



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MUSIC

UTNMF:
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL

UTNMF: Joseph Petric & Penderecki String Quartet Part I

Marjan Mozetich, *Roger D. Moore Distinguished visitor*, Norbert Palej, *festival coordinator*

Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 12:00 pm | Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park

PROGRAM

"Lament in The Trampled Garden" for string quartet (1992)

M. Mozetich

String Quartet No. 3 "The Ship of Death" (2023)

N. Palej

- I. Quietus
- II. Oblivion
- III. The Sea-shell

"Bloom" for accordion and string quartet (2024)

A. Richarson-Schulte

- I. Darkness Encroaches
- II. Emergence
- III. Grow

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

As part of the Faculty's commitment to improving Indigenous inclusion, we call upon all members of our community to start/continue their personal journeys towards understanding and acknowledging Indigenous peoples' histories, truths and cultures. Visit indigenous.utoronto.ca to learn more.

PENDERECKI STRING QUARTET

The Penderecki String Quartet, approaching the third decade of an extraordinary career, has become one of the most celebrated chamber ensembles of their generation. These four musicians from Poland, Canada, and the USA bring their varied yet collective experience to create performances that demonstrate their “remarkable range of technical excellence and emotional sweep” (Toronto, Globe and Mail).

Their recent schedule has included concerts in New York (Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall), Amsterdam (Concertgebouw), Los Angeles (REDCAT at Disney Hall), St. Petersburg, Paris, Prague, Berlin, Rome, Belgrade, Zagreb, Atlanta, as well as appearances at international festivals in Poland, Lithuania, Italy, Venezuela, Brazil, and China.

The PSQ champions music of our time, performing a wide range of repertoire from Haydn to Zappa as well as premiering over 100 new works to date. Described by Fanfare Magazine as “an ensemble of formidable power and keen musical sensitivity”, the PSQ’s diverse discography includes the chamber music of Brahms and Shostakovich (Eclectra and Marquis labels) and their recently released Bartok cycle. They enter their 20th year as Quartet-in-Residence at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario.

BIOGRAPHY

Joseph Petric

Joseph Petric made his official debut at London’s St. Johns Smith Square in 1992 to critical acclaim in the London Independent. He has appeared as guest soloist at the Berlin Philharmonic, Wigmore Hall, the Tel Aviv Opera, Seiji Ozawa Hall, IRCAM, SMCQ and Bunkai Kaikan. Composer, author, artistic director and theorist, his diverse chamber collaborations include free improvisations, interdisciplinary theatre, Baroque duo programs with violoncello da spalla and digital electroacoustic programs. Petric’s decades-long collaborations in historical performance with Colin Tilney and Boyd McDonald inform his opus. His discography of 37 CDs on 17 labels includes Peter Paul Koprowski’s Accordion Concerto with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (CBC5000Series), and 51 solo, chamber, concerto and video recordings for North American and European Broadcast Union partners. His 360 commissions (including 20 concertos) are unmatched in the history of the accordion. His research titles published by Germany’s Augemus Press reclaimed historical perspectives ignored by contemporary accordion hegemony. Petric has collaborated with Pauline Oliveros, John Cage, Howard Skempton, Linda C. Smith and Witold Lutoslawski among others. He is visiting professor at the Université de Montréal Faculté de Musique graduate performance department.

PROGRAM NOTES

Marjan Mozetich, “Lament in The Trampled Garden” for string quartet (1992):

Marjan Mozetich (born 1948) is one of Canada’s most sought-after composers. He studied with John Weinzweig, Franco Donatoni and Luciano Berio. Mozetich’s own music is tonal, lush, spiritual, and full of quiet intensity. Listeners are often struck by the beauty of Mozetich’s music and his masterful handling of timbre and texture. Lament in the Trampled Garden was commissioned to be the mandatory piece at the 1992 Banff International String Quartet Competition, and it explores the many different ways a person can grieve. There are individual laments, communal laments, angry cries, hopeless sighs with its downward-sliding pizzicatos and the burying of sorrow “in feigned exuberance”.-Jeremy Bell

Norbert Palej, String Quartet No. 3 “The Ship of Death” (2023):

“Build then the ship of death, for you must take the longest journey, to oblivion.” from *The Ship of Death* by D. H. Lawrence. Composed in memory of my father.

Abigail Richardson-Schulte, “Bloom” for accordion and string quartet (2024):

The accordion quintet Bloom was commissioned by Joseph Petric 2022 with the generous support of the Ontario Arts Council and written by Abigail Richardson-Schulte. Their first collaboration, the work was conceived as a concerto for different instrumental forces with two versions; one for the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra strings and the other for accordion and string quartet played this evening by the Penderecki Quartet. Written in three movements, the composer describes the work as a musical haunting of her personal inner world of isolation and vulnerability as a deaf young child, introspective feelings expressed by the accordion voice in the first movement. The second movement reflects a movement into the light as the composer emerged from her deafness with the accordion entering into conversations with the strings, relating in new ways, and feeling a dance energy. The third movement unfolds, blooms if one will, with light, energy and affirmative motion. Hence the title Bloom. The ensemble version of this concerto form will receive its premiere with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra strings.
-Joseph Petric