

Sonatas and Interludes . . . and Interludes

Amy Williams, prepared piano

Guest Artist Series
Katzin Concert Hall | February 9, 2020 | 2:30 pm

Program

Sonatas 1–4	John Cage (1912–1992)
inter luna	Joann Cho
Interlude 1	John Cage
Sonatas 5–8	John Cage
Interlude	Kevin Laskey
Interludes 2–3	John Cage
Interlude	Adam Vidiksis
Sonatas 9–12	John Cage
The Inevitable	Jeffrey Weeter
Interlude 4	John Cage
Sonatas 13–16	John Cage

The groundbreaking *Sonatas and Interludes* by John Cage (1912-1992) is made up of 20 short pieces: 16 sonatas (structured in two-part or three-part forms) and 4 freely structured interludes.

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There are dozens of screws, bolts, pieces of rubber, coins, strips of plastic, that are inserted into the strings of the piano to create sounds that are reminiscent of percussion instruments (gongs, woodblocks, cymbals). The unique prepared sounds—sometimes combined with unprepared notes—create a breathtaking array of colors. The piece is literally an emotional journey—through the eight permanent emotions of Ancient Hindu aesthetics: the “white” emotions (the heroic, the erotic, the mirthful and the wondrous) and the “black” emotions (fear, anger, disgust, and sorrow). Today’s performance will be played on a set of preparations that John Cage himself approved of (it was given to Amy Williams by pianist Bennett Lerner).

Amy Williams is a composer of music that is “simultaneously demanding, rewarding and fascinating” (*Buffalo News*), “fresh, daring and incisive” (*Fanfare*). Her compositions have been presented at renowned contemporary music venues in the United States, Australia, Asia and Europe by leading contemporary music soloists and ensembles, including the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, JACK Quartet, Ensemble Musikfabrik, Wet Ink, Talujon, International Contemporary Ensemble, h2 Saxophone Quartet, Bent Frequency, pianist Ursula Oppens and bassist Robert Black. Her pieces appear on the Albany, Parma, VDM (Italy), Blue Griffin, Centaur and New Ariel labels. As a member of the Bugallo-Williams Piano Duo, Ms. Williams has performed throughout Europe and the Americas and recorded six critically-acclaimed CDs for Wergo (works of Nancarrow, Stravinsky, Varèse/Feldman and Kurtág), as well as appearing on the Neos and Albany labels. Ms. Williams has been awarded a Howard Foundation Fellowship (2008-2009), Fromm Music Foundation Commission (2009), Guggenheim Fellowship (2015-2016), Koussevitsky Foundation Commission (2017), the 2016 Goddard Lieberman Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a Fulbright Scholars Fellowship to Ireland (2017-2018). Ms. Williams holds a Ph.D. in composition from the University at Buffalo, where she also received her Master’s degree in piano performance. She has taught at Bennington College and Northwestern University and is currently Associate Professor of Composition at the University of Pittsburgh. She is Artistic Director of the New Music On The Point Festival in Vermont.

www.amywilliamsmusic.com

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