

1CONTINUUM® - 45th Season
Cheryl Seltzer & Joel Sachs, Directors
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MUSIC AT THE CROSSROADS
Composers of Central Asia, featuring Dmitri Yanov-Yanovsky

CONTINUUM, Cheryl Seltzer and Joel Sachs, directors, presents the second concert of its landmark 45th New York season. The concert is Sunday, February 13, 7 PM, at Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center, 129 West 67th Street.

Continuum has been acclaimed throughout its long history for introducing little-known, extraordinary composers from around the world to New York and the country as a whole. Continuum's discoveries often are the rewards of its travels in remote parts of the globe. In the case of its forthcoming concert, the ensemble has been fortunate to have toured several times to Central Asia, most particularly to Uzbekistan, but also to Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. The strong musical traditions and the creativity of composers there left an indelible impression, all the more remarkable considering the difficulties for progressive composers working in repressive and turbulent environments.

Continuum will feature DMITRI YANOV-YANOVSKY, from Uzbekistan, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of his country's cultural life as professor of composition and founder/director of the Ilkhom Festival, an innovative annual international event which he heroically sustained for ten years. Highly regarded in Europe and the former Soviet Union, he recently spent two years at Harvard University on a special fellowship invitation and currently is teaching in the Chicago area. Yo-Yo Ma's premiere of his Cello Concerto with the Chicago Symphony last season prompted the *Chicago Tribune* to write "Some of the most striking voices in today's classical composition are not coming out of the West but from far-flung outposts on the other side of the world. Such a voice is that of Dmitri Yanov-Yanovsky." Continuum will perform three of his works: *Chang-Music IV* (1991), a work for string quartet which emulates the Central Asian cimbalom; *A-S-C-H* (Homage to Alfred Schnittke for ensemble - 2004); and *Five Limericks by Edward Lear* (2005 - New York Premiere), for mezzo-soprano and piano trio. Another work from Uzbekistan, *Music for Chamber Ensemble* (2004) was composed by Yanov-Yanovsky's former student JAKHONGIR SHUKUROV. Continuum's program will include both music composed in a contemporary international language, with, at most, subtle ethnic qualities, as well as music clearly inspired by the region's ancient music. The Kazakh composer AKTOTY RAIMKULOVA's *Alatau*, for ensemble (2011) and written for the concert, reflects her country's folk music. The title refers to the majestic mountains hovering over Almaty, her city. The country of Tajikistan, while currently desperately poor and underdeveloped after a long civil war, has a rich musical heritage. Central Asian colorations will be heard in the works of Tajikistan-born FARANGIS NURULLA-KHOJA - *Blind Flower* for mezzo-soprano and ensemble (2008), and BENJAMIN YUSUPOV - *Haqqoni (Crossroads 4 - 2007)*, both written for and premiered previously by Continuum. Nurulla-Khoja now lives in Montreal, and Yusupov, a masterful conductor and pianist as well, immigrated to Israel during Tajikistan's civil war. *Haqqoni* combines a live ensemble with vintage recordings of ritualistic chanting and singing from his family's Bukharian tradition.

Artists are Rachel Calloway, mezzo-soprano; Tanya Dusevic Witek, flute; Moran Katz, clarinet; Renée Jolles, Airi Yoshioka, violin; Eva Gerard, viola; Claire Bryant, Chris Gross, cello; Jared Soldiviero, percussion; Cheryl Seltzer, piano; Joel Sachs, conductor.

Continuum's signature Retrospective Series has been a hallmark of New York's musical life since the organization's founding in 1966. Its innovative programming has been especially valued for introducing New York to unknown extraordinary composers from around the world, many of whom later

achieve worldwide standing. Continuum, in turn, has had remarkable opportunities to bring American and other new music to festivals in far corners of the world, in the ensemble's travels to such locations as Brazil, Venezuela, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Mongolia, Indonesia, and Korea. Continuum has recorded on Nonesuch, Musical Heritage Society, Bridge, CRI, Capstone, Cambria/Troppe Note, TNC Recordings, Naxos, and New Albion, and has been broadcast extensively on national and European television and radio.

This concert is made possible in part with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, and support from the Aaron Copland Fund, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the Virgil Thomson Foundation, and other private and business donors. Benjamin Yusupov's *Haqqoni* was commissioned for Continuum by Edward Yagudaev in memory of Eduard Nektalov.

Tickets \$20, seniors, students \$10, are available at the box office, 129 West 67th Street (212-501-3330), www.merkinconcerthall.org. Continuum's website: www.continuum-ensemble-ny.org.

Continuum's final concert of its New York season is Sunday, May 1, 7 PM - CONTINUUM IS 45! Celebrating with works written for Continuum - world premieres by Ursula Mamlok, Ileana Perez Velázquez, and Wang Jie; New York premieres by Carman Moore and Roberto Sierra, and a work by Elliott Schwartz in honor of his 75th year.