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### New Horizons Concert Series: Vicki Ray and Eclipse Quartet

Vicki Ray

Eclipse Quartet

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CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY PRESENTS  
AS PART OF THE NEW HORIZONS CONCERT SERIES

# Vicki Ray and Eclipse Quartet

April 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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CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

*Hall-Musco Conservatory of Music  
and*

*"New Horizons Concert Series"*

*present*

## Vicki Ray and the Eclipse Quartet

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

# Program

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from *Six Encores*

Luftklavier (1985)

Wasserklavier (1965)

Erdenklavier (1969)

Feuerklavier (1989)

Luciano Berio  
(1925-2003)

*Nunataks* (2007)

John Luther Adams  
(b. 1953)

*Aufwind* (2016)

Dominique Schafer  
(b. 1967)

Vicki Ray, piano

~INTERMISSION~

*Standing in the Storm of Time* (2015)

Sean Heim  
(b. 1967)

Vicki Ray, piano  
&

the Eclipse Quartet:

Sarah Thornblade, violin

Sara Parkins, violin

Alma Lisa Fernandez, viola

Maggie Parkins, cello

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Program Notes

Berio’s exquisite ***Encores*** concise, mysterious landscapes have tempted me for years. Spanning over two decades, they each explore a unique sound world and yet are linked in their compact sensuality.

~Vicki Ray

***Nunataks*** are mountains that rise up out of ice fields and glaciers. The jagged contours of nunataks contrast sharply with the smooth whiteness that surrounds them. As the ice melts and the sea rises, these solitary peaks stand as stark reminders of our own isolation and vulnerability.

~John Luther Adams

The German word ***Aufwind*** can be translated into upwind, up-current, updraft, or even impetus. A solo piano work written for Vicki Ray, *Aufwind* takes up air as its theme, in particular in the context of the four elements including earth, water, and fire. Air as a classical element is sometimes described as a universal power or pure substance. This meaning can be found in terms including spirit, aspire, or inspire. *Spirare* in Latin can also mean breeze or breathe. *Aufwind* explores the behavior and characteristics of air as it is found in nature, for example its volatility, force, and unpredictability, but it also juxtaposes other qualities such as its weightlessness and suppleness. At the same time acoustical aspects of air and wind are reflected in the harmonic and rhythmic language; varying bands of pitch clusters are approaching noise on a timbral level; chordal structures are reshuffled and organized in time, finding a logic on their own through various processes of repetition and permutation.

~Dominique Schafer

***Standing in the Storm of Time:*** Built over many centuries between 4000-5000 B.C.E, the actual meaning of the Neolithic stone alignments of Brittany has remained a mystery throughout recorded history. There is no known astrological significance or specific orientation that is readily apparent, as is the case with other such monuments in Europe, and it is quite possible that their meaning



# Program Notes

changed and evolved over time. They appear to have been some type of dividing line between the continent and the sea, or perhaps between the realm of the living and that of the dead, for a great number of tombs surround them. It is also possible that the alignments were a sign to outside invaders that theirs was an organized and well-prepared society, or monuments erected by a people to mark the place and identity of their civilization in this vast universe.

Whatever their initial meaning, they have long since become the subject of myth and legend and there are indeed few faerie tales in Brittany that do not contain reference to the sites. They are the homes of elves and faeries, goblins and sprites; they are integral to stories of peoples for millennia; they are human experience erected in stone - they represent something universal in us all.

For over 6000 years these menhir stones have been standing in the storm of time, steadfast, as it has flowed over them, just as it flows over us. They are markers, indicators on the path of life as an integral part of a vast universe. Experiments in geometry, math, and logic; natural law expressed through alignment and position; solidity and form - exploring negative space and intangible forces.

This work is inspired by those alignments, the faerie tales that have grown out of them, and by thoughts about our history as the universe made conscious and the inevitable feeling of inconsequentiality that can often arise in those that are aware of the vastness of that astonishing immense cosmos – continually facing the duality that comes from knowing that we are ultimately both significant and minuscule in this seemingly infinite place.

*Standing in the Storm of Time* is in nine continuous parts:  
Introduction – Granite, I. Rows, II. Talkers (Pairs), III. Maison des Follets (The House of Goblins), IV. Menhir, V. Avenues, VI. Cromlech (Circle), VII. Kermario – The Place of Death, Coda - Azimuthal Plane

~Sean Heim

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# About the Artists

Described as “phenomenal and fearless,” Grammy nominated pianist **Vicki Ray** is a leading interpreter of contemporary piano music. Known for thoughtful and innovative programming which seeks to redefine the piano recital in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Vicki’s concerts often include electronics, video, recitation and improvisation. As noted by Alan Rich, “Vicki plans programs with a knack for marvelous freeform artistry...what she draws from her piano always relates in wondrous ways to the senses.” As a founding member of Piano Spheres, an acclaimed series dedicated to exploring the less familiar realms of the solo piano repertoire, her playing has been hailed by the Los Angeles Times for “displaying that kind of musical thoroughness and technical panache that puts a composer’s thoughts directly before the listener.”

As a pianist who excels in a wide range of styles Vicki Ray’s numerous recordings cover everything from the premiere release of the Reich *You Are* Variations to the semi-improvised structures of Wadada Leo Smith, from the elegant serialism of Mel Powell to the austere beauty of Morton Feldman’s *Crippled Symmetries*. Recent releases include David Rosenboom’s *Twilight Language* on Tzadik Records and Feldman’s *For Piano and String Quartet* with the Eclipse Quartet on Bridge Records. Her 2013 recording of Cage’s *The Ten Thousand Things* on the Microfest label was nominated for a Grammy.

Ms. Ray’s work as a collaborative artist has been extremely diverse and colorful. She was the keyboardist in the California E.A.R. Unit and Xtet. Her chamber music contributions to the vibrant musical life in greater Los Angeles include frequent performances on the Dilijan, Jacaranda and the Green Umbrella Series. She performs regularly on the venerable Monday Evening Concert series and was featured in Grisey’s *Vortex Temporum* on the 2006 celebration of the re-birth of the series. Vicki has been heard in major solo roles with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, the German ensemble Compania, and the Blue Rider Ensemble of Toronto, with whom she made the first Canadian recording of *Pierrot Lunaire*.

She is currently head of the piano department at the California Institute of the Arts, where she has been on the faculty since 1991. In 2010 she was awarded the



## About the Artists

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first Hal Blaine Chair in Music Performance. For the past eight years she has served on the faculty at the Bang on a Can summer festival at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art.

For current information on upcoming concerts please go to [www.vickiray.net](http://www.vickiray.net)  
Vicki Ray is a Steinway Artist.

**The Eclipse Quartet** is an ensemble dedicated to the music of twentieth century and present day composers. The scope of their repertoire spans works from John Cage and Morton Subotnick to collaborations with the singers Beck and Caetano Veloso. Eclipse has the versatility to cross genres from works that include electronics and computer processing to the jazz compositions of grammy award winning pianist Billy Childs. The Quartet has performed frequently on both coasts and has participated in festivals such as the Look and Listen Festival in NYC, the Festival for New American Music in Sacramento, the Scarlatti Festival in Naples, Italy, the Martha's Vineyard Chamber Music Festival, the Angel City Jazz Festival and the Hear and Now Festival in Los Angeles.

The repertoire of Eclipse contains works by such dynamic composers as Roger Reynolds, Julia Wolfe, Ben Johnston, Ruth Crawford Seeger, Annie Gosfield, John Zorn, Fred Frith, Philip Glass, John King and Lois V. Vierk. They have premiered new works by Zeena Parkins, Carla Kihlstedt, Justin Haynes, Gernot Wolfgang, Stephen Cohn and David Jaffe.

Eclipse has recorded the string quartets of Zeena Parkins for the Tzadik label and Morton Feldman's epic Piano And String Quartet piece with pianist Vicki Ray on Bridge Records. In June 2013 Eclipse released a disc of three works for percussion and string quartet with percussionist William Winant on New World Records as recipients of the Aaron Copland Fund for Music Recording Grant. In Winter of 2014 the MicroFest label released Ruminations featuring Eclipse's recording of Ben Johnston's Revised Standards.

The Eclipse Quartet have been Artists in Residence at Mills College in Oakland California and at the historic artists' retreat Villa Aurora in Los Angeles.

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