



**Free of Charge**

*Brought to you by*

Vox Novus - Remarkable Theater Brigade - Jan  
Hus Church

Highlighting living composers and their work

The last Sunday of each month

**Concerts begin at 1:00 PM**  
**Followed by reception**

In Jan Hus Sanctuary  
351 E. 74<sup>th</sup>  
between 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenues  
NYC, NY 10021



**March 30, 2008**

*Hope*

**by Christian McLeer**

Performed by Christian McLeer, piano

*Hunger*

**by Robert Voisey**

Performed by Robert Voisey, tenor

*Amore all'italiana, Mvmt. I: Lasso, che mal accorto fui*

**by Mike Espar**

Performed by Jessica Miller, mezzo-soprano and  
Naren Rauch, guitar

*tainted tree*

**by Robert Voisey**

Performed by Robert Voisey, tenor and  
recorded playback

*Orange*

**by Christian McLeer**

Performed by Christian McLeer, keyboard – Nord Lead 3

**Michael Gillette Espar** is a Brooklyn-based composer and music producer. Recent film/TV work includes an orchestral score for *The Mystery of the Polka King* (Court TV), a swirling collage of noise-rock guitar and electronic percussion for the indie feature *Altamont Now* (Boston Underground Film Festival), and a bubblegum pop song for the award-winning short film *Aquarium* (Honorable Mention, Sundance Film Festival 2008). In addition to a wide variety of film projects, Espar is also working on a sequel to his time-traveling "tween" musical, *The Swashbuckle Sisters: Search for the Stolen Sword* with playwright Michelle Gillette, and a multimedia "rocksical" with former Swell Mob bandmate Keith Meatto. Espar holds an M.A. in Music Composition from New York University, with a concentration in scoring for film and multimedia, and a B.A. in Film Studies from Yale University. For all the latest, go to [www.mgespar.com](http://www.mgespar.com).

**Christian McLeer** is currently in his 5th season as Artistic Director of Remarkable Theater Brigade, which he cofounded with Monica Harte and Dan Jeselsohn. They are producing their 6th major production, *Glory Denied*, an opera by Tom Cipullo, at Jan Hus Church in New York City June 5th & 7th. Christian is the artist-in-residence for the National Chorale at PS70, IS71, Brooklyn Tech HS and Fort Hamilton HS where he teaches chorus. He is also in his second year as the musical director for Jan Hus Church. He is the sound engineer for the TV show *Nova Rock*, currently being filmed and has just completed the original score for the short independent film *in between* written and produced by Gail Bell. Christian will be musical director for the Natchez Opera Festival's educational outreach tour in April, which will perform his opera *SHOT*.

**Robert Voisey** is a composer and impresario of new works primarily in New York City. He seeks innovative and creative approaches to promote the music of today's composers. In 2007, Voisey participated in the *Tempest Project* with his work by the same name and was performed at the Brooklyn College International Electro-acoustic festival. "*Tempest*" will be featured on an upcoming CD release on Pogus records.. His work, *tongues*, on the 60x60 2004-2005 CD release of the project and *India Songs*, a collaboration with Anne Cammon will appear on a poetry compilation released by LOGOchrysalis Productions. His work *Constellations (TRANSreveLATION Mix)* was performed at the TRANSreveLATION concert in New York City; and *Constellations (EMM MIX)* was performed at the Electronic Music Midwest Festival in Kansas City, his solo piano work, *stark* received its German debut in Munich, Germany at the A\*DEvantgarde festival; Most recently his work has been performed at Fine and Dandy, a east village variety show. This includes "hunger" and "lust", in a collaboration with the choreographer Jeramy Zimmerman and "India Songs" a collaboration with poet Anne Cammon. *India Songs* and "*a deeper shade of forte.*" "*India Songs*" was also performed at the Bowery Poetry Club.

**Hope** was Christian McLeers's first commission which he wrote at the age of 14 for the American Cancer Society.

## ***hunger***

it is sad.

sad.

yesterday, i was thinking about you;

it made me feel sad, that we lost all those good times.

all those good times.

it is sad.

remember when.

that was then.

sad.

now when i see you, i remember why we failed so bad.

it is sad.

it is so sad.

sad.

## ***Amore all'italiana, Mvmt. I: Lasso, che mal accorto***

***fui*** *a* is a setting of three love sonnets by 14th-Century Italian poet Francesco Petrarca (a.k.a. Petrarch), written for my dear friends Naren Rauch and Jessica Miller Rauch, in honor of their marriage last year. I selected the three poems from a series of 366 that the poet wrote for Laura, the object of his affections, over the course of a particularly lovesick year. I re-ordered them as a narrative in three movements: the initial elation, the subsequent trials and tribulations, and the final realization of the lasting power and value of love. Musically, I've mixed traditional Western harmony with modal and jazz elements, a nod to the time in which the poems were written and the performers' own sensibilities.

***tainted tree*** is a "tainted" rendition of the Handel aria which is about the love for a tree. The "taint" series consisting of several compositions written by Robert Voisey concerns itself with taking a naïve or simple melodic concept and transforming with the rules and "accepted" traditions of compositional theory. Even Handel was subjected to these criticisms and guidelines by his contemporaries. Being an English composer he was coerced to write in Italian because only opera in Italian was considered the "true" form of that genre. All other works in other languages were considered inferior. This version is sung as a modern day aria with all the influences that a postmodern world can provide.

***Orange*** is one of a set of pieces created specifically for the Nord Lead 3 synthesizer each piece is named after a color.