

NEC New Music Ensemble

Stefan Asbury, guest conductor

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

8:00 p.m.

Brown Hall

PROGRAM

Mark-Anthony Turnage

(b. 1960)

Blood on the Floor (1993-1996)

Prologue: Blood on the Floor (Biting)

Junior Addict (Slow and sensuous)

Shout (Harsh and hammered)

Sweet and Decay (Dark and muddy, sweet and tender)

Needles

Elegy for Andy (Tender)

Cut Up (Clear cut and decisive)

Crackdown (Solo freely)

Dispelling the Fears (Bleak and obsessive, always intense)

jazz quartet:

Lenka Molcanyiova, saxophones

Peikun Liu, guitar

Misha Bjerken, bass guitar

Jeff Sagurton, drums

Blood on the Floor is a suite in nine movements composed for orchestra and jazz trio by Mark-Anthony Turnage. It was composed over a span of three years (1993–1996) after a commission from the Ensemble Modern—a German music group—to produce a piece for an evening jazz event in 1994. After the performance, Turnage expanded the piece into a larger nine-movement suite. During this period of composition, Turnage's brother Andrew died of a drug overdose, shaping the music greatly. As a result, drug culture is one of the main themes in the suite. *Blood on the Floor* also draws influences from the paintings of Francis Bacon and Heather Betts; the suite's title is an adaptation of Bacon's painting *Blood on Pavement*.

Like other compositions by Turnage, *Blood on the Floor* incorporates elements of both classical and jazz music. Due to this, it has been described as being part of the "third stream" genre, a term coined by Turnage's former teacher Gunther Schuller. The suite is written as a concerto grosso and features a blend of classical, jazz, non-western and electronic instruments. As part of this fusion, the suite contains space for soloists to improvise in four of its movements. *Blood on the Floor* shows elements of non-functional harmony and has complex rhythmic changes, often changing metre

every bar. Motifs are found recurring throughout the suite.

The premiere performance of *Blood on the Floor* was by the Ensemble Modern at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, in May 1996. The suite received a mixed reception from music critics. Some enjoyed the suite's fusion of classical and jazz music, while others found it to be an unfulfilling combination. Outside of the Ensemble Modern, *Blood on the Floor* has been performed by various ensembles, including the Berlin Philharmonic, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Boston Symphony Orchestra.

– Wikipedia

A regular guest with leading orchestras worldwide, **Stefan Asbury** has appeared with prominent North American orchestras including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, most recently featured in their BSO NOW series which was streamed in January 2021; the LA Philharmonic and LA Chamber Orchestra. The orchestras of Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Fort Worth, St Paul, Montreal and Vancouver Symphony

He has conducted opera and ballet with Theatre de La Monnaie, Brussels, Lyons Opera, the Wien Modern festival, Perth Festival and Venice and Munich Biennales. A regular collaborator with Mark Morris, he conducted for the Mark Morris Dance Group's touring production of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* culminating with performances at Lincoln Center, New York with Orchestra of St Lukes, and in London at the Barbican Centre Theatre with the London Symphony Orchestra. In the 2016 Spoleto Festival, Charleston, he conducted the Galliard Theatre opening production of *Porgy and Bess*

With a worldwide presence, he was Chief Conductor and Conductor Emeritus of the North Netherlands Orchestra 2011-2018, Musician-in-Residence of the Tapiola Sinfonietta 2006-2012. He also has long-standing relationships with major orchestras in Europe and Asia including the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester, Sinfonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, MDR Sinfonieorchester Leipzig, Hessischer Rundfunk Symphony Orchestra Frankfurt, ORF Orchestra Vienna, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Copenhagen Philharmonic, Seoul Philharmonic, and West Australian Symphony Orchestra. He conducted the MDR Sinfonieorchester Leipzig as part of Beethovenfest Bonn 2018 and Orquesta Sinfonica de Bilbao during Bilbao's Musika-Musica 2019 festival, and has appeared with the China National Symphony Orchestra, Beijing and NHK Symphony, Tokyo.

Stefan has particularly strong relationships with many living composers including Steve Reich, Wolfgang Rihm, Unsuk Chin and Mark-Anthony Turnage. As a recording artist, Stefan's CD of music by Jonathan Harvey was awarded a Monde de la Musique CHOC award, and his complete cycle of Gerard Grisey's *Les Espaces Acoustiques* with WDR Sinfonieorchester Köln won a Deutschen Schallplattenkritik award.

Educated at Oxford University and the Royal College of Music London, Stefan was a student conducting fellow at the Tanglewood Music Center in 1990 under Leonard Bernstein and Seiji Ozawa. Since 1995 Stefan Asbury has served on the faculty and has been the Head of Conducting since 2005 and currently is the Perles Family Foundation Artist in Residence.

New Music Ensemble

First Violin

Harin Kang
Anatol Toth
Hyun Ji Lee
Sarah Campbell

Second Violin

K. J. McDonald
Olga Kaminsky
Ioan-Octavian Pirlea
Emily Lin
Arun Asthagiri

Viola

Nicolette Sullivan-Cozza
Philip Rawlinson
Aidan Garrison
Inácia Afonso

Cello

Shijie Ma
Xinyue Zhu
Asher Kalfus
Hechen Sun

Bass

Beth Ann Jones
Daniel Slatch

Flute/Alto Flute

Jungyoon Kim
Anne Chao

Oboe/English horn

Robert Diaz
Alexander Lenser

Clarinet/Bass Clarinet

Phoebe Kuan
Dillon Acey

Bassoon/Contrabassoon

Matthew Heldt
Garret Comrie

Soprano/Alto Saxophone

Zhikang Chen
Xinyi Liao

French horn

Grace Clarke
Graham Lovely

Trumpet

Reynolds Martin
Nelson Martinez
Matthew Dao, assistant

Trombone

Jaehan Kim
Noah Nichilo

Euphonium

David Paligora

Tuba

Masaru Lin

Percussion

Connor Willits
Felix Ko
Lucas Vogelmann

Harp

Shaylen Joos

Keyboard

Yujin Han

We are very grateful to Ken Schaphorst who prepared the orchestra ahead of Mr. Asbury's first rehearsal.

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

Visit necmusic.edu for complete and updated concert and ticketing information

LIEDERABEND LXXI: *This is the place - Voices of Exile and Exodus*

Tanya Blaich and Cameron Stowe, directors

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., Williams Hall

NEC SYMPHONY, Hugh Wolff, conductor

Esmail *RE|Member*; Thompson *An Act of Resistance*; Shostakovich *Symphony No. 5*

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

SONATA NIGHT 50, Music for Cello and Piano

a collaboration with the cello studio of Yeeseun Kim

Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., Burnes Hall

HUMPERDINCK: *Hansel and Gretel*

performed by NEC Undergraduate Opera Studio, Michael Meraw, artistic director

Steven Goldstein, stage director

Thursday-Friday, March 14-15, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre

FACULTY RECITAL: KENNETH RADNOFSKY, saxophone

Monday, March 25, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

TUESDAY NIGHT NEW MUSIC

New music by NEC composers, performed by their peers

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

NEC SAXOPHONE ENSEMBLE: Kenneth Radnofsky, director

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

PIANO DEPARTMENT CONCERT: IVES 150

Bruce Brubaker, curator of piano programming

"Ives Extended": NEC piano students perform *The Celestial Railroad*, the *Set of Five Take-Offs*, works by Carl Ruggles, Lou Harrison and Henry Cowell, and rarely heard music for two pianos in quarter-tones by Ives, David Fulmer, and Georg Haas.

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC Peyton Residency Concert, curated by Sid Richardson

"The Music of Valerie Coleman"

Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

—continued

“CONNECTIONS” CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES, Max Levinson, director
Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Burnes Hall

FIRST MONDAY IN JORDAN HALL, Laurence Lesser, artistic director
Mozart *Ein musikalischer Spass (A Musical Joke)*, K. 522; Smetana *Trio in G Minor*,
op. 15; Bruckner *Quintet in F Major*, WAB 112; Ayano Ninomiya, violin; Kim
Kashkashian, viola; Lluís Claret, cello; HaeSun Paik, piano; Borromeo String
Quartet

Monday, April 1, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC CMA HONORS ENSEMBLE: RED BIRD

Karl Henry, voice, cello; Yifei Marine Zhou, voice; Adrian Chabla, voice, piano,
Jacqui Armbruster, voice, viola; Evan Haskin, guitar

Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC PHILHARMONIA, Hugh Wolff, conductor

Chen Wu Xing (*Five Elements*); Strauss *Death and Transfiguration*;
Prokofiev *Piano Concerto No. 2*, Changyong Shin '24 AD, piano

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC JAZZ HONORS ENSEMBLE: MOON.UNIT

Koki Renwick, trumpet; Jake Walters, piano; Dominic Vance, percussion

Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

NEC PERCUSSION GROUP, Will Hudgins, director

Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

ARTIST DIPLOMA RECITAL: Leland Ko '24, cello

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

ENCHANTED CIRCLE, Steven Drury, artistic director

The Callithumpian Consort performs piano trios by Ives and Ravel and Elliott
Carter's *Sonata for Violoncello and Piano*

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Williams Hall

NEC HONORS ENSEMBLE: TRIO NOMAD

Shalun Li, piano; Felicitas Schiffner, violin; Jiheuk Choi, cello

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

Upcoming Concerts at NEC

—continued

STRAUSS: *Die Fledermaus*

performed by NEC Opera students and members of NEC Philharmonia;

Joshua Major, director; Robert Tweten, conductor

*Thursday–Sunday, April 11-14, 2024, Plimpton Shattuck Black Box Theatre,
times vary*

BRASS BASH, James Markey, director

Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Jordan Hall

MARION RUBIN BERMAN '31 PIANO HONORS CONCERT

Monday, April 15, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

TUESDAY NIGHT NEW MUSIC

New music by NEC composers, performed by their peers

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., Brown Hall

NEC WIND ENSEMBLE & SYMPHONIC WINDS

Carl Atkins, William Drury, Rachel Brake '24 MM, and Jackie Hu '24 MM, conductors

- Atkins *We Free Kings*; Johnson *Poem for Brass*; Dello Joio *Scenes from the Louvre*; Dove
Figures in the Garden; Bach/Mowett *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3*;

Nieske *Pop's Parade*; Schoenberg *Theme and Variations, op. 43a*

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

CMA DEPARTMENT: "The Music of David Bowie"

Lautaro Mantilla, curator

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

SONATA NIGHT 51: Music for Saxophone and Piano

a collaboration with the saxophone studio of Kenneth Radnofsky

Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., Burnes Hall

NEC JAZZ ORCHESTRA, Ken Schaphorst, conductor

Carl Atkins guest conductor - "The Music of Wayne Shorter"

Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., Jordan Hall

SONG AND VERSE 3

JJ Penna, curator

Friday, April 19, 2024 at 8:30 p.m., Burnes Hall

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Food and drink are not allowed in the concert hall,
and photography and audio or video recording are prohibited.

Assistive listening devices are available for all Jordan Hall concerts;
contact the head usher or house manager on duty or inquire at the Coat Room.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management.

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