

PROGRAM BOOK

**EAR
TAXI
FESTIVAL
2021**

PRESENTED BY NEW//MUSIC
CHICAGO

5TH WAVE COLLECTIVE

SHULAMIT RAN: *BACH-SHARDS*AUGUSTA READ THOMAS: *PILGRIM SOUL*OSNAT NETZER: *RECAPSIZE*CLARICE ASSAD: *SYNCHRONOUS*

Ashley Ertz, oboe

Carmen Abelson, violin

Alexandria Hill, violin

Roslyn Green, viola

Allie Chambers, cello

SHULAMIT RAN: *BACH-SHARDS*

While composing *Bach-Shards* I found myself gravitating, intuitively and gradually, toward a dual goal. First, though the tension and dissonance inherent in certain moments of Bach's own maze-like contrapuntal structures could quite easily and naturally lead one into a pungent contemporary terrain, I opted not to stray outside the realm of Bach-like materials and harmonic language. Instead, it was my hope to alter their relationships and context in ways that add up to something that's slightly different than the anticipated sum of the parts. A mildly deconstructed Bach, if you will.

The other important challenge I set for myself was building up the latter, toccata-like portion of *Bach-Shards* in a way that would make the entry point of the fugue which it precede, *Contrapunctus X*, seem thoroughly natural. It was my intent to have the first fugal entrance feel like a huge and much welcome release of the energy created by my Prelude's penultimate stretch, with its bravura figurations elaborating on an insistent dominant pedal point.

Owing to *Bach-Shards'* style, decisions on articulation and bowings are left to the discretion of the performers.

**AUGUSTA READ THOMAS:
PILGRIM SOUL**

Pilgrim Soul was commissioned by Matthew Kuhn as a surprise fiftieth birthday gift for his wife Alyssa Kuhn and it was premiered on her exact fiftieth birthday: 10 February, 2011 at Weill Hall in Carnegie Hall by Matthew Kuhn, English Horn; Alyssa Kuhn, Violin; and Julieta Mihai, Violin. *Pilgrim Soul* was inspired by this beautiful and heartfelt poem by William Butler Yeats:

WHEN YOU ARE OLD

When you are old and grey and full of sleep,
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;
How many loved your moments of glad grace,
And loved your beauty with love false or true,
But one man loved the pilgrim Soul in you,
And loved the sorrows of your changing face;
And bending down beside the glowing bars,
Murmur, a little sadly, how Love fled
And paced upon the mountains overhead
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.

OSNAT NETZER: RECAPSIZE

I wrote *String Quartet No 2* while I was a student of John Heiss at New England Conservatory. It was composed in Cambridge, Massachusetts and completed in October of 2007. I revised the work in the summer of 2010.

**CLARICE ASSAD:
SYNCHRONOUS FOR OBOE
AND STRING QUARTET**

Synchronous is in two movements. The two movements are in five minutes and each is supposed to be happening at the same time. Movement one, "Sunrise Reverie," is in one location, where an overwhelmingly beautiful sunrise takes place. Movement two, "News Feed," is that same amount of time, passing by as different events taking place in other parts of the world, disconnected imageries that one finds in a social media website stream.