



MUSIC OF THE AMERICAS
Concert Series

Ekmeles

New Vocal Music From the Americas



March 4, 2022

8:00 PM

**Saint Ignatius of Antioch
552 West End Avenue**

**AS/AMERICAS
SOCIETY**

Welcome!

Welcome to our first live concert of 2022. We are very happy to be back at St. Ignatius in front of a live audience, and to welcome the adventurous vocal ensemble Ekmeles to our series.

Jeffrey Gavett founded Ekmeles over a decade ago to address the relative paucity of vocal ensembles dedicated to new music in New York City, and over the years they have flawlessly performed countless programs of the most daring music.

Thank you for joining us.

Sebastián Zubieta
Music Director

The MetLife Foundation Music of the Americas concert series is made possible by the generous support of Presenting Sponsor MetLife Foundation.



The Spring 2022 Music program is also supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and by the Howard Gilman Foundation.



Additional support for this concert comes from the Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and The Amphion Foundation, Inc.



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PROGRAM

- Der Turm zu Babel* (excerpts) Mauricio Kagel
Fragmentos de Altazor Hilda Paredes
Der Turm zu Babel (excerpts) Mauricio Kagel
De-Orishas Tania León
Der Turm zu Babel (excerpts) Mauricio Kagel
Seeds of Skies, Alibis..... Marc Sabat

Performers:

- Nathaniel Barnett, tenor
Jeffrey Gavett, baritone and director
Steven Hrycelak, bass
Tim Keeler, countertenor
Charlotte Mundy, soprano
Elisa Sutherland, mezzo soprano
Joy Tamayo, soprano

About the Artists

Ekmeles, praised for their “extraordinary sense of pitch” by the *New York Times*, and called a “brilliant young ensemble... defining a fresh and virtuosic American sound” by *The New Yorker*, is dedicated to the performance of new and rarely-heard works, and gems of the historical avant garde. New York is home to a vibrant instrumental New Music scene, with a relative paucity of vocal music. Ekmeles was founded to fill the gap by presenting new a cappella repertoire for solo voices, and by collaborating with these instrumental ensembles.

In the 2019-2020 season, they performed with the MET Museum’s first commissioned sound installation, Oliver Beer’s Vessel Orchestra, and released their debut album *A howl*, that was also a prayer on New Focus Recordings, with works by Taylor Brook, Erin Gee, and Christopher Trapani. *Fanfare* magazine said the album’s performances were “beyond expert - almost frightening in their precision.” Their 2020-2021 season featured innovative online performances, including pre-recorded video art, as well as remote performances with singers collaborating live from San Francisco to New York.

Other notable collaborations include the U.S. Premieres of Stefano Gervasoni’s *Dir - in dir* and Wolfgang Rihm’s *ET LUX* with the Mivos Quartet, Mathias Spahlinger’s *Über den frühen Tod Fräuleins Anna Augusta Marggräfin zu baden* with members of Tilt Brass and loadbang, Beat Furrer’s *FAMA* with Talea Ensemble, and Luigi Nono’s *Quando Stanno Morendo* with AMP New Music. Ekmeles has also performed works by student composers at institutions including Columbia, Ithaca, NYU, Rutgers, Stanford, Syracuse, University of Chicago, and University of New Mexico

Texts

Der Turm zu Babel Mauricio Kagel

Genesis 11:5-7

And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

And the Lord said: “Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do; and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.”

“Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.”

Texts

Fragmentos de Altazor - text by Vicente Huidobro

Altazor, ¿Porqué perdiste tu primera serenidad? ¿Qué ángel malo se paró en la puerta de tu sonrisa con la espada en la mano?

¿Quién sembró la angustia en las llanuras de tus ojos como el adorno de un dios?

¿Por qué un día sentiste terror de ser?

Y esa voz que te gritó vives y no te ves vivir

Se rompió el diamante de tus sueños en un mar de estupor Estás perdido Altazor

Solo en medio del universo

Solo como una nota que florece en las alturas del vacío

No hay bien no hay mal ni verdad ni orden ni belleza

¿En dónde estás Altazor?

Altazor morirás se secará tu voz y serás invisible

La tierra seguirá girando sobre su órbita precisa

Temerosa de un traspies como el equilibrista sobre el alambre Que ata las miradas del pavor

En vano buscas ojo enloquecido

No hay puerta de salida y el viento desplaza los planetas Piensas que no importa caer eternamente si se logra escapar

¿No ves que vas cayendo ya?

Déjate caer sin para tu caída sin miedo al fondo de la sombra Sin miedo al enigma de ti mismo

Cae

Cae eternamente

Cae al fondo del infinito Cae al fondo del tiempo

Cae al fondo de ti mismo

Cae lo más bajo que se pueda caer

Cae sin vértigo

Cae y quema al pasar los astros y los mares Cae en infancia

Cae en vejez

Cae un lágrima

Cae en risas

Ríe ríe antes de que venga la fatiga

Ai aia aia

Texts

Fragmentos de Altazor - text by Vicente Huidobro (con't)

Lalilá
Uiu uiui Tralalí tralalá
Rimbimbolám lam lam
Jugamos fuera del tiempo
Y juega con nosotros el molino del viento Molino de viento
Molino de aliento
Molino de cuento
Molino de intento
Molino de aumento
Molino de ungüento
Molino de sustento
Molino de tormento
Molino del portento
Molino del lamento
Molino del encanecimiento Molino del despedazamiento Molino del descorazonamiento Molino en fragmento
Molino en detrimento Molino en giramiento Molino en gruñimiento
Molino en desamparamiento Molino con talento
Molino con acento
Molino con temperamento Molino con atolondramiento Molino con desfallecimiento Molino para aposento Molino para convento Molino para amonedamiento Molino como ornamento Molino como elemento
Molino como desvelamiento Molino a sotavento
Molino a barlovento
Molino que invento
Molino que transparento Molino lento
Molino cruento
Molino atento
Molino hambriento
Molino sediento
Molino sangriento
Molino jumento
Molino violento Molino contento Molino opulento Molino friolento
Molino avariento Molino corpulento Molino achaquito Molino ceniciente Molino polvoriento Molino cazcarriente Molino gargajiento

Texts

Fragmentos de Altazor - text by Vicente Huidobro (con't)

Molino sudoriento Molino macilento Molino soñoliento Molino
turbulento Molino truculento

Cae en música sobre el universo Cae de tu cabeza a tus pies

Cae de tus pies a tu cabeza

Cae del mar a la fuente

Cae al último abismo de silencio

Como el barco que se hunde apagando sus luces.

Todo se acabo.

Habitante de tu destino

¿Por qué quieres salir de tu destino?

¿Por qué quieres romper los lazos de tu estrella

y viajar solitario en los espacios

y caer a través de tu cuerpo de tu zenit a tu nadir?

Déjate caer

Rimbimbolám lam lam

Texts

Altazor's Fragments - text by Vicente Huidobro (con't)

Altazor, why did you lose your first serenity?
What evil angel stopped at the door of your smile
With sword in hand?
Who sowed anxiety over the plains of your eyes
like ornaments of a god?
Why did you suddenly one day feel terror of being?
And that voice that shouted you're alive and you don't see yourself living
The diamond of your dreams shattered in a sea of stupor
You are lost Altazor
Alone in the middle of the universe
Alone like a note flowering in the heights of emptiness
There's no good no evil no truth no order no beauty
Where are you Altazor?
Altazor you will die your voice will dry up you will become invisible The
earth will go on spinning in its precise orbit
Afraid of a slip like an acrobat on the high-wire
tying glances of fear
Uselessly you search with crazed eyes
There's no exit and the wind drives out the planets
You think this perpetual falling doesn't matter if you can manage to
escape
Don't you see you are now falling?
Let yourself fall endlessly fearlessly to the depths of darkness Unafraid of
the mystery of yourself
Fall
Perpetually fall
Fall to the depths of infinite Fall to the depths of time
Fall to the depths of yourself Fall as far as you can fall Dizzily fall
Fall and burn past stars and seas Fall into childhood
Fall into senility Fall into tears Fall into laughter
Laugh laugh before tiredness comes
Ahee aheeah aheeah

Texts

Fragmentos de Altazor - text by Vicente Huidobro (con't)

Laleela

Oooheeo ooheeohee Tralalee tralala

Reembeembolam lam lam

We play outside of time And the windmill plays along Windmill

Mill of breath

Mill of narration

Mill of intent

Mill of augmentation

Mill of ointment

Mill of sustenance

Mill of torment

Mill of marvel

Mill of lamentation Mill of deterioration Mill of laceration

Mill of disheartenment Mill in fragment

Mill in detriment

Mill in rotation

Mill in grunting

Mill in desertment

Mill with talent

Mill with accent

Mill with temperament Mill with bewilderment Mill with inanimation

Mill for accomodation Mill for convent

Mill for coinage

Mill as ornament

Mill as element

Mill as revelation

Mill to the leeward Mill to the windward Mill that I invent

Mill that I transparent Slow mill

Cruel mill

Atentive mill

Hungry mill

Thirsty mill

Bloody mill Contumacious mill

Violent mill Content mill Opulent mill Shivery mill Stingy mill Stocky
mill Fugacious mill Carbonaceous mill Dusty mill Saponaceous mill

Phlegmatic mill Sweaty mill

Texts

Fragments de Altazor - text by Vicente Huidobro (con't)

Lean mill Sleepy mill Turbulent mill Terrifying mill

Fall into music over the universe

Fall from your head to your feet

Fall from your feet to your head

Fall from the sea to the fountain

Fall to the final pit of silence

Like a sinking ship with its lights going out

Everything stopped

Inhabitant of your fate

Why do you want to abandon your fate?

Why do you want to break the chains of your star

And travel alone through space

Falling across your body from your summit to your depths?

Let yourself fall Reembeembolam lam lam

-Translation by Hilda Paredes

Texts

*De-Orishas*Tania León

The Amossary (poem by Betty H Neals)

“We is here!
We is here!”
(and there was laughter on Earth!)
In the Blackness
foreign to him
there was a hollow silence.
“Will there be laughter
when the proper sentence
for the moon mission
is defined
and delivered?”

Texts

Seeds of Skies, Alibis.....Marc Sabat

Prologue

Bang went round.

Stars uncrowned.

Worlds in ground.

When at sea, a grave, a list.

What is the barrier after the barrier. Who is the courier after the courier.

What is salt.

What is a shore.

What is a shoulder.

What is a border.

Who carries the courier.

Who poured the salt into the sea.

We were never sure.

We were never a direction.

What is waiting.

What is a sea.



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SPRING 2022

Friday, March 11 7 pm	Orchestra of St. Luke's: Earth Works: Music for our Planet
Saturday, March 19 6 pm	Fonema Consort Her Words
Friday, March 25 7 pm	Luedji Luna: (<i>online</i>) Bom mesmo é estar debaixo d'agua
Wednesday, April 13 7 pm	Magos Herrera “Remanso”

Americas Society is the premier forum dedicated to education, debate and dialogue in the Americas. Its mission is to foster an understanding of the contemporary political, social and economic issues confronting Latin America, the Caribbean and Canada, and to increase public awareness and appreciation of the diverse cultural heritage of the Americas and the importance of the inter-American relationship.

Americas and the importance of the inter-American relationship.

About the concert series

Since 1965, the **Music of the Americas Concert Series** has presented musical luminaries such as Plácido Domingo, Antonio Meneses, Mercedes Sosa, Egberto Gismonti, Hermeto Pascoal, Continuum Ensemble, Bobby Sanabria, Inti-Illimani, Cuarteto Latinoamericano, Jaime Laredo, the Spanish Harlem Orchestra, Tanya Tagaq, and many others.

MetLife Foundation Music of the Americas concerts take place at Americas Society's headquarters and partnering organizations across New York City. The concert series brings together an ever-expanding urban audience with consistently high-caliber musicians from across the hemisphere, showcasing oft-

VISIT MUSICOFTHEAMERICAS.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON MUSIC OF THE AMERICAS SPRING 2022 EVENTS!

Pablo Ortiz: Choral Works

The newest album entitled Pablo Ortiz: Choral Works, highlights recent works for voices by Argentine composer Pablo Ortiz and features Americas Society vocal ensemble Meridionalis and keyboardist Taka Kigawa, led by Sebastián Zubieto. This album was produced by Judith Sherman and recorded at the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Eddy Marcano Cuarteto Acústico & Musica Ficta

Music of the Americas now has two CDs available for purchase! The first, recorded live at Americas Society in 2009 and produced by Americas Society's own Sebastián Zubieto, features Eddy Marcano Cuarteto Acústico and is available for download on iTunes, Amazon, and other stores. The second, recorded at Hispanic Society of America in 2014, features the Spanish vocal ensemble Musica Ficta in a program of early Latin American music with harpist Manuel Vilas, conducted by Raúl Mallavíbarrena.



Music Notes is a continuing series of online articles that looks at recent concerts in the Music of the Americas Series. Available at the Americas Society website, the articles showcase videos, photos, and audio from the concerts, and discuss issues and ideas brought up by the artists and the music.

Visit musicoftheamericas.org for more information.

Cultural Programs Admission

- Cultural Circle Members:** FREE. Register online using your login. Go to as-coa.org/ASCalendar, select the event, and click member registration link.
- Non-Members:** PURCHASED TICKETS required. Purchase tickets online. Go to as-coa.org/ASCalendar, select the event, and click nonmember registration link.
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