

CONCERT REVIEW

Pone Ensemble spotlights young composers

BY JAMES F. COTTER

For the Times Herald-Record

NEW PALTZ — In its 40th season, the Pone Ensemble for New Music lived up to its name by offering a concert of 19 world premiers by young composers, titled "The Future." Some were present Sunday afternoon at the New Paltz United Methodist Church to hear the nine members of the ensemble play their works.

"Fifteen Minutes of Fame" presented an anthology of one-minute pieces, written for the Pone Ensemble, that whet the appetite with mini-samples of a cornucopia of their talent, tastes and styles.

The concert began with Eric Roth's "Recercare" for violin and cello, a modern look at a Renaissance medley of dances

of violinist Carole Cowan and cellist Susan Seligman played the four-movement piece with a dialogue of changing voices that spoke of rhythmic surprises. The duo interpreted the intricate score with intelligence, grace and skill. "Tastar," a testing of the strings, starts off with short broken phrases to build to a complex contrapuntal climax. "Dance" follows in 3/8 time, alternating on high and low registers, and "Pavane" moves to punctuated measures disrupted by harsh cello chords. "Scherzando" closes with fast paced cadences, ending with a quiet coda.

"Obstinate Duet" for flute and clarinet by David Mecionis had flutist Marcia Gates and clarinetist Larry Tietze exchange roles in a whirligig

of quick counterpoint and sudden stops and starts. Following a 12-tone method, the composition explores deconstructed patterns of flighty triplets and interrupted tempo. The title plays on the ostinato pattern that creates color and texture by skipping back and forth from flute to clarinet.

Brett Wery's String Quartet featured violinists Cowan and Emily Faxon with violist Valentina Charlap-Evans and cellist Seligman in a three movement work, beginning with a vigorously upbeat allegro in sonata form followed by an andante on a four note theme with Hungarian echoes recapitulated in a dark viola cadenza. The final presto is a lively rondo employing pitch class sets and a four note coda.

With its staccato drive and bold double stops, this work introduces fresh sound to a traditional format.

After intermission "Fifteen Minutes of Fame," commissioned by Vox Novus and Composers Voice, had nine Pone members playing eight instruments in a variety of quartet combinations. Oboist Joel Evans, bassoonist Jeffrey Marchand and pianist Ruthanne Schempf joined the others in interpreting new works of 15 composers of original talent and promise. Beginning with "Splash" by Andrew Bukowski on a cacophonous note and "Hudson Valley" by Juan Maria Solare with rhythmic winds, the works included a nostalgic "Dream Fragment" by Anthony Donofrio, an ap-

pealing "One Little Prayer" by Daniel Mihai and a delightfully original "Exiguous Capter" by Elizabeth Skola Davis. "Jubilee" by Scott Brickman brought the unusual set to an exuberant close.

The concert closed with Michael Vincent Waller's "Rifuto" for flute, clarinet, bassoon and string quartet. The title refers to the composer's "refusal" to settle for a conventional combination of instruments in this his fifth and final version. The septet's first strains rise slowly to gather momentum in its quest to fashion a four-note melody out of dissonance. Strings provide continuo and then resolution to low bassoon, clarinet and high flute registers in a finale of genuine beauty and resonance.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Friday, May 2

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Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. \$40 in advance, \$50 at door. 222-1155.

Films of Palestine Series presents Jeff Cohen and "My Neighbourhood" — Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills, 320 Sawkill Road, Kingston, 7 p.m. May 2. 25-minute film seen from

Women" follows adventures of Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March as they grow up in Civil War America. Music by Jason Howland, lyrics by Mindi Dickstein, book by Allen Knee, directed by Guy Anthony, musical direction by Cheryl B. Engelhardt. \$15; \$12 for students, senior and advance tickets; \$10 per person for groups of 10 or more and 90 Miles Off-Broadway members.

Evening Frog Walk — Hudson Highlands Nature Museum's Outdoor Discovery Center, on Muser Drive, across from 174 Angola Road, Cornwall. 7:30 p.m.

George Gershwin. Under the expert direction of Stanley Curtis and accompaniment by Gail Johnson. Admission is free, but donations are welcome to help support the Chorale. zsavale@warwickvalleychorale.org.

Saturday, May 3

73rd May Morning Breakfast — St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 58 West Main St., Middletown, 7 a.m. May 3. Fresh strawberries or orange juice, oatmeal or cold cereal, bacon and eggs, orange marmalade and fresh biscuits, coffee or tea. Flowers available for

shine. For more information, call John at 888-0240 or go to thebashakill.org. Free.

18th Annual Pike County Children's Fishing Derby — Lily Pond, Pike County Park, off of Route 6 on Schocopee Road, Milford, Pa. 8 a.m. May 3. Open to children under 16. Prizes will be awarded by age group. Participants must be accompanied by an adult. Pennsylvania fishing rules and regulations apply. About 400 trout will be stocked by Pike County for this event. Stocking will take place at 5 p.m. May 2 at Lily Pond. Children are welcome to help

with the stocking of the fish. Free. 570-296-3569.

2014 Hudson Valley Walk to Cure Arthritis — Thomas Bull Memorial Park, 211 Route 416, Hamptonburgh, 8:30 a.m. May 3. Fundraising event. 917-566-9714. dmiele@arthritis.org.

Breakfast & Broadway: NYC trip to see "Phantom of the Opera" — Depart from Liberty Municipal Parking Lot on Darbee Lane in Liberty at 8:30 a.m. May 3. Pickups along I-86 corridor. Proceeds from trip benefit Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop and Nesin Cultural Arts. \$121 per person without

breakfast, \$139 per person with breakfast at Ellen's Stardust Diner. 798-2188. cdtripsLLC@gmail.com.

"I Love My Parks Day" Minnewaska trail work — Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Route 44/55, Gardiner. 9 a.m. May 3. Help fix drainage and tread on Mossy Glen Trail. Leaders will train attendees how to move rocks, raise and fortify trail tread levels and create appropriate drainage pathways for runoff. Bring long pants, water and lunch. Gloves and tools provided. Free. 664-0417. smason@nynjtc.org.