



presents

THIN PLACES

A performance of new musical works in
a space inviting us to expand and
deepen our connections

March 23, 2024 - 7:30pm
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Nashville

www.intersectionmusic.org

Intersection is Supported in Part by:



PROGRAM

Shinuh Lee Chorale Fantasy No. 4 (2018)
Ein Feste Burg Ist Unser Gott

Sungji Hong SILVER BELLS! (2023)

Gary Powell Nash Look for the Helpers (2024) *

Sungji Hong IGERTHI (2023) *
for piano and sinfonietta

I.Descent into Hades
II.Mandorla
III.Gates broken open

**World Premiere Performance*

MUSICIANS

Maria Romero Ramos, violin
Esther McMahon, violin
Cristina Micci-Barreca, viola
Kaitlyn Vest, cello
Tiffany Freeman, bass
Deanna Little, flute
Jared Hauser, oboe
Mark Cramer, clarinet
Peter Kolkay, bassoon

Tara Johnson, horn
Fred Sienkiewicz, trumpet
Evan Clifton, trombone
Erin Booker-Miller, harp
Christine Comer, percussion
Jihye Chang, piano
Kelly Corcoran, conductor
Sungji Hong, composer
Gary Powell Nash, composer

JIHYE CHANG, PIANO

Pianist Jihye Chang is an internationally active performer, educator, and new music specialist. She has received the Henry Kohn Award from Tanglewood Music Center, the Honorary Fellowship from Montgomery Symphony Orchestra, the Yvar Mikhashoff Pianist-Composer Commissioning Award (with Derek Johnson), Grand Prize from Samick Piano Competition, and Barlow Endowment's commissioning award (with Christian Gentry). As a devoted interpreter and promoter of contemporary music, Chang has premiered more than 40 works since 2016, many of them written for her. She premiered the Piano Concerto No. 2 by Robert L. Aldridge at the Brevard Music Festival in 2018 and will be premiering "Igerthi," a new piano concerto written for her by Sungji Hong, with Intersection in Nashville. This concerto was written with the support of the Guggenheim foundation. Her recordings can be found on Albany, Centaur and Ravello/Parma label.

Since 2020 she has been invited to lead residencies at composition departments at UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, Tufts University, University of North Texas, and Tulane University as well as online residencies at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, the Mason Gross School of Arts at Rutgers University, Texas Christian University, and Walnut Hill Academy of Arts. She has also been invited to new music festivals and series at Studio 2021 Seoul National University, University of Louisville, Ball State University, and Brandeis University.

Her research and performance activities have focused on piano etudes, and she has given recitals and lectures on this topic at various institutions and festivals, including a hugely successful collaboration with the Brevard composition area since 2016 called "BMC Etude Project." In 2021, eight composers based on Boston composed new piano etudes for her, and they were premiered on her YouTube channel <https://youtube.com/jihyechangpiano>. Interviews with the composers can be found on her Facebook page <https://facebook.com/jihyechangpiano>. These etudes were recorded at the Tufts University and will be released in September 2024 on New Focus label.

Another ongoing project is her multi-year solo piano project titled "Continuum 88," an exploration of the solo piano literature in collaboration with young composers from Australia, Korea, and U.S.A., with concerts in Korea, Taiwan, and various venues in the U. S. A. Eight new works have been created for this project since 2016, and she has performed them in performing venues and academic institutions such as MIT, UCLA, Old First Concert Series of San Francisco, Seoul National University, and Lipscomb College, among others. Chang also regularly performs programs of music by living women composers and Korean composers, which she has presented at C4NM San Francisco, UC Berkeley, TCU, and Boston Conservatory. Her research and performance interest in diversity and inclusion has culminated into a new class on music by Korean composers, which she taught at FSU as well as guest lectures at several universities across the country.

Chang is on the piano faculty of the Brevard Music Center and is a lecturer at Florida State University. She is also the director of Piano Intensive Bulgaria. Her music and musings can be found on <https://instagram.com/jihyechangpiano> and <https://youtube.com/jihyechangpiano>.



Jihye Chang, Piano



Sungji Hong, Composer



**Gary Powell Nash,
Composer**



**Kelly Corcoran, Artistic
Director, Intersection**

PROGRAM NOTES

Chorale Fantasy No. 4 (2018) by Shinuh Lee for solo piano

Composer Note

"Chorale Fantasy for Piano" is a series I have been composing since 2007. After No. 1, "Comfort Comfort My People," No. 2, "The Collar," and No. 3 "Alleluia," No. 4, "Ein feste Burg ist Unser Gott" was written for Jihye Chang for her Continuum 88 series in 2018. No. 4 is based on Martin Luther's chorale of the same title, and I used wide ranges of the piano with limited harmonies, rhythm, and texture. I tried to use the horizontal and vertical density of the piano with sounds that accumulate from the lowest register to the highest register and express the spirit of the religious revolution that happened 500 years ago.

SILVER BELLS! (2023) by Sungji Hong for solo piano

Composer Note

The inspiration for this piece is based on The Bells, the first among four parts, by Edgar Allan Poe. The poem was one of his last works, which was written in 1848. My piece, SILVER BELLS! responds to the highly onomatopoeic poem through the exploration of bell-like resonant sounds on the piano to echo the sounds of the verses.

SILVER BELLS! was completed in 2023 and is dedicated to pianist Jihye Chang. It was first performed by Chang on 13 February 2023 at the Voertman Hall, University of North Texas. Recorded live on 13 February 2023 at the Voertman Hall, University of North Texas.

The Bells

Hear the sledges with the bells—
Silver bells!
What a world of merriment their melody foretells!
How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,
In the icy air of night!
While the stars that oversprinkle
All the heavens, seem to twinkle
With a crystalline delight;
Keeping time, time, time,
In a sort of Runic rhyme,
To the tintinabulation that so musically wells
From the bells, bells, bells, bells,
Bells, bells, bells—
From the jingling and the tinkling of the bells.
- Edgar Allan Poe

PROGRAM NOTES

Look for the Helpers (2024) by Gary Powell Nash for sinfonietta

Look for the Helpers is largely based on and inspired by the tragic shootings at the Covenant School in Nashville, TN and Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI, both occurring around the same time of the year in 2023. The title is derived from a phrase from a famous Mr. Rogers quote, often used in tragedies: “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’”

Gary Powell Nash is a composer who often takes personal experiences and reflects those same experiences in his music. The Covenant School is in the same general area as Woodmont Baptist Church, which is where Nash’s son and daughter attended vacation bible school one summer. That and both of his children are around the same age as some of the victims. Nash is not only a native of Michigan but also received his Bachelors and Doctoral Degrees in music from Michigan State University. One of his closest relatives, an MSU alumnus and graduate student also lives in East Lansing, MI, not too far from where the shooting took place.

As there were 6 casualties in Nashville and 8 total victims, including 3 deaths in East Lansing, MI, Nash chose to use 7/8 time signature to reflect 14 (7x2). The formal structure is based on the Fibonacci sequence, with 377 total measures in Look for the Helpers. Each section, mostly defined and articulated by melodic construct and orchestration, utilizes Fibonacci proportions. The melodies and motifs consist of various configurations of the 7/8 subdivision (referring to 2+2+3, 2+3+2, 3+2+2). One of the principal motifs is based on the rhythm created when one speaks the phrase “look for the helpers”, which is developed throughout the composition.



PROGRAM NOTES

Igerthi (2023) by Sungji Hong for piano and sinfonietta

IGERTHI was commissioned by Intersection and artistic director, Kelly Corcoran, in celebration of Intersection's 10th season.

The work draws inspiration from the timeless imagery of the Resurrection, depicted in Byzantine icons known as "Christ's Descent into Hades" or "the Anastasis." The title is a Greek word, 'Igerthi,' meaning 'he has risen,' signifying the central theme of the composition. Sungji Hong takes a three-movement structure for her second Piano Concerto, each movement representing a different aspect of the Resurrection narrative. The opening movement of 'IGERTHI' sets a solemn tone with slow, spacious figurations, depicting Christ's crucifixion. Poignant melodies and subtle harmonies express the separation of body and soul, transitioning into a triumphant march symbolizing Christ's sacrifice. The 'Luminoso' second movement illuminates the spiritual realm with radiant melodies. The final movement, 'Gates Broken Open,' bursts with dramatic passages, vividly portraying Christ's triumph over death.

She invites listeners on a journey of self-discovery and renewal, transcending religious boundaries to touch upon themes of hope, transformation, and the triumph of the human spirit. Composed during her productive leave year from the University of North Texas, after receiving a Guggenheim fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation in 2023. The piano concerto is dedicated to pianist Jihye Chang.

Biography

Sungji Hong's music has been described as "a work of iridescent freshness" (BBC Music Magazine), "the sound is utterly luminous" (Fanfare Magazine), and "the harmonies and fluid dynamics were modern" (The New York Times). In a Citation awarded by the American Academy of Arts and Letters, "At times complex and at times straightforward, her passionate music uses precise timbres to unfold dramatic, virtuoso gestures, iridescent colors, and vivid, atmospheric auras."

Her honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Charles Ives Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, commissions from the Fromm Music Foundation, the National Flute Association, the MATA Festival, the Tongyeong International Music Festival, Kumho Asiana Cultural Foundation, Lorelei Ensemble, iSing Silicon Valley, Ensemble TIMF, and the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra. Her *Missa Lumen de Lumine* on the ECM New Series (ECM 1929), performed by the vocal ensemble Trio Mediaeval, received critical acclaim and reached the top ten on the Billboard Classical Chart and iTunes classics. Sungji Hong (ARAM) holds degrees from Hanyang University, the Royal Academy of Music, and the University of York in the United Kingdom. Hong is an Assistant Professor of Music Composition at the University of North Texas.

ABOUT INTERSECTION

MISSION

Intersection is a flexible contemporary music ensemble dedicated to challenging the traditional concert experience, exploring music of the 20th and 21st centuries, supporting living composers, presenting programs for younger audiences, embracing collaboration, technology and the avant-garde, while expanding, respecting and embracing the musical and cultural diversity of Nashville.

VISION

The vision of Intersection is to expand and shift the perspectives of audiences and musicians of all ages, through the creation, cultivation and performance of contemporary music, a vital, thriving and inspiring form of art.

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SPECIAL THANKS

In addition to our gratitude for all of our donors, partners, artists, Metro Arts, and the Tennessee Arts Commission, Intersection expresses sincere gratitude to Trinity Presbyterian Church for welcoming us, and Jihye Chang for her artistic collaboration in crafting this program! And, thank you to YOU for your support of new music!

Upcoming Intersection Events

Boundless Beats - May 3rd, 3:30pm
Nashville Public Library - Downtown
Collaboration with Southern Word - FREE

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