



Department of Music

February 3, 2011

(909)-607-2671
concerts@pomona.edu

MEETING THE MUSIC OF ARNOLD SCHOENBERG AT POMONA COLLEGE

Pomona College's Department of Music will offer two events featuring the music of Arnold Schoenberg on **Sunday, February 13**. Both events are free and open to the public.

The events commence with a **4 p.m. panel discussion** on the music of Schoenberg held in Lyman Hall in Thatcher Music Building. The panel, comprised of Deborah How (pianist and scholar), Melanie Schoenberg (composer and granddaughter of Arnold), Kenneth Marcus (Associate Professor of History, University of La Verne), and Alfred Cramer (Associate Professor of Music, Pomona College), will offer insights into understanding Schoenberg's music, and its impact on future composers.

Following the panel, is a **7 p.m. recital in Bridges Hall of Music**, featuring the music of Schoenberg, along with that of Alfred Schnittke and Wadada Leo Smith, performed by the Formalist Quartet, pianist Gayle Blankenburg and internationally known baritone Heinz Blankenburg.

In 2003, Gayle Blankenburg and violinist Mark Menzies (CalArts) performed several Schoenberg chamber music works in the Schoenberg family home in Brentwood, California, at Cooper Union in New York City, at the Schoenberg Institute in Vienna, Austria, and in Schoenberg's boyhood home in Müdling, Austria.

Since then, Blankenburg said, "We have been anxious to reprise several of those works, including the Violin Fantasy, the solo piano *Six Little Pieces*, and in particular, the *Ode to Napoleon*, this time with Heinz as the narrator," which comprises the second half of the program." Additionally, the Formalist Quartet and Blankenburg will perform quintets by Schnittke and Wadada Leo Smith. Later this year, the Quartet will record this and some of Smith's other works.

The Formalist Quartet, with members Andrew Tholl, violin; Mark Menzies and Andrew McIntosh, violin/viola; and Ashley Walters, cello, are dedicated to the performance of adventurous and relevant repertoire focusing on contemporary pieces, as well as exploring a diverse spectrum of early music and the standard repertoire. The quartet was founded on the 100th birthday of Dmitri Shostakovich and since then has been playing frequently across the country, including the Roy O. Disney Hall at CalArts; the REDCAT; University of California, San Diego; Stanford University; the Flatfile Galleries, Chicago; Cornelia Street Cafe, New York; MOSA Concert Series, New York; and the Et Cetera New Music Festival. Their recordings are available on Innova records.

Narrator **Heinz Blankenburg** has had an esteemed career, having sung for most of the world's major opera companies, including those in San Francisco, Seattle, Berlin, Rome, Venice, and Paris, as well as the Vienna State Opera and Glyndebourne Festival Opera. While at the Hamburg State Opera, he became one of just 19 individuals in 287 years to be awarded the honorary title of *Kammersänger*, or distinguished court singer.

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Blankenburg has taught at various universities, including the University of California at Los Angeles, where he headed the foreign-language diction program for singers. He has written three widely-used diction texts with accompanying tapes. His activities as a stage director have ranged from universities to professional opera companies, both in the United States and abroad.

His wife and pianist **Gayle Blankenburg** has performed extensively to great critical acclaim as a solo pianist, chamber musician, and vocal accompanist. The *Los Angeles Times* has said of her playing, "Blankenburg played with elegant power and poise... Her crisp touch and light pedaling produced crystalline, pensive, haunting sequences... This is a gratefully idiomatic piece for a pianist with both power and a palette, requirements Blankenburg met easily." She has performed much of the standard chamber music repertoire with members of major orchestras across the country, including members of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. From 1996 to 2003 she was a roster artist with Southwest Chamber Music, with whom she regularly performed and recorded. She has also performed with Phyllis Bryn-Julson at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, in New York City, and in Vienna, Austria. She is currently a founding member of the LA-based ensemble "inauthentica" with whom she has recently recorded works of Richard Cameron-Wolfe with soprano Lucy Shelton, and Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* with soprano Jennifer Goltz. The latter recording has received the highest critical acclaim from *Gramophone Magazine*, *Opera News*, and *The American Record Guide*. Blankenburg is currently on the piano faculties of the Claremont Colleges, teaching at Scripps College, the Claremont Graduate University and Pomona College.

All concerts are free and open to the public. More concert information is available online at www.music.pomona.edu, or by calling 909-607-2671.

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"Music of Arnold Schoenberg: A Discussion"

4 p.m. Sunday, February 13, 2011

Lyman Hall, Thatcher Music Building, 340 N. College Ave, Claremont, CA 91711

Free Admission

A panel discussion offering insights into understanding Schoenberg's music.

Panelists: Deborah How (pianist and scholar), Melanie Schoenberg (composer and granddaughter of Arnold), Kenneth Marcus (Associate Professor of History, University of La Verne), and Alfred Cramer (Associate Professor of Music, Pomona College)

Recital: "Schoenberg and more..."

7 p.m. Sunday, February 13, 2011

Bridges Hall of Music, Pomona College, 150 E. 4th St, Claremont, CA 91711

Free Admission

Formalist String Quartet: Andrew Tholl, violin; Mark Menzies and Andrew McIntosh, violin/viola; Ashley Walters, cello; Gayle Blankenburg, piano and Heinz Blankenburg, narrator

PROGRAM:

Alfred Schnittke Piano Quintet

Wadada Leo Smith String Quartet

Arnold Schoenberg Fantasy for violin and piano, Op. 47

Arnold Schoenberg Six Little Piano Pieces, Op. 19

Arnold Schoenberg Ode to Napoleon, Op. 41