

Foreword

The Annual Ho Chi Minh City Conservatory of Music International Contemporary Music Festival is organized to bring a diverse array of composers from various parts of the world to Vietnam to participate in a cultural exchange of music and ideas. Now in its second year we have expanded our program to include education as well as bring in new composers and performers to share their different perspectives with the music community of Vietnam, while also assimilating the cultural richness of Vietnamese music. The festival hopes to serve as a venue of diversity, education and serve as a meeting point for composers from different origins.

To reach out mission we have already partnered up with a number of universities other than the HCMC Conservatory of Music including: University of Memphis, University of the Philippines, Brooklyn College, Manmouth College and Istanbul Technical University.

For additional information please contact one of our directors: Dirk Johan Stromberg or Do Kien Cuong.

Sincerely,

Dirk Johan Stromberg and Do Kien Cuong

Directors of the Contemporary Music Festival in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Web: www.hcmc-cmf.blogspot.com

Title

Festival in Sound Exploration and its Organization in Time

Summary

The Ho Chi Minh City Conservatory is seeking \$10000 for our second annual cross cultural music festival in Ho Chi Minh City. The festival will feature composers and performers from Turkey, Philippines, Vietnam, Netherlands, Sweden, and the United States. The festival includes concerts and workshops from the featured musicians and has been expanded to include two composition competitions; one international and one for Vietnam.

Organizational Overview

The Annual Ho Chi Minh City International Conservatory Contemporary Music festival brings composers from different cultures together to share their music and ideas. Bringing a diverse selection of new music composers and performers to Vietnam to share their music with audiences and their peers while also promoting education is our main goal. Through concerts, workshops and discussion we offer a place for musicians to learn from each other as well as a venue for their music to be heard in Vietnam.

Organizers

The founding directors of the Contemporary Music Festival, Dirk Stromberg and Do Kien Cuong, have both been actively involved in increasing awareness for new music. They have both created organizations and opportunities for musicians to share their music and have both emphasized collaboration and community as a means for success. They began this festival in 2007 with the help of HCMC Conservatory of Music with the hope to create activities and opportunities to bring together musicians from several countries to create better integration of music and knowledge among these cultures and the world. This goal was realized with a well accepted festival in September of 2007.

Dirk Stromberg is an active composer, performer and music technologist who has performed and had his works performed throughout Europe and the United States. He has directed many solo and collaborative concerts in the past decade for various kinds of events and venues. He has also been involved in many festivals; including as a featured artist at AkBank Jazz Festival (Istanbul) and Transit Istanbul Festival (Istanbul). Dirk has been an artist in residence at STEIM in the Netherlands and at Brooklyn Center for Computer music where he has presented concerts both as a composer and performer.

As an educator, Dirk has motivated young composers at Bilgi University through composition opportunities. One of these initiatives has been the creation of Bilgi University's Interactive Sound Forum, a student-composer collective dedicated to new music acoustic and electronic. This group has performed with great success in Istanbul and has even been invited to the Netherlands to do a presentation in June of 2007. He has also recently given workshops at University of the Philippines and Ho Chi Minh City Conservatory.

Dirk Stromberg was the student department coordinator at Brooklyn College where he was responsible for producing the student composers' concerts. He also co-founded a music community in New York City named *Anonyme*, a community designated in increasing the visibility of young composers. This group created a concert that brought together several other new music organizations and serve as a liaison for these groups.

Do Kien Cuong is an accomplished performer, composer and conductor. He had worked extensively as each in both the United States and Vietnam, and has received commission from the United States and Asia as a composer.

While studying in New York City he was a prolific performer playing new works for many contemporary composers of many styles under the direction of Tania Leon. During this time he also wrote new works experimenting with new forms of notation as well as extending instrumental pallets through extended techniques and the use of electronics.

Do Kien Cuong founded the Hanoi Youth Orchestra in 1999, where he also served as the artistic director, composer and conductor. The aim of the orchestra is to perform a variety of music from the classical period to contemporary music. The ensemble played many works of young composers. This orchestra has performed extensively in Vietnam in concerts, television and radio.

He was formerly on faculty at Hanoi National Conservatory of Music and is currently the artist in residence at the HCMC Ballet and Orchestra as well as on faculty at HCMC Conservatory of Music.

Past Achievements

- Created a festival that had diverse composers and compositions from various parts of the world
- Created opportunities for students through performances of their works
- Well publicized and well received festival

Project Details

This festival will provide an opportunity to bring together composers and performers from the United States, Vietnam, Turkey and the Philippines to discuss their exploration of their sound worlds. Each of the featured composers and performers are dedicated to the experimentation of sound.

To reach our goals we divide our work into two sections: education and performance.

Education

Our educational goals involve the sharing of knowledge and approaches to new music both in composition and performance. To reach these goals we have a series of lectures and workshops with the festival that discuss performance technique and style, and also philosophies of composition. Each of our featured composers and performers, Vietnamese and Foreign, will give a seminar about their work to help build an understanding of contemporary music.

Performance

Our performances will include a series of concerts that feature our composers and performers. Each concert's goal is to show the diversity of new music.

Festival Structure

Four concerts

1. 26th October 2008: Electro Acoustic Concert: works by Dirk Johan Stromberg, George Brunner, Taylan Susam.
2. 27th October 2008: Chamber Music Concert: Jonas Baes, Batuhan Bozkurt, Andrea La Rose, Bui Thien Hoang Quan, Do Hong Quan, Dang Huu Phuc.
3. 28th October 2008: Orchestra Concert: Kamran Ince, Do Kien Cuong
4. 7th November 2008: Finale Concert: Jonas Baes (40' multimedia work), and others.

One sound installation

From 20th October to 6th November 2008.

Masterclasses

From 29th October to 7th November 2008, masterclasses will include in both field of performance and composition.

Projected Results

- Create a greater communication between the near and far east as each deals with their own cultural crisis during globalization
- Greater communication and awareness between participating institutions and their communities in general
- Future festival to further share new music and bring it to new audience.
- Create educational opportunities for performers interested in performing new music.

Participants (CMF 2008)

Supporters

1. Mr. Geir Johnson, director of the Oslo Contemporary Music Festival
2. Mrs. Bich Ngoc, director of the International Communication Company
3. Saigon Giai Phong Newspaper.
4. The HCMC Conservatory of Music
5. Brooklyn College
6. Manmouth College

Composers

1. Dirk Johan Stromberg,
2. George Brunner, faculty of Brooklyn College, CUNY.
3. Taylan Susam, composer (Amsterdam, NL)
4. Jonas Baes, director of composition at the University of The Philippines
5. Batuhan Bozkurt, composer (Istanbul, Turkey)
6. Andrea La Rose, composer and performer (New York City)
7. Bui Thien Hoang Quan, faculty of the HCMC Conservatory of Music
8. Do Hong Quan, director of the Association of Vietnam Composer.
9. Dang Huu Phuc, faculty of the Hanoi National Conservatory of Music
10. Kamran Ince, director of MIAM at Istanbul Technical University and Professor of Music at University of Memphis.
11. Do Kien Cuong, faculty of the HCMC Conservatory of Music.

Performers

1. Oslo Contemporary Music Festival
2. HCMC Conservatory of Music
3. HCMC Ballet Opera and Symphony Orchestra
4. Julia, pianist, from Manmouth College
5. Andrea la Rose