

**NEW MUSIC SYMPOSIUM**  
**with William Bolcom and Thomas Wilkins**  
**Omaha, Nebraska**  
**May 30 – June 1, 2012**

**Scores must be postmarked by February 1, 2012, to be considered.**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

The Omaha Symphony New Music Symposium is designed to provide vital enrichment experiences for young composers. The Symposium will consist of reading sessions by a professional orchestra - a rare opportunity for young composers to test their skills in a real-life laboratory setting - and the opportunity to work directly with master composer William Bolcom, Omaha Symphony Music Director Thomas Wilkins, and teams of musicians from the Omaha Symphony. The event will culminate in a formal public performance.

**DATES:** May 30 – June 1, 2012

**LOCATIONS:** The New Music Symposium will be held at KANEKO, in Omaha, Nebraska.

**GOALS**

- Identify the next generation of talented composers and invest in their growth and development.
- Provide a unique learning environment for young composers to study their craft.
- Facilitate mentoring relationships between next generation composers, established conductors, and high-profile composers.
- Create opportunities for young composers to interact with and receive feedback directly from professional orchestra musicians.
- Expand the variety of repertoire available to the chamber orchestra.

**AWARD**

Based upon a Call for Scores, a maximum of four composers will be selected. Each winner will be awarded a \$500 cash prize and the opportunity to participate in the Symposium, which includes a public performance.

**ELIGIBILITY**

Composers must be enrolled as a full-time student in a college or university degree program and must have been born after January 1, 1977, to enter the competition. Applicants must be residents of the United States.

## **AUDITORS**

Additional composers will be invited to attend the Symposium as auditors. Auditors will have the opportunity to observe all Symposium sessions and will have individual meetings with symposium faculty. Auditors are responsible for making their own travel and housing arrangements.

## **TRAVEL AND LODGING**

The Omaha Symphony Guild will provide lodging for each participant during the symposium. Winners are responsible for making their own travel arrangements.

## **CALL FOR SCORES**

**Scores must be postmarked no later than February 1, 2012.**

### **GUIDELINES FOR COMPOSITIONS**

- 1) The composition must be scored for chamber orchestra or chamber ensemble personnel. Maximum orchestral size: winds: 2222, brass: 2211, timp + 2 percussion, harp, keyboard, strings 6-6-4-3-2. Compositions for full chamber strings only will be accepted. Concertos, works requiring soloists, or compositions for ensembles smaller than eight musicians will not be considered.
- 2) Length should not exceed 15 minutes. A portion or movement from a longer work may be considered.
- 3) Standard instrument doubling is acceptable as long as the total required instrumentation does not exceed the maximum set forth above.
- 4) Works employing electronics, MIDI, digital technology or sound reinforcement will not be considered.
- 5) The work must be previously unpublished and cannot have been performed or read by a professional orchestra prior to the date of the symposium.
- 6) Only one work per composer will be considered.
- 7) Applicants must be residents of the United States.

Please note: a score and one set of parts for each winning composition will remain property of the Omaha Symphony and may be programmed on future Omaha Symphony concerts without further royalty payments to the composer.

### **RULES FOR SUBMISSION:**

- 1) Submit two bound copies of your score. Photocopies are acceptable.
- 2) Please use only the last four digits of your social security number as the identification on your score. *(Please do not put your name anywhere on the scores themselves.)*
- 3) Audio and videotapes will not be considered.
- 4) Submit a bio and resume including current contact information.
- 5) Submit one letter of recommendation from a current composition instructor.
- 6) Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you wish to have your material returned.
- 7) Send all materials to: New Music Symposium, Omaha Symphony, 1605 Howard Street, Omaha, NE 68102

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (Subject to Change):**

### **Wednesday, May 30, 2012**

9:00am	Welcome Breakfast
10:00am – 12:30pm	Orchestra Reading #1 (recorded)
12:30 – 2:00pm	Group meeting with William Bolcom, Thomas Wilkins and Ernest Richardson.
2:00 – 5:00pm	Composer Work Time

### **Thursday, May 31, 2012**

9:00am – 3:00pm	Private meetings for each composer with symposium faculty
3:00 – 5:00pm	Composer Work Time
7:00 – 9:30pm	Orchestra Reading #2 (recorded) - <b><i>Open to the public</i></b>

### **Friday, June 1, 2012**

2:30 - 5:00pm	Dress rehearsal
7:00pm	New Music Symposium Public Concert (recorded)
8:30pm	Post-concert Question and Answer
9:00pm	Reception sponsored by the Omaha Symphony Guild.

Composers accepted to the New Music Symposium may be asked to participate in media interviews, pre-concert events, and other events designed to keep the public up-to-speed on the progress of the Symposium.

## FACULTY:

### WILLIAM BOLCOM, Composer

Named 2007 Composer of the Year by Musical America, and honored with multiple Grammy Awards for his ground-breaking setting of Blake's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*, William Bolcom is a composer of cabaret songs, concertos, sonatas, operas, symphonies, and much more. He was awarded the 1988 Pulitzer Prize in Music for his *Twelve New Etudes* for piano.

As a pianist he has recorded for Advance, Jazzology, Musical Heritage, Nonesuch, Vox, and Omega. With his wife, mezzo-soprano Joan Morris, he has performed in concert for more than 35 years throughout the United States, Canada, and abroad.

In May 2010 there were two premieres of new works: *Romanza* by violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg with the New Century Chamber Orchestra in San Francisco and *La fantome du Clavecin* by harpsichordist Andreas Skouras in London.

2009 saw the premieres of First Symphony for Band in February by the University of Michigan Symphony Band in Ann Arbor, Michigan; *Shakyamuni* in February by Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center for the reopening of Alice Tully Hall; and in May, *Introduzione e Rondo: HAYDN GO SEEK* by the Haydn Trio Eisenstadt in Eisenstadt, Austria and *Lady Liberty* by The Master Singers of Lexington [Mass.] and The Ann Arbor Vocal Arts Ensemble.

In February 2008 his *Eighth Symphony* was premiered by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Tanglewood Festival Chorus conducted by James Levine in Boston, MA and Carnegie Hall/New York. Within the same month the Guarneri and Johannes String Quartets premiered Bolcom's *Octet: Double Quartet*. Other 2008 premieres: *Ballade* in January 2008 by pianist Ursula Oppens; *Lucrezia*, a one-act comic opera for 5 singers and 2 pianists, in March 2008 by New York Festival of Song; *Four Piedmont Choruses* in May 2008 by the Piedmont Chamber Singers; *A Song for St. Cecilia's Day* in June 2008 at the University of Chicago.

In 2007 Bolcom was feted in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, with a two and a half-week festival of his music, including master classes, recitals, and concerts of his organ and chamber music. Titled *Illuminating Bolcom*, the festival was highlighted by two performances of *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* accompanied by animated projections of Blake's illuminations. The animations were commissioned by VocalEssence and created by projection designer Wendall K. Harrington.

In September 2006 Bolcom's *Canciones de Lorca* with tenor Placido Domingo, the Pacific Symphony Orchestra, and conductor Carl St. Clair, was premiered at the gala opening concert of the Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, Orange Country Performing Arts Center, Costa Mesa, CA.

Bolcom taught composition at the University of Michigan from 1973-2008. Named a full professor in 1983, he was Chairman of the Composition Department from 1998 to 2003 and was named the Ross Lee Finney Distinguished University Professor of Composition in the fall of 1994. He retired from teaching in 2008.

## **THOMAS WILKINS, Music Director**

Thomas Wilkins is music director of the Omaha Symphony, a position he has held since 2005. Additionally he serves as principal guest conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra. In 2010 he joined the Boston Symphony Orchestra where he holds the Gersmeshausen Family and Youth Concerts Conductor Chair, only the third person to hold this title in its 57 year history. Past positions have included resident conductor of the Detroit Symphony, as well as the Florida Orchestra (Tampa Bay) and associate conductor of the Richmond Symphony (Virginia). He has also served on the music faculties of North Park University (Chicago), the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga, and Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

Committed to promoting a life-long enthusiasm for music, Thomas brings energy and commitment to audiences of all ages. For his significant contribution to the children of Tampa Bay, the Pinellas County Music Educators Association named him 1998 Friend of the Arts and the Hillsborough County Elementary Music Educators recognized him as 1998 Music Educator of the Year. In the 2007/08 season, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra awarded him the Classical Roots Musical Achievement Award.

During his conducting career, Thomas has been featured with orchestras throughout the United States, including the Dallas Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, Houston Symphony, Baltimore Symphony and the National Symphony in Washington D.C. He is also a frequent guest conductor of the New Jersey Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, San Diego Symphony, and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Recent debuts include appearances with the Rochester (NY) Philharmonic, the Utah Symphony, and the Brevard (NC) Music Festival. Future engagements include returns to the National Symphony Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the symphonies of Atlanta, Detroit, San Diego, and New Jersey.

Thomas Wilkins serves as a director at large for the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, and has served on the board of directors of such organizations as the Center Against Spouse Abuse in Tampa Bay, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the Academy Preparatory Center for Education, both in St. Petersburg, and the foundation board of the Charles Drew Health Center, here in Omaha. Currently, he serves as chairman of the board for the Raymond James Charitable Endowment Fund. A native of Norfolk, Virginia, Thomas earned his bachelor of music education degree from the Shenandoah Conservatory of Music in 1978. In 1982, he was awarded the master of music degree in orchestral conducting from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

Thomas and his wife, Sheri-Lee, reside in Omaha with their twin daughters, Erica and Nicole.

### **ERNEST RICHARDSON, Resident Conductor**

Resident Conductor Ernest Richardson enters his 19th year with the Omaha Symphony in the 2011/12 season. In addition to conducting the successful Symphony Pops series, he is the chief architect of the Omaha Symphony's outreach and education programs. Ernest also serves as the Music Director of the Steamboat Springs Orchestra in Colorado and as the Artistic Director and CEO of the innovative Rocky Mountain Summer Conservatory.

Well known and sought after for his work with young musicians, Richardson has been guest conductor and clinician for regional and all-state orchestras in Arizona and Nebraska, the Phoenix Symphony Guild Youth Orchestra, Omaha Area Youth Orchestra, as well as festivals in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the University of Georgia. He has also guest conducted with the Nashville Symphony, Opera Omaha, Fort Collins Symphony, Battle Creek Symphony, Colorado Symphony Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony, Cheyenne Symphony, and the Phoenix Symphony. Prior to his appointment in Omaha, Richardson founded and served as music director and conductor for the Phoenix Chamber Players and the Phoenix Symphony Baroque Ensemble.

Ernest's dedication to music began at the age of three, when he started studying the violin with his father, Dr. Vernal Richardson. He continued his string education at Indiana University with Tadeusz Wronski, later concentrating on the viola at the University of Michigan with Donald McInnes. While attending the University of Michigan, Richardson also studied composition with William Albright.

Richardson came to the Phoenix Symphony as a violist in 1984, appearing later as a soloist and acting associate principal. In 1990, his talents were added to the Phoenix Symphony String Quartet. Richardson studied conducting with Samuel Krachmalnick and Gustav Meier.

An accomplished composer, Ernest's compositions and arrangements for orchestra have been performed by the Phoenix Chamber Players, the Phoenix Symphony, and the Omaha Symphony. Richardson's chamber music has been performed throughout the United States.

### **JESSICA SLAIS, Librarian**

Jessica Slais has been Librarian for the Omaha Symphony since 2005. Prior to joining the Omaha Symphony, she studied clarinet performance at Concordia College, Moorhead, MN, and worked for two seasons in the music library at the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Florida. During the summer of 2006 she served as the orchestra librarian for the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. In 2010, Jessica coordinated the Major Orchestra Librarians' Association (MOLA) conference that was hosted by the Omaha Symphony. In addition to her duties as librarian, Jessica also served as the Omaha Symphony's acting general manager for the 2010/11 season.

### **OMAHA SYMPHONY MUSICIAN TEAMS**

A team of two Omaha Symphony musicians will be assigned to each New Music Symposium participant. The musician team will gather feedback from the orchestra and share this information with the composer at individual sessions held on day two of the symposium.

### **OMAHA SYMPHONY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

The Omaha Symphony Chamber Orchestra will serve as the ensemble for the New Music Symposium. The Symposium will involve four sessions with the orchestra. In the first two orchestra sessions, each work will be given a total of 60 minutes of rehearsal/clinic time. The third orchestra session is devoted to incorporating changes made by composers following the initial readings of their work and intense rehearsal in preparation for a public performance. The final session will be a public performance of all four compositions.

## **KANEKO, New Music Symposium Host**

KANEKO is a new kind of organization - an open space for minds that explores and promotes creativity in the arts, sciences, business, and philosophy. Creativity is vital element in all successful human activity. We believe that all people are capable of creative interaction and that people and organizations should nurture and develop their creative capacities.

KANEKO's vision is to become a national center that explores and encourages creativity in all fields and serves as a major resource for fueling the creative growth of the Omaha metro area, its region, our country, and the world.

### **Creativity**

Research indicates that creativity is essential for learning and understanding the accelerating changes in the world today. It is an important element in finding new and innovative solutions for complex and serious problems. It empowers people of all ages and demographics to reach they're full potential.

KANEKO strives to stimulate and impact creativity, creative thought, and creative activity and to further knowledge and awareness of the creative process and its importance. KANEKO coordinates efforts by organizations in the region and encourages collaboration to enhance the quality of creative life in our community.

### **Programs**

Through progressive public programs such as lectures, exhibitions, symposia, internships, performances, education programs, community outreach and other innovative programming, we encourage people to explore and experience the creative process. Through selected, invitation only, incubator programs KANEKO thoughtfully convenes groups of people and organizational representatives to exchange and share, to collaborate, in discussing, planning, and implementing solutions to challenges in our community.

### **An Open Space for Your Mind**

KANEKO is housed in three historic buildings in the Old Market District of Omaha, where a large flexible multiuse space, research center, library, multilevel exhibition spaces, well-equipped studio for creative programming, multimedia spaces, and gardens are planned. Internationally respected architect Mark Mack has developed the design for the facility and, to date, two of the spaces have been completed: the exciting state-of-the art KANEKO-UNO Library and the spacious, elegant Bow Truss multiuse space.