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PRESENT MUSIC’S ANNUAL MUSICAL MEDITATION ON GRATITUDE

THANKSGIVING concert melds tradition with the best of what’s new and inspiring.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016 - 5PM
CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

November 1, 2016 (Milwaukee, WI) – A tradition for over ten years, Present Music’s annual THANKSGIVING concert will include a world premiere by Robert Honstein, an ensemble of thirty-five flute players, and the Bucks Native American Singing and Drumming Group. Under the direction of Present Music’s Artistic Director Kevin Stalheim, the concert also features collaborations with the Hearing Voices Ensemble and the Arrowhead High School Choir. The evening ends with a hymn sung by the audience and performers, followed by the time-honored Friendship Dance.

Other program highlights include Henry Brant’s Mass in Gregorian Chant, Fly Away I by Caroline Shaw, solo works played on the St. John’s Cathedral organ, and a mash up of Charles Ives’ songs (concocted by Kevin Stalheim and originally played at the THANKSGIVING concert in 2012), which segue into America the Beautiful.

Commissioned by the Present Music Commission Club for its landmark 35th season, the world premiere of Book of Hours takes its inspiration from an artist book stitched on tissue paper by Laura Grey. Loosely following the structure of a medieval book of hours, the project reimagines the ancient prayer book as a large, hand-stitched, table-sized book. Several texts from various sources are collaged together, creating a narrative that references the structure of the original, while offering a contemporary perspective on the practice of daily devotion. “When looking inward we sometimes encounter a volatile and turbulent space: memories, worries, visions, and dreams clash with wide-ranging emotions of great intensity. Book of Hours enters this space,” explained Robert Honstein.
Artistic Director Kevin Stalheim added, “I’m absolutely thrilled with the brand new piece of music, Book of Hours that we will premiere at our annual THANKSGIVING concert. Composer Robert Honstein has set texts from living poets, philosophers, Shakespeare, and the Catholic liturgy to some of the most gorgeous and deeply felt music that I have ever encountered.”

EVENTS
- **Pre-Concert Talk with Composer Robert Honstein** | Sunday, November 20 at 4pm
  Join us at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist prior to the concert to hear visiting composer Robert Honstein discuss his piece, *Book of Hours*. This event is free and open to the public.

- Present Music will be collecting food donations at the concert to benefit Hunger Task Force. Patrons who donate three non-perishable food items will receive a $5 off ticket voucher for the April 29 concert at Milwaukee Public Museum.

SINGLE TICKETS AND SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS
Single tickets are available for $15/$25/$35 (prices dictated by seating) and are on sale now. Student tickets are half-price with a valid student id. Tickets will be available by phone and online until Saturday, November 19 at noon. To purchase tickets go to presentmusic.org or call 414-271-0711.

Present Music 2016/17 season subscriptions are still available and include admission to this concert (if selected). Subscriber benefits include exclusive invites to special events, better prices for better seats, free transferable ticket vouchers, free ticket exchanges, and 25% off additional single ticket purchases. Subscriptions for the current season will no longer be available after this concert.

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Robert Honstein is a Boston-based composer of orchestral, chamber, and vocal music. His works have been performed throughout the world by leading ensembles including the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, the Albany Symphony Orchestra, eighth blackbird, Ensemble ACJW, Ensemble Dal Niente, the Mivos quartet, the Del Sol Quartet, Present Music, the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, and the Correction Line Ensemble, of which he is a founding member. He has received an Aaron Copland Award, multiple ASCAP awards and honors from SCI, Carnegie Hall, and New Music USA. He has also received residencies at the MacDowell Colony, Copland House, the Bang on a Can Summer Institute, and the Tanglewood Music Center. Robert co-produces Fast Forward Austin, an annual marathon new music concert in Austin, TX and is a founding member of the New York based composer collective Sleeping Giant. His debut album *RE: You* was released by New Focus Recordings in 2014 and his second album, *Night Scenes from the Ospedale*, a collaboration with the Sebastians, was released on Soundspells Productions in 2015. In 2016 Cedille records released Sleeping Giant’s collaboration with eighth blackbird, *Hand Eye*, to critical acclaim. Upcoming projects include commissions from Nancy Karp Dancers, percussionist Michael Burritt, and Third Angle.
FACT SHEET

THANKSGIVING
Sunday, November 20, 2016 at 5pm
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 North Jackson Street; Milwaukee, Wisconsin
http://presentmusic.org/events/thanksgiving/

Present Music’s annual THANKSGIVING concert melds tradition with the best of what’s new and inspiring. Submerse yourself in the sound of a massive flute choir in the beautiful Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Be present for the world premiere of Robert Honstein’s Book of Hours, a contemporary perspective on the practice of daily devotion, written for the Hearing Voices vocal ensemble and Present Music. Relive the musical tradition of the Bucks Native American Singing and Drumming Group, join hands in the Friendship Dance, and continue your journey with Present Music. This performance is not recommended for children under the age of 10.

This concert is funded in part through a grant from the City of Milwaukee Arts Board and the Wisconsin Arts Board.

Hi-res media images and logo can be downloaded here: http://ow.ly/Klf9305Iw3A

BIOGRAPHIES

KEVIN STALHEIM, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Kevin Stalheim is the founder and Artistic Director of Present Music. Committed to commissioning new music and supporting residencies, he has worked closely and extensively with many of the most important composers of our time. Among Stalheim’s accolades and honors are a 2012/13 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Alumni Fellow honor, 2011 UWM Distinguished Alumni Award, 2002 City of Milwaukee Arts Board Artist of the Year Award and the 2001 Civic Music Association Distinguished Citizen Award. In addition to serving as Present Music’s Artistic Director, Stalheim has served on funding panels for the National Endowment for the Arts, the Aaron Copland Fund for New Music, New Music USA, Chamber Music America, and the American Composer’s Forum. He was formerly a board member for the American Music Center in New York City. Stalheim received a Bachelor of Music Degree from Oberlin College and a Master of Music Degree in conducting from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

MEAGHAN HEINRICH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Meaghan Heinrich, Present Music’s new Executive Director, brings over ten years of experience in non-profit arts management to Present Music, most recently as Director of Conservatory Connections for the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. Previously, she was Manager of Learning Programs and Community Engagement for The Cleveland Orchestra, where she continues to present guest workshops and pre-concert lectures. As the first full-time Education Director of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, Ms. Heinrich spearheaded the development and implementation of a strategic plan for new education programs, including the creation of the Alabama Symphony Youth Orchestra and composer-in-residence programs. Ms. Heinrich holds degrees in oboe performance from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (BM) and Rice University (MM). As an oboist and teaching artist, she spent four years (two as Co-Artistic Director) touring nationally with the multi-disciplinary ensemble Tales & Scales. She performs regularly with orchestras in the greater Milwaukee area, and is a frequent guest speaker for the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra’s “Meet the Music” pre-concert talks.
PRESENT MUSIC 2016/17 SEASON (35th ANNIVERSARY)

THANKSGIVING
Our annual musical meditation on gratitude with a world premiere by Robert Honstein
Sunday, November 20, 2016 at 5pm | Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

GIANTS IN THE CHAMBER
Intimate music in eclectic spaces
Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 7:30pm | Pitch Project at Brenner Brewery
Friday, February 17, 2017 at 11am | Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum
Saturday, February 18, 2017 at 7:30pm | In the home of Tim and Sue Frautschi
Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 3pm | UWM’s Zelazo Center

TIME, NATURE, CULTURE, SOUND
Music exploring the intersection of the natural world and civilization
Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 7pm | Milwaukee Public Museum

BOUNDARIES
A jazz-inspired adventure with saxophonist Steve Lehman and composer/pianist Cory Smythe
Friday, June 2, 2017 at 6pm and 9pm | Wherehouse

ABOUT PRESENT MUSIC

Present Music is Milwaukee’s internationally acclaimed new music ensemble. Celebrating 35 years of new music, Present Music commissions, performs, records and tours the music of living composers. In the past quarter century, more than 55 new works, by composers from around the world, have come into existence because of Present Music. Founded by Kevin Stalheim, Present Music works closely with many of the world’s most exciting and significant composers while supporting the talents of emerging voices. It nurtures the next generation of composers through its education program, the Creation Project.

Present Music is a member of the United Performing Arts Fund, which provides major financial support. This season is supported by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support provided by CAMPAC and by the generosity of foundations, corporations and individuals. PM has won the ASCAP/Chamber Music America’s Adventurous Programming Award an unprecedented six times and can be heard on nine compact disc recordings on the Argo, Albany, Aoede, Northeastern, Naxos and Innova labels. Present Music engages artists and audiences in imaginative and provocative experiences with new music through ensemble performance, education, and commissioning.

For more information, visit us online: presentmusic.org | facebook.com/PresentMusicMKE | Twitter: @PresentMusic