

NJSO Chamber Players to perform contemporary works at Princeton University

Ensemble to premiere new work by guest composer and curator Juri Seo

Steven Mackey conducts and hosts

Program furthers NJSO's commitment to championing female composers, presenting new works

May 13 in Lee Performance Room at Princeton University's Lewis Arts Complex

NEWARK, NJ—The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players perform a concert of contemporary chamber and solo works in the Lee Music Performance and Rehearsal Room at Princeton University's new Lewis Arts Complex on May 13 at 8 pm. The concert features the world premiere of an NJSO commission from Princeton-based composer Juri Seo, who curates the program. Longtime NJSO collaborator Steven Mackey conducts and hosts informal conversations with Seo and the performers in an event that celebrates a rich variety of contemporary scores and furthers the NJSO's commitment to championing female composers.

Inspired by Seo's influences, the program's chamber works by living composers include preeminent Korean composer Unsuk Chin's *ParaMetaString* for String Quartet and Tape, French composer Tristan Murail's *Seven Lakes Drive* and American composer Reynold Tharp's *San Francisco Night*, alongside the premiere of Seo's new work.

The concert also includes two solo works: NJSO Assistant Principal Cello Na-Young Baek performs English composer Jonathan Harvey's *Curve with Plateaux* for Solo Cello; Principal Horn Chris Komer performs French composer Olivier Messiaen's "Interstellar Call" from *Des Canyons aux étoiles* for Solo Horn.

Seo says: "There are a few common threads that unify the works in this program. Much of the music is inspired by places imbued with sense and memory. There are various evocations of song—birdsong, for instance, or the song of a superhuman presence. All of the composers were touched by spectralism, a compositional attitude that approaches pitch as a primarily acoustical phenomenon. Most importantly, each of the pieces communicates through warmth and delight, attempting to connect, to inspire and to heal."

General-admission tickets are \$15 and are available at njsymphony.org, by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or in person at the NJSO Patron Services office. The performance is approximately 60 minutes with no intermission.

This concert continues the NJSO's tradition of presenting contemporary music in Princeton. 2019 marks the sixth year of the NJSO Edward T. Cone Composition Institute, a multifaceted program that promotes new music and emerging composers, led by Institute Director Steven Mackey. The Institute will select four composers to hear their music performed by the NJSO and participate in in-depth sessions with industry leaders, July 15–20 on the Princeton University campus. The NJSO will perform the participants' works on July 20 at 8 pm at Richardson Auditorium.

The Institute grew out of reading sessions the Orchestra has held with Princeton University graduate students biennially for more than a decade.

Full program information is available at njsymphony.org/scores.

Princeton University generously provides support for this program.

The Program

Scores: Contemporary Chamber Works

Curated by Juri Seo

Mon, May 13, at 8 pm | Lee Music Performance and Rehearsal Room at the Lewis Arts Complex at Princeton University in Princeton

STEVEN MACKEY conductor and host

JURI SEO guest composer and curator

NA-YOUNG BAEK cello

CHRIS KOMER horn

NJSO CHAMBER PLAYERS

Program to include:

UNSUK CHIN *ParaMetaString* for String Quartet and Tape

HARVEY *Curve with Plateaux* for Solo Cello

MESSIAEN “Interstellar Call” from *Des Canyons aux étoiles* for Solo Horn

TRISTAN MURAIL *Seven Lakes Drive*

JURI SEO New Work (World Premiere, NJSO Commission)

REYNOLD THARP *San Francisco Night*

Full program information, artist bios and Seo’s notes on the program are available at njsymphony.org/scores.

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New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

Named “a vital, artistically significant musical organization” by *The Wall Street Journal*, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra embodies that vitality through its statewide presence and critically acclaimed performances, education partnerships and unparalleled access to music and the Orchestra’s superb musicians.

Music Director Xian Zhang—a “dynamic podium presence” *The New York Times* has praised for her “technical abilities, musicianship and maturity”—continues her acclaimed leadership of the NJSO. The Orchestra presents classical, pops and family programs, as well as outdoor summer concerts and special events. Embracing its legacy as a statewide orchestra, the NJSO is the resident orchestra of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark and regularly performs at State Theatre New Jersey in New Brunswick, Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank, Richardson Auditorium in Princeton, Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown and bergenPAC in Englewood. Partnerships with New Jersey arts organizations, universities and civic organizations remain a key element of the Orchestra’s statewide identity.

In addition to its lauded artistic programming, the NJSO presents a suite of education and community engagement programs that promote meaningful, lifelong engagement with live music. Programs include school-time Concerts for Young People; NJSO Youth Orchestras family of student ensembles, led by José Luis Domínguez; and El Sistema-inspired NJSO CHAMPS (Character, Achievement and Music Project). NJSO musicians annually perform original chamber music programs at community events in a variety of settings statewide through the NJSO Community Partners program.

Tickets are available online at njsymphony.org, by phone at 1.800.ALLEGRO (255.3476) or in person. The NJSO Patron Services office is located at 60 Park Place, Suite 900, in Newark; hours are Monday–Friday, 9 am–5 pm, and concert Saturdays, 11 am–5 pm.

For more information, visit njsymphony.org or email information@njsymphony.org.

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra’s programs are made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, along with many other foundations, corporations and individual donors.

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