September Conference Unites Washington’s Contemporary Music Community

On September 15-16, 2018, Washington’s contemporary music scene will come together for the first annual *New Music DC* conference, presented on the campus of Georgetown University by District New Music Coalition. On Saturday, composers, performers, arts administrators, audio professionals, and new-music fans will take part in a day filled with professional development workshops and panels, concerts, and community building activities. Then on Sunday afternoon, attendees and the general public will reconvene for *New Music DC*’s “Spotlight” concert.

Saturday’s activities will center on two concerts celebrating homegrown contemporary music and musicians with programs selected over the summer by DNMC’s competitive calls-for-scores. Each concert will feature works composed or performed by students and professionals from the DC area. Together, these programs will showcase the diversity of creative voices making contemporary music in Washington.

Growing a vibrant new-music community requires both artistic vision and business savvy: Saturday’s professional development sessions will include workshops on arts marketing and entrepreneurship; a panel on running performing arts organizations; a presentation on new music and the media; a roundtable discussion on commissioning; and performer-composer “speed dating” (networking).

Sunday’s closing “Spotlight” concert will highlight two members of DC’s new music community on a shared program: District5 Wind Quintet, specialists in contemporary music and recipients of a 2016 Chamber Music America Classical Commission; and the Boulanger Initiative, founded in 2018 and dedicated to the promotion of music composed by women through performance, education, and commissions. The program will include District5’s CMA commission, Evis Sammoutis’s *J.II.9 fragments*, and solo works by women composers performed by musicians from the Boulanger Initiative.

Conference registration includes all professional development activities and concerts; individual tickets to each concert are also available.

*New Music DC* is sponsored in partnership with the Music Program of Georgetown University, with concert recordings sponsored by Arts Laureate.

Founded in 2017, District New Music Coalition promotes the performance and appreciation of contemporary music by connecting performers, composers, institutions, and audiences located in the Washington, DC metropolitan area through concerts, conferences, and active community-building. In the spring of 2018, DNMC presented its inaugural concerts series, *Confluences*, featuring ensemble-in-residence the Anacostia String Quartet and works by DC-area composers.