

Dalton Wed@7:30pm: *Live and Interactive!*

2018–2019 Season
73rd Concert

Wednesday 24 October 2018

Dalton Center Recital Hall

7:30 p.m.

Pre-Concert talk with Dr. Robert White at 7 p.m.

THE MUSIC OF RAMON AND MISCHA ZUPKO

Mischa Zupko

b. 1971

Rising for Violin and Piano (2017)

Sang Mee Lee, Violin
Mischa Zupko, Piano

Mischa Zupko

Source of Breath, Source of Life (2007)

BIRDS ON A WIRE
Sarah Bortz, Flute
Emily Mikel Rowe, Clarinet
Bradford Crossland, Percussion
Molly Sanford, Piano
Eric Dalmau, Violin
James Alexander, Cello
David Colson, Conductor

Ramon Zupko

b. 1932

Nocturnes (1977)

1. (Calmato) autumn evening;
a crow perched on a withered bough (Basho)
2. (Bizzarramente) the sound of dancing dies;
wind among the pine trees, insect cries (Sogetsu)
3. (Freddamente) icy the moonshine;
shadow of a tombstone shadow of a pine (Shiki)
4. (Ardente) a lightening gleam
into darkness travels a night-heron's scream (Basho)
5. (Affabile) the water-fowl pecks and shivers –
the moon on the waves (Zuiryu)
6. (Lontano) the bell from far away –
how it moves along in its coming through the spring haze! (Onitsura)

Yu-Lien The, Piano
Silvia Roederer, Piano

intermission

Mischa Zupko

Violin Concerto (2017)

I. Veils

II. Escape Velocity

Sang Mee Lee, Violin

Mischa Zupko, Piano

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PROGRAM NOTES

Rising

Mischa Zupko began his musical career at the age of three with piano lessons from his father, and has pursued music more or less single-mindedly ever since. After earning a bachelor's degree in piano performance from Northwestern University, he turned to composition for his graduate studies, finishing a doctorate from Indiana University. In addition to his highly regarded performance schedule and his commissions and collaborations, he holds teaching positions at DePaul University, Roosevelt University, and Trinity Christian College.

In regard to *Rising*, he says: "*Rising* reflects on the event of Jesus' Ascension from earth to the right hand of God (Luke 24:50–53). The work opens with a rising violin motive, an upward-turning arabesque that creates the aural illusion of a spiraling ascent. As the work reaches for its conclusion, the violin makes its final ascent into the ether, while the piano continues a reverie suggestive of the faithful who long for Jesus' return, firmly planted on the earth but yearning for the heavens. *Rising* was commissioned for the 50th anniversary of the Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Northfield, Ill. It is dedicated to the late violinist Oliver Colbentson, esteemed colleague and friend of the congregation."

Source of Breath, Source of Life

On this piece, too, the composer's own words serve best: "*Source of Breath, Source of Life* was commissioned by Eighth Blackbird with the specific intent that it would be recorded and serve as an installation in a multimedia pavilion created by the Foresight Design for the Chicago Green Festival '07. Based on the notion of a "Sustainable City," this is a short work that explores the conflict between maintaining a sustainable environment and our dependence on an inefficient industry that spoils it and ultimately contributes to what we now refer to as global climate change. The most

essential element of our environment, the pure air we breathe, is continually compromised in the pursuit of ever more convenient lifestyles. As an attempt to make this manifest, the sound of breathing is used as a musical idea throughout the piece, but ultimately succumbs to the busy musical lines and industrial sounds (metallic clanks, pounding, etc.) that dominate as the piece progresses. At the point where it seems hope is lost, breath returns amidst chaos, and the piece concludes with a musical exhale. This work is dedicated to my son Leo, who is to be born at the end of May and for whom I pray will grow up in a world that keeps striving to do better."

Nocturnes

Ramon Zupko, Professor Emeritus, composed *Nocturnes* several years into his career at Western Michigan University, where he began teaching in 1971. He taught theory and composition, eventually adding the creation and direction of the Studio for Electronic and Computer Music. When developing his pieces, Zupko often draws inspiration from literary sources – in this case, Japanese haiku.

In an interview with the Chicago Reader, Mischa Zupko describes the similarities between his own compositional process and that of his father, Ramon: "We both have an interest in modernizing older forms. We write music that we love to hear... we're both very visceral with our music. We want the music to communicate directly and immediately... Composing is about changing the world for a moment."

Violin Concerto

The *Violin Concerto* was commissioned by violinist Sang Mee Lee and premiered by Lee and the Indiana University New Music Ensemble under the baton of David Dzubay on March 9, 2017.