Tyler Futrell: String Trio for Bill 10'

Peter Swendsen: Migration Study (2013) 8'

ELECTROACOUSTIC PROGRAMS

Leave Me Alone, Mom!

Music for amplified, processed, and/or homemade instruments

Choose two of the following:

Sabrina Schroeder: Title TBA (2019)

Marek Poliks: droch (2016-17) ca. 25'

Mauricio Pauly: Charred Edifice Shining (2016) 25'

Katherine Young: bow breath crow (2017)

CHARTREUSE PLUS/MINUS

String Trio + Winds

David Bird: pluck.divide.cut (2013) *+bassoon, bass clarinet, and flute*

Katherine Young: graveled crumbled strewn (2014) *+bassoon and bass clarinet*

Stephanie Haensler: wie rauch ins nichts... (2012) *+bassoon*

Ann Cleare: ore (2016) *+clarinet*

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Chartreuse is dedicated to working with emerging composers, performers, and communities of listeners. The trio has given concerts and workshops for undergraduate and graduate students at institutions including SUNY Fredonia, Oberlin College Winter Term Chamber Music Intensive, Tromsø University, and the Norges Musikkhøgskole; middle and high school students at Toneheim Folkehøgskole and in Philadelphia and Cleveland; and for the retirement community at Kendal at Oberlin.

Chartreuse offers a variety of classes and workshops as stand-alone events or in combination with public performances:

Workshops and masterclasses for composers and performers on contemporary repertoire and techniques

Readings, workshops, and recordings of student composer works at the undergraduate and graduate level

Pre-concert talks / Post-concert talkbacks

Seminars on entrepreneurship and professional development

Lecture about the collaborative/creative process, including samples from Chartreuse's commissioned repertoire, notation explanations, and staging demonstrations.

Demonstration of active listening techniques, with live interpretation of graphic and/or text scores and discussion of music as a medium for communication

Introduction to contemporary improvisation techniques for improvisers of any level

Public or private chamber music coachings or masterclasses

Public or private individual instrument lessons and studio masterclasses in violin, viola, and cello

COMMISSIONED REPERTOIRE

Asher, Leah: Let Me Know What You Find (2017)

Bird, David: pluck.divide.cut (2014)

Carlson, Luke: Water Words (2014)

Chandler, Theophilus: Image: Deposition (2014)

Chamberlain, Matthew: Photo (2014)

Futrell, Tyler: Technology of Muses (2016)

Holloway-Nahum, Aaron: It's Important To Be Able To Return (2015)

Isaacson, Kurt: String Trio No. 1 (as a family of civilian ghosts phase-shifts through the fog lights) (2014)

Kotcheff, Thomas: Flintlock (2015)

Pamies, Joan Arnau: algorithm routing data according to specific time constraints (or, a statistical study on sociological patterns) (2016)

Poliks, Marek: droch (2016-17)

Pratt, Ryan: Spokes-Unspoken (2014)

Ricketts, Matthew: Another Round (2016)

Rubin, Scott: Humid Gravity (2015)

Swendsen, Peter: Migration Study (2013)

Tacke, Daniel: symbolum: palilogia [canon a6] (2017)

Warren, Kristina: the chance that time takes

Younge, Bethany: w-a-t-e-r-s-w-a-t-e-r-w-a-t-e-r-s (sinking flowing drifting) (2015)