
DAVE, The Premiere

New works by guys named Dave

Listings Information:

Friday, June 4, 2010 @ 7:30pm

Symphony Space's Leonard Nimoy Thalia
2537 Broadway at 95th Street, New York City

Tickets and Information: 212.864.5400 or
www.symphonyspace.org

Saturday, June 5, 2010 @ 8:00pm

Settlement Music School, Mary Louise Curtis Branch

416 Queen Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147

Tickets at door only: \$20 general admission; \$15 students/seniors
Information: 215.438.5282

New York, NY (May 3, 2010) The **PRISM Quartet** presents a program of new music by guys named Dave in New York City and Philadelphia, including world premieres by David Biedenbender, David Laganella, David T. Little, and David Ludwig, as well as the New York/Philadelphia premiere of *Revolutionary Etudes* by Pulitzer Prize-winner David Lang. The program also features the world premiere of a freshly minted work by Ilana “Davey” Rainero-de Haan, winner of the 2010 PRISM/Walden School Commissioning Award. The New York concert will take place at Symphony Space in the Leonard Nimoy Thalia, 2537 Broadway (at 95th Street), on Friday, June 4, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets and information, call (212) 864-5400 or visit www.symphonyspace.org. The Philadelphia concert will be presented the following evening at Settlement Music School's Mary Louise Curtis Branch, 416 Queen Street in South Philadelphia, on Saturday, June 5, 2010 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets will be available only at the door: \$20 general admission, \$15 students and seniors. For more information, call (215) 438-5282.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

David Biedenbender's wife talks in her sleep. Working late at night, he hears her speaking a language that “contains familiar words and sounds but is completely incomprehensible.” For his new work, *you've been talking in your sleep*, the composer imagined a musical analogue to this surreal language, “a sort of synthesis of clarity and complete nonsense... a dialogue between the conscious self and the sleeping self.” Biedenbender plays the electric bass, bass trombone, and euphonium. His honors include the Third Millennium Ensemble's Composition Contest, the SCI Student Composer Competition, the ASCAP/CBDNA Frederick Fennell Prize, the Michigan Music Teachers' Association Composition Competition, and the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composers Awards.

Composer and electric guitarist **David Laganella** wrote *Leafless Trees: Five Scenes from Stewart Lake* for PRISM during the harsh winter months of February and March 2010. Each “scene” is based on observations he made while walking through Stewart Lake Park near his home in Woodbury, NJ. Laganella's music has been performed by the American Composers Orchestra, Da Capo Chamber Players, Network for New Music, and pianist Marilyn Nonken, among many others. He has received honors from organizations such as ASCAP, Meet the Composer, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the American Composers Forum. Currently Associate Professor of Music at Wesley College in Dover, DE, Laganella also serves as Artistic Director of Chamber Music Now's annual concert series and is the author of *The Composer's Guide to the Electric Guitar*.

David T. Little titled his work *raw power* after Iggy Pop's 1973 album of the same name. In his six-minute homage, Little nods both to the “joyous honk” of Pop's proto-punk sound and the “fascinating dichotomy” of his persona, which the composer calls “one part dork and two parts danger.” Little's popular/classical fusions have been performed at Tanglewood, Aspen, Cabrillo and MATA Festivals, and by eighth blackbird, So Percussion, NYCO (Vox), the London Sinfonietta, and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra under Marin Alsop. Currently

completing his PhD at Princeton, he teaches music in New York through Carnegie Hall's Musical Connections program and serves as the first-ever Digital Composer-in-Residence for the UK-based DilettanteMusic.com. An active drummer, he can be heard performing with the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), and with his ensemble Newspeak.

David Ludwig wrote *Density 15.1* for solo performance by tenor saxophonist Matthew Levy, PRISM's last remaining founding member. The title refers to the combined density of copper and zinc, the two components of the brass used to make saxophones. It also alludes to *Density 21.5*, Edgar Varèse's work for platinum flute that served as Ludwig's inspiration. *Density 15.1* uses some of *21.5*'s musical materials and, further, plays off the word 'density' to "explore texture, volume, and speed." Ludwig's music has been performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Library of Congress; has played on PBS and NPR's *Weekend Edition*; and was recognized in the New York Times for its "expressive directness." Currently, he is a member of the composition faculty at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

The 2010 winner of the PRISM/Walden School Commissioning Award is **Ilana "Davey" Rainero-de Haan**, a four-year attendee of Walden's summer composition program in New Hampshire. In 2008, ASCAP awarded her its Irving Berlin summer camp scholarship. "Davey" has studied piano for fifteen years and composition for six; currently, she is a sophomore at Dickinson College. Rainero-de Haan's work for PRISM—and her first composition for saxophones—is *as of this moment*. "I challenged myself to ignore my usual impulse of beginning with a melody, and to focus solely on rhythmic development," she says. These parameters "grew into a series of transitions: chaos to order, polyrhythmic angularity to smooth regularity, and textural murkiness to a lyrical ending."

In addition to the five brand-new works on the program of **DAVE, The Premiere**, PRISM will give the New York and Philadelphia premiere of *Revolutionary Etudes* by 2008 Pulitzer Prize-winner **David Lang**. He recalls how the work came about: "I started with what became the second movement... writing endless streams of notes.... Somehow, what I was doing reminded me of what Chopin did in his Etude opus 10, number 12—make a ridiculously fast and vaguely minor scale last forever. Chopin's piece is of course called the *Revolutionary Etude*. I decided to make a set of these, myself." One of America's most performed and honored composers, Lang's recent works include **writing on water** for the London Sinfonietta and **the difficulty of crossing a field**, a fully staged opera for the Kronos Quartet.

ABOUT THE PRISM QUARTET

"Superb sax group..." – The New Yorker

Champions of modern chamber music, the **PRISM Quartet** has premiered over 120 works in settings ranging from featured performances with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center to concerto appearances with the Detroit Symphony and Cleveland Orchestras. PRISM has been a winner of commissioning grants from Chamber Music America, The Presser Foundation, the Rockefeller Multi-Arts Production Fund, the NEA, and Meet the Composer, and has twice been the recipient of the CMA/ASCAP Adventurous Programming Award. The Quartet has recorded for Koch, Albany, Naxos, and Innova and may also be heard on the soundtrack of the film *Two Plus One*, the feature film debut of writer/director and Emmy nominee Eugene Martin, scored by Matthew Levy and broadcasted on Showtime's Sundance Channel. PRISM is also featured in the theme music of *Now*, a weekly television news magazine on PBS. Please visit www.prismquartet.com.

PROGRAM

David Biedenbender, *you've been talking in your sleep**

* WORLD PREMIERE

David Laganella, *Leafless Trees: Five Scenes from Stewart Lake**

** NEW YORK/PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

David T. Little, *raw power**

David Ludwig, *Density 15.1**

Ilana "Davey" Rainero-de Haan, *as of this moment**

David Lang, *Revolutionary Etudes***

Note: High-resolution images of PRISM are available for download at <http://prismquartet.com/presenters.html>

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