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2-25-2016

## **New Horizons Concert Series: Argus Quartet**

Argus Quartet

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CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY PRESENTS  
AS PART OF THE NEW HORIZONS CONCERT SERIES

# Argus Quartet

February 25, 2016



# SPRING 2016 calendar highlights

## february

February 5  
**University Singers Post-Tour Concert**  
Stephen Coker, *Conductor*

February 18-20, 25-27  
***A Flea in Her Ear***  
by David Ives  
Tamiko Washington, *Director*

## march

March 19  
**Musco Center for the Arts Grand Opening**

## april

April 2  
**Musco Center for the Arts Community Open House & Arts Festival**

April 7-9  
**Concert *Intime***

April 8  
**University Choir & Singers in Concert**  
Stephen Coker, *Conductor*

April 15, 16, 23  
***The Merchant of Venice***  
by William Shakespeare  
Thomas F. Bradac, *Director*  
Starring Michael Nehring as Shylock

April 22-24  
**Opera Chapman presents:  
*Gianni Schicchi* and *Suor Angelica***  
Peter Atherton, *Artistic Director*  
Carol Neblett, *Associate Director*  
Daniel Alfred Wachs, *Conductor*

## april (cont'd)

April 29  
**Chapman University Wind Symphony**  
Christopher Nicholas, *Music Director and Conductor*

## may

May 3  
***Jumpin' with Stan Kenton***  
The Stan Kenton Legacy Orchestra  
Mike Vax, *Director*  
Chapman University Big Band & Jazz Combo  
Albert Alva, *Director*

May 4-7  
**Spring Dance Concert**

May 6  
**University Women's Choir in Concert**  
Chelsea Dehn, *Conductor*

May 14  
**42nd Annual Sholund Scholarship Concert**  
The Chapman Orchestra  
Daniel Alfred Wachs, *Music Director and Conductor*  
Chapman University Choirs  
Stephen Coker, *Music Director*  
The 2016 Vocal and Instrumental Competition Soloists



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*Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music*

*and*

*"New Horizons Concert Series"*

*presents*

Guest Artists in Recital:

Argus Quartet

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February 25th, 2016 ■ 8:00 P.M.  
Salmon Recital Hall

## Program

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*Sabina* for solo violin (2008-9)

Andrew Norman  
(b. 1979)

*Cloud Trio* (2009)

- I. Calmo, meditato
- II. Sempre dolce ma energico, sempre a tempo
- III. Sempre energico
- IV. Tranquillo ma sempre molto espressivo

Kaija Saariaho  
(b. 1952)

*Skronk* from String Quartet (2006)

John Frantzen  
(b. 1964)

Selections from *The Angels* (2012)

- Spaghetti Western
- Ghosts and instagrams
- There are no stars
- Mulholland Dr.
- This is the first movement

*with Adam Bhatia, trumpet*

Ben Phelps  
(b. 1980)

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& Alan MacChiarolo (Recording Engineers).

## Program

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String Quartet No. 1: *London* (2009) Nick Norton  
I. Brilliant, shimmering (b. 1986)  
II. Largo  
III. Ethereal

*Leyendas: An Andean Walkabout* (2001) Gabriela Lena Frank  
Tarqueada (b. 1972)  
Himno de Zampanos  
Chasqui

*Testy Pony* (2010) Eve Beglarian  
(b. 1958)  
*with Chelsea Fryer, narrator*

This concert is made possible through the generous support of the  
*Keyboard Collaborative Arts* area, and presented as part of the  
"New Horizons Concert Series."

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## About the Artists

*Argus Quartet* is dedicated to reinvigorating the audience-performer relationship through new and innovative concert presentations of diverse repertoire – connecting with and building up a community of engaged listeners is at the core of the quartet’s mission.

Formed in the summer of 2013, Argus is receiving invitations from concert series throughout the United States and abroad. Recent performances include appearances at Carnegie Hall, Laguna Beach Live!, Encinitas’ Music By The Sea, the Hear Now Music Festival, Music Academy of the West, the Birdfoot Festival, and the Cello Biënnale Amsterdam. The quartet has also won several competitions including the Beverly Hills Consortium and the MTAC San Diego Competition.

Argus recently began an appointment as the Yale School of Music’s fellowship quartet-in-residence, and is the first ensemble to be mentored by the Brentano String Quartet in that capacity.

The Argus Quartet believes that today’s ensembles must honor the storied chamber music traditions of our past while forging a new path forward. In that spirit, their repertoire includes not just staples of the chamber music canon, but also a large number of pieces by living composers. The quartet was recently awarded a commissioning grant from Chamber Music America for a new work by composer and GRAMMY nominee, Eric Guinivan. This coming season, Argus will premiere their latest commission – a quartet by Thomas Kotcheff, winner of Aspen Summer Music Festival's Hermitage Prize. The piece will be programmed alongside premieres of works by Andrew Norman and Ben Phelps.

Beyond its commitment to performing chamber music at the highest level, Argus aims to engage audiences in unique ways. This fall marks the inaugural season of Argus in LA, a concert series that reimagines many aspects of the traditional concert experience. These handcrafted presentations have something for everyone: eclectic programming, world premieres, and exciting guest artists. Education and outreach are an important part of the Argus Quartet’s mission. In addition to their teaching responsibilities at Yale, next season includes residencies at the Milken School, California State University Long Beach, and the Birdfoot Festival.

Mr. James Brown &  
Mrs. Victoria Brown  
Robert & Lori Burke  
Betty L. Burtis  
Mary & Herman Bustamante  
Mr. Michael J. Byrne '67 &  
Mrs. Susan Byrne  
Helen K. Carbon\*, In Honor of  
Margaret Richardson  
Barbara Cargill, In Honor of  
Chase Cargill  
R.J. Castaneda '08  
Mrs. Leslie L. Cena  
Ms. Claire Chamblless\*  
Sallie Dougherty '64 &  
James Dougherty '62  
Michael & Carol Duffey  
Ms. Carol Eltiste  
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## Program Notes

Starting with excerpts from Andrew Norman's "A Companion Guide to Rome," the program explores the idea of how a composer's environment can spark their creative process.

From Kaija Saariaho's "Cloud Trio" inspired by the Swiss Alps, to John Frantzen's "Skronk" from New York City, all the way back up to Gabriela Frank's Andean masterpiece "Leyendas" these works all take their inspiration from locations and are the composers' responses to places that mean something to them.

This program also includes a preview of Nick Norton's "London" quartet and selections from "The Angels" by Chapman faculty Ben Phelps. Actor Chelsea Fryer will join the quartet's cellist Jo Whang for Eve Beglarian's hauntingly beautiful "Testy Pony."

- Jason Barabba and Nick Norton

*Sabina* uses the same musical ideas as the last movement of my string trio *The Companion Guide to Rome*. This material, sketched after an early morning visit to one of Rome's oldest churches, has proven a useful vehicle for exploring the sonic range of string instruments.

The viola version of *Sabina* was premiered by Nokuthula Ngwenyama at the Kennedy Center as part of the Young Concert Artists Series. The cello version was premiered by Laura Usiskin on the New Music New Haven Series at Yale. The violin version was premiered by Todd Reynolds on the Kettlecorn New Music series.

- Andrew Norman

<http://andrewnormanmusic.com/archives/147>

## Cloud Trio

A string trio is a fascinating ensemble. Even if its instruments come from the same family it magnifies the individual characters of each. When writing the trio, I was surprised how different it was to writing for a string quartet.

In this piece, the three instruments all have different tasks and functions, they represent very different aspects of string playing. These tasks are sometimes very concrete: the violin tends to behave as an echo or reverberation, the viola creates new clouds next to the existing ones and the cello often has a function of a shadow to the upper instrumental lines.



## Program Notes

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My ideas for this piece are about common textures; how to create one coherent texture - still complex and detailed - with individual lines.

The four sections of the piece have their own colours and characters, and I leave it to the listener to imagine what kinds of clouds were their sources of inspiration.

Why *Cloud Trio*? When composing this piece in the French Alps (Les Arcs), watching the big sky above mountains I realized once again how rich a metaphor a natural element can be: its state or shape is so recognizable, and yet it is always varied and rich in detail. *Cloud Trio* is written for and dedicated to the Zebra Trio.

Paris, May 14th, 2010

- Kaija Saariaho

<http://www.musicsalesclassical.com/composer/work/43327>

**Skronk** from *Flash* for string quartet

When composing, I often take walks to clear the mind, recharge the batteries, and leave previously worked ideas to the subconscious. Early on, I spent a lot of time in rural settings, so these walks through forests, pastures, and fields, led to works that had more linear, flowing, and expansive qualities. Upon moving to New York City these walks became a whole different adventure leading to compositions reflecting this bustling urban environment. *Skronk*, the third movement from *Flash* for string quartet, is one such work that in its development reflects a groove one might need to traverse the colorful and cacophonous streets of New York.

- John Frantzen

**The Angels: Portraits on Life in the City** - String Quartet no. 1 for Trumpet and String Quartet

The movements of *The Angels* can be played in any order and combination. Not all orders and combinations are created equal. The one presented here is the composer's. Different orderings can convey different meanings and emotions, and thus can be tailored to fit the performers' mood and experiences. This should be taken into account when planning the performance.

The movements are conceived as tangents to life in Los Angeles, California, where they were composed. The motivic interrelation between the movements is highly complex. Quotations abound, try and find them all! Many questions arise. Answers are fleeting.

- Ben Phelps

[http://www.benphelpscomposer.com/works\\_pages/theangels.htm](http://www.benphelpscomposer.com/works_pages/theangels.htm)

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Our doors are always open for you, so join us again soon at one of our many performances and events this season!

Sincerely yours,

Giulio M. Ongaro, Dean

# New Horizons

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April 25

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Chapman University—Salmon Recital Hall

April 25 at 8 p.m.

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"Spinal Dance" by Kenneth Johnson - KA.gallery.com

## Program Notes

### String Quartet No. 1: *London*

I wrote this piece at the end of my time in London. I like to think of it as a reflection of both my impression of the city and my experience of living there.

It is dedicated to the close friends I made and those back home who I missed.

- Nick Norton

*Leyendas: An Andean Walkabout* for string quartet draws inspiration from the idea of mestizaje as envisioned by the Peruvian writer José María Arguedas, where cultures can coexist without the subjugation of one by the other. As such, this piece mixes elements from the western classical and Andean folk music traditions.

"Tarqueada" is a forceful and fast number featuring the tarka, a heavy wooden duct flute that is blown harshly in order to split the tone. Tarka ensembles typically also play in fourths and fifths.

"Himno de Zampoñas" features a particular type of panpipe ensemble that divides up melodies through a technique known as hocketing. The characteristic sound of the zampoña panpipe is that of a fundamental tone blown flatly so that overtones ring out on top, hence the unusual scoring of double stops in this movement.

"Chasqui" depicts a legendary figure from the Inca period, the chasqui runner, who sprinted great distances to deliver messages between towns separated from one another by the Andean peaks. The chasqui needed to travel light. Hence, I take artistic license to imagine his choice of instruments to be the charango, a high-pitched cousin of the guitar, and the lightweight bamboo quena flute, both of which are featured in this movement.

- Gabriela Lena Frank

<http://www.musicsalesclassical.com/composer/work/27965>

*Testy Pony* is a setting of the poem of the same name by Zachary Schomburg. I read the poem shortly before the first concert of my River Project and felt it embodied something about my trip down the Mississippi River.

Here is the text of the poem:

"I am given a pony for my birthday, but it is the wrong kind of pony. It is the kind of pony that won't listen. It is testy. When I ask it to go left, it goes right. When I ask it to run, it sleeps on its side in the tall grass. So when I ask it to jump us over

## Program Notes

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the river into the field I have never before been, I have every reason to believe it will fail, that we will be swept down the river to our deaths. It is a fate for which I am prepared. The blame of our death will rest with the testy pony, and with that, I will be remembered with reverence, and the pony will be remembered with great anger. But with me on its back, the testy pony rears and approaches the river with unfettered bravery. Its leap is glorious. It clears the river with ease, not even getting its pony hooves wet. And then there we are on the other side of the river, the sun going down, the pony circling, looking for something to eat in the dirt. Real trust is to do so in the face of clear doubt, and to trust is to love. This is my failure, and for that I cannot be forgiven."

Testy Pony is part of *A Book of Days*.

- Eve Beglarian

<http://www.evbvd.com/testypony/>

# New Horizons

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