

New Music from CMA

Program Notes

***Belgian Bliss (2010)*, by David Del Tredici**
Commissioned and performed by the Dorian Wind Quintet

The kernel of the idea that culminated in *Belgian Bliss* took shape when David Del Tredici decided to write a riff on Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" to honor friends who were to be married in Belgium. But when the Dorian Wind Quintet approached the composer to write a new work for the ensemble's 50th anniversary, he decided to use his Mendelssohn sketch as a basis for a larger piece. The work is the composer's first for this instrumentation.

***Suno, Suno (2009)*, by Rez Abbasi**
Commissioned and performed by Rez Abbasi's Invocation

Rez Abbasi describes *Suno Suno* ("Listen, Listen") as "the first of my music to capture the totality of my most important musical influences—jazz, classical Indian and Western orchestral—but also the Qawwali music of Pakistan, a music of praise. Qawwali tunes are long and have a trancelike quality. You go through emotion from beginning to end—but in a good way."

***Culai (2012)* by Lev "Lyova" Zhurbin**
Commissioned and performed by Brooklyn Rider

Culai, Lev Zhurbin's work for string quartet, is named for Nicolae ("Culai") Neacsu, the elder violinist and vocalist of the Gypsy ensemble Taraf de Haïidouks. Neacsu died in 2002, and in this piece, writes Zhurbin, "I took much inspiration from the way he seduced the audience with his gaze, told stories of Gypsy life in Romania, and played violin, equally with the innocence of an amateur student and the smirk of a professional who's been on the road for decades and had seen everything."

***A Lorca Soundscape (2011)*, by Alexis Cuadrado**
with lyrics by Federico García Lorca
Commissioned for the Alexis Cuadrado Group

Long before terms like "1 percenters" and "Occupy" entered our conversations, the great Spanish playwright and poet Federico García Lorca was writing about the inequality he witnessed while in New York City in 1929. Bassist/composer Alexis Cuadrado's cycle of original jazz protest songs is drawn from Lorca's poetry, creating a groundbreaking dialog across time with a unique blend of jazz, flamenco, and new music.

Belgian Bliss and *Culai* were made possible by the Chamber Music America *Classical Commissioning Program*, with funding generously provided by the Andrew W Mellon Foundation, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and the Chamber Music America Endowment Fund

Suno, Suno and *A Lorca Soundscape* were created through CMA's *New Jazz Works: Commissioning and Ensemble Development* program, with funding generously provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.