

so great
A cloud of
witnesses

2:00pm Sunday, April 22, 2018

Beth El Temple

2626 Albany Ave,

West Hartford, CT 06117

This concert is presented by

Ultraviolet Hermenuetics Music

with gracious support from

Beth El Temple

and

The Hartt School at the University of Hartford

לה' הכבוד

may the glory be to the LORD

in memory of my grandmothers

Edith & Marilyn

ז"ל

Noach Lundgren (b. 1994)

***so great a cloud of witnesses*, 2018**

Chamber ensemble and 3-channel fixed media audio

Grant Blaschka, bass
Andrew Weiss, tuba
Billy Beecher, bassoon

Grant Abelson, horn
Emma Gould, clarinet
Nick Borghoff, viola

Jennifer Potamianos, flute
Joseph Spence, soprano sax
Jesey Meche, lead pan

About the Music

The eleventh chapter of the Book of Hebrews lists and describes several figures from the Hebrew Scriptures as exemplars of faith throughout trying life circumstances. The beginning of the twelfth chapter refers to these figures, metaphorically, as “so great a cloud of witnesses.” This piece, inspired by that phraseology and concept, presents a 'musical translation' of “so great a cloud of witnesses.” In this case, the witnesses, rather than being biblical figures, take the form of significant liturgical/religious melodies from the whole history of Judaic and Christian music from antiquity to the present.

Though presented in a predominantly disguised manner, every pitch of this piece comes directly from one of these source melodies. *so great a cloud of witnesses* begins with different streams of religion and music existing, and conflicting, in different realms throughout the three trios and concludes with the full ensemble joining together in source melodies on the theme of peace. The fixed media consists entirely of source audio of shofar and church organ, which becomes increasingly tied into the ensemble over the course of the piece. Towards the end, voices appear in the fixed media, whispering, speaking, and singing the phrase “Let the peace of God reign” in 18 languages from across the globe.

This work is intended not only as a contemporary testament to the powerful tradition of faith in music and religion but also to the fact that the longstanding rift between Judaism and Christianity is a ludicrous travesty and one which can indeed be overcome.

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. (Hebrews 12:1)

Liturgical Source Melodies and Languages

(In order of appearance)

"B'reshit" (Torah trope), "Shema" (J*), "Etz Chayim" (J), "Abun D'bashmayo" (Syric Lord's prayer), "Kaddish" (J), "Credo" (from Pope Marcellus Mass), "V'shamru" (J) "And the Glory" (from Messiah), "Aleynu" (J), "It Is Good" (by Israel's Hope), "Puer Natus" (Gregorian chant), "He Reigns" (by Newsboys), "Ein Feste Burg" (C*, Luther), "Jerusalem" (by Matisyahu), "Die Himmel Erzählen" (Bach Cantata BWV 76), "Avinu Malkeynu" (J), "We Will Dance" (by David Ruis), "Kol Nidre" (J), "How Great Is Our God" (by Chris Tomlin), "Adon Olam" (J), "10,000 Reasons" (by Matt Redman), "Kyrie" (from Messe de Notre Dame), "All Creatures of Our God and King" (C), "Amazing Grace" (C), "Lamb of God" (by Marty Goetz), "L'chi Lach" (by Debbie Friedman), "L'khu N'ran'na" (by Miqedem), "Oseh Shalom" (J), "Od Yavo Shalom Aleinu/Salaam" (by Sheva), "Dona Nobis Pacem" (C), "Let the Peace of God Reign" (by Darlene Zschech)

Cherokee, Hindi, Arabic, French, Russian, Swahili, Spanish, Lozi, Japanese, Icelandic, Greek, Chinese, Hebrew, German, Swedish, English, Latin, Portuguese

*Standard Jewish (J) and Christian (C) liturgical pieces/hymns.

About the Musicians

An internationally performed composer, **Noach Lundgren** hails from New York's beautiful Hudson Valley, of which he is a native. Lundgren's music draws from eclectically diverse traditions, ranging from classical styles and liturgical practice to popular and folk idioms. As an artist and musician, his passion is to help overcome false dichotomies and artificial boundaries. Lundgren received his B.A. in Music and Jewish Studies from Bard College, where he studied composition with Kyle Gann. Currently, he is completing his M.M. in Composition at the Hartt School where he has studied privately with Ken Steen and David Macbride.

Grant Abelson is currently a junior at the University of Connecticut, studying for his Bachelors of Music in Horn Performance. Grant would like to thank his teacher, Robert Hoyle, and his parents for their unwavering support in his musical endeavors.

William Beecher is a doctoral student at the University of Hartford, with a focus on Bassoon. An avid freelance artist, he frequently performs at venues like Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Alice Tully Hall, and the MET Museum in NYC. He is engaged to his beautiful fiancé, Jessie Brehm.

Grant Blaschka is a bassist and composer living in Hartford Connecticut. His work is inspired by an interest in the natural world, partial theory, and harmonic structures. He received his Bachelor's in bass performance from the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater and is pursuing a Master's degree at the Hartt School under Robert Black.

Nick Borghoff, violist / multi-instrumentalist, is from New Jersey. He is currently studying towards a B.M. in Viola Performance and Music Education at the Hartt School, under Steven Larson. Nick has been recruited to perform on strings and woodwinds at conservatories and theaters including Bard College, the Manhattan School of Music and the Ivoryton Playhouse.

Emma Gould is a senior music education major at the Hartt School. Her main instrument is clarinet and she is a student of Ayako Oshima.

Jesey Meche is a percussionist, multi-instrumentalist, and composer. Meche recently received his Bachelor's degree from the Hartt School where he studied under Benjamin Toth.

Jennifer Potamianos is a music education and flute performance major at The Hartt School.

A native of Southern California, **Joseph David Spence** has performed in throughout the United States and internationally. Spence is pursuing his Dual Master's Degree in Saxophone Performance and Composition at The Hartt School, and currently holds a Bachelor of Music degree from California State University, Fullerton.

Andrew Weiss enjoys milkshakes and long walks on the beach with his tuba. He is a second year music education and tuba performance double major at The Hartt School, who also plays the euphonium in the Hartt Euphonium Tuba Consortium.

Thank You

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