

THE ST. OLAF COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

presents in

FACULTY/GUEST RECITAL

The Een Family Chamber Players

Andrea Een, *violin and viola*

James Een, *viola*

Jonathan Een Newton, *cello*

Robert Een, *voice and cello*

with guest

Dave Hagedorn, *vibraphone and percussion*



TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012
URNESS RECITAL HALL • 7 P.M.

In Celebration of Andrea Een's 35 Years at St. Olaf College

PROGRAM

The Music of Robert Een, Justin Merritt and Andrea Een

Narrow Bridge (2005) River Running Waltz with a Stranger Abraham Dances Angel Waltz A Te	Robert Een
Andrea Een, James Een, Jonathan Een Newton, Robert Een	
Run for Cover (1986) Buddha Boat (1988) In You I See (1997)	Robert Een
Robert Een	
Bela (1998) Spring Eve (1999)	Robert Een
Andrea Een, James Een, Robert Een	
Cauldron (world premiere)	Robert Een
Andrea Een, James Een, Jonathan Een Newton	
~intermission~	
78s (world premiere)	Justin Merritt
Andrea Een, James Een	
Tone's Vals (2009)	Andrea Een
Andrea Een, James Een, Jonathan Een Newton	
Suite from Hiroshima Maiden (2004, revised 2012) Theme Music Plane over the City Day of Wrath Broken Waltz Building the City Broken Waltz 2 Way of Seeing Prelude to a Photo Shoot Culture War Ground Zero	Robert Een
Andrea Een, James Een, Jonathan Een Newton, Robert Een, Dave Hagedorn	

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PROGRAM NOTES

Narrow Bridge

The five pieces from “Narrow Bridge” form part of the score for an evening-length dance/theater piece by choreographer Heidi Duckler. It was performed in the Boyle Heights section of Los Angeles, an area along the Los Angeles River that has radically evolved from a Native American village, to a neighborhood of Jewish and Irish immigrants, to a predominantly Latino area today. I wanted the music to depict something of the remarkable evolution of this vibrant urban environment.

Run for Cover

Run for Cover was written in response to a journey I made to Lhasa, Tibet in 1985 with my brother John Een. At the time China had only just begun to allow foreign visitors into Tibet. We visited the Ganden Monastery, formerly one of the three biggest in Tibet, where thousands of monks would have lived and studied. When we arrived it was nearly abandoned and in total ruins. We were told it had thrived for hundreds of years, well into the 1960’s before it was destroyed by the Red Guards during the height of the Cultural Revolution.

Buddha Boat

My first trip to Norway in 1980 included two unforgettable events. With my sister Andrea Een, I attended a Landskappleiken where I heard the Hardanger fiddle, a unique sound that has inspired many of my solo cello pieces, and I toured the Viking Ships Museum in Oslo. There in the museum, among unearthed artifacts from ancient buried Viking ships, I happened upon a wooden bucket with a small, decoratively carved wooden figure of a Viking sitting cross-legged, in what I recognized as a meditation posture. Knowing that the Vikings had travelled far and wide, I conjectured that possibly they had reached India, studied Buddhism and returned to Norway to become what we know today to be champions of human rights and presenters of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In You I See

From my opera, “The Escape Artist” about a man running from his past. After long, arduous travels and numerous trials, the hero finally has a profound realization that embodies all he has experienced when he meets a true master.

Bela

An homage to the composer Bela Bartok that makes use of some of the unusual rhythms that he often drew upon from the folk music of his native Hungary. Choreographer David Dorfman used this piece in his award-winning, “Family Project.”

Spring Eve

To commemorate the return of the abundant and fragrant earth, I wrote this when my wife Karin was expecting our first child, Aria. It became part of the score for Liz Lerman’s Hallelujah Project performance at Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival.

Cauldron

A musical depiction of the challenges and triumphs of life. Composed for and dedicated to my sister Andrea Een.

Suite from Hiroshima Maiden

I composed the score for Dan Hurlin’s puppet/theater piece, “Hiroshima Maiden”. The show centers around one of sixteen Japanese “maidens” brought to the United States for reconstructive surgery ten years after the dropping of the atomic bomb. The cultural clashes that ensued reached their height when the pilot of the Enola Gay was brought to meet the maiden on the television show “This is Your Life”. My score received an Obie Award.

Notes by Robert Een

Tone’s Vals

"Tone's Vals" was composed in 2009 as tribute to Tone Buen, a wonderful folk dancer from Jondalen, Norway who is married to Hauk Buen, a master Telemark Hardanger fiddler. I have spent many excellent visits at the beautiful Buen farm where I was the recipient of gracious hospitality and delicious food prepared by Tone.

Notes by Andrea Een

78s

"78s" is a fiddling piece for two violas, dedicated to Andrea and James Een. It is inspired by the old fiddling records my grandfather used to listen to when I was a boy. 78rpm disks could only hold about three minutes worth of music, so all popular music was catered to fit that limit. "78s" can fit on a two-sided 78rpm record with a nice cesura in the middle to allow flipping it over.

The piece begins a bit grandiosely, with fortissimo multistops. The next section is quieter, but rhythmic and all in pizzicato. The pizzicati give way to gentle intertwining lines. Each section to this point is evolving toward a simpler and more straightforward expression. The finale is simpler still, at least on the page. A basic ostinato is passed back and forth while the players trade solos.

Notes by Justin Merritt.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Andrea Een joined the St. Olaf College music in 1977, following in the violin professor footsteps of F. Melius Christiansen (1903-1934) and Beatrix Lien (1934-1977). At St. Olaf College, she has taught violin, viola, chamber music and ethnomusicology courses. She conducted the St. Olaf Chamber Orchestra for 17 years, building it from a 12-member string orchestra to a 55-member full orchestra. It is now the 90-member Philharmonia conducted by Professor Martin Hodel. As a Bronze Tablet Scholar (top 1% of graduates), she holds the Doctorate of Musical Arts in Violin Performance and Literature from the University of Illinois where she wrote her dissertation about the Norwegian Hardanger fiddle. Her primary teachers were Paul Rolland, Dorothy Delay and Paul Kantor on violin, Louis Kievman on viola, and The Hungarian and Walden String Quartets in chamber music. She has been a tenured member of the first violin section of the Minnesota Opera Orchestra since 1992. She is a founding member of two piano trios, the Camerata Trio and the St. Olaf Trio.

In 1979, Een founded the Hardanger fiddle program at St. Olaf College, the only college program outside of Norway. She received the St. Olaf Medal from King Harald V of Norway in 2002 for her promotion of Norwegian folk music and culture abroad. In 1998, Andrea Een was named a Master Folk Artist by the Minnesota State Arts Board. She has premiered two Hardanger fiddle concerti written for her by Peter Hamlin and Dan Trueman. She soloed on both violin and Hardanger fiddle with the Minnesota Orchestra in the "Lord of the Rings" Symphony (2004) and Scandinavian Christmas Concerts of 2008 and 2009 at Orchestra Hall. She founded the Hardanger fiddle performing group at St. Olaf College, the Lars Skjervheim Spelemannslag, in 2001.

In 1999, Een began composing Hardanger fiddle tunes as a gift to her mentor Lars Skjervheim of Vossestrand, Norway. She has now finished 22 compositions, many of which are featured on two solo CD's, "From the Valley" (2004) and "Winter Dreams" (release summer 2012). A longtime member of Penchant, Een's poetry can be read in the "Penchant" anthology (2007) and chapbook "Some Days We Name It Love" (1994), both Heywood Press. As a "Bush Foundation" writing fellow, she designed and taught a First Year Writing seminar: "Love and Betrayal in Film and Literature".

Violist **James Een** performs regularly with orchestras and chamber music groups across California. He performs with the Sacramento Philharmonic, Sacramento Opera, Modesto Symphony, Napa Valley Symphony and many others. He plays for the California Musical Theatre, Sacramento Ballet and a variety of chamber ensembles at the University of California - Davis.

James Een has a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Science degree Magna Cum Laude from Minnesota State University, Mankato; and a Master of Music degree from Arizona State University where he soloed in Bartok's Viola Concerto.

Mr. Een's principal teachers have been Dr. William Magers, Marilyn Bos and the late Dr. Theodore Brunson.

A lover of music, film, and visual art, **Jonathan Een Newton** is currently a senior majoring in music and media studies at St. Olaf College. With professional musicians abounding, music was an inescapable part of his childhood. After graduating from high school, he participated in a year long Rotary Exchange to Brazil where he studied bossa nova guitar. At St. Olaf, he has worked for KSTO Radio and recorded student and faculty concerts. He is currently principal cellist of the St. Olaf Philharmonia and sings in Chapel Choir. After graduation, he plans to pursue studies in ethnomusicology or arts administration.

Robert Een, composer, singer and cellist. The recipient of a 2004 Obie Award for music composition and a 2000 New York Dance and Performance Award for sustained achievement, Een has performed his music on concert stages and in unusual venues throughout the world, including the Buddhist caves of Ellora, India; the Shinto shrine in Tsurugi, Japan; a theater above the Arctic circle in Norway; the Pushkin Theater in St. Petersburg, Russia; the

Fringe Club in Hong Kong; as well as such New York venues as Lincoln Center, Whitney Museum and the Knitting Factory.

Known for his use of extended vocal and cello techniques, he has recorded sixteen albums of genre-bending original music. His scores for film and documentary include; "My Horrible Year" directed by Eric Stoltz, "Mr. Jealousy" directed by Noah Baumbach, "Trouble on the Corner", starring Edie Falco and Tony Goldwyn, and "The Rook", starring Martin Donovan. Een's music is featured in "Ashes and Snow", Gregory Colbert's film and photography exhibit presented in the unique Nomadic Museum in New York, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Tokyo and now on DVD.

Robert Een's scores for theater and dance can be heard in the work of Dan Hurlin, Liz Lerman, Brian Selznick, Pearson/Widrig, Stephan Koplowitz, David Dorfman, Yin Mei, Jennifer Muller, Yoshiko Chuma and Ron K. Brown, among others. As a teacher he has been a guest lecturer and an artist-in-residence at colleges, universities and professional schools around the globe.

His long association with Meredith Monk culminated in their evening length performance duet, "Facing North".

David Hagedorn is an Artist in Residence in Music at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, where he teaches percussion, jazz studies, and world music. He received a DMA in Percussion Performance from the Eastman School of Music, where his principal teacher was John Beck. He also holds a MM in Percussion Performance from the New England Conservatory where he studied with Vic Firth, of the Boston Symphony, and a BS in Music Education from the University of Minnesota, where he studied with Marv Dahlgren and Paula Culp, of the Minnesota Orchestra. He released a jazz album, "SolidLiquid" on the Artega label in 2003, and his latest album new album, "Horizon", with pianist Dan Cavanagh, was released in December of 2010.

He has recorded with the George Russell Living Time Orchestra on Blue Note Recordings, jazz singer Debbie Duncan on Igmod Recordings, and also with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra on Teldec Recordings. Hagedorn regularly performs in the Twin Cities with groups such as the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Minnesota Opera, VocalEssence, Pete Whitman's X-tet, and The Phil Hey Quartet.

In 2000 composer **Justin Merritt** (bn. 1975) was the youngest-ever winner of the ASCAP Foundation/Rudolph Nissim Award for *Janus Mask*. He is also the winner of a host of other awards including the 2011-12 McKnight Fellowship, 2008-09 Copland Award, the 2008 Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute Prize for *River of Blood*, and the 2006 Polyphonus Prize.

He received his Bachelors from Trinity University and his Masters and Doctorate from Indiana University. He studied composition with Samuel Adler, Sven-David Sandström, Claude Baker, Timothy Kramer, Don Freund, and electronic and computer music with Jeffrey Hass. He is currently Associate Professor of Composition at St. Olaf College. He resides in Northfield, Minnesota with his wife Yuedong and their children Cullen Fang Ouxiang and Molly Fang Qinghe.

This Concert is dedicated to Dr. Andrew and Betty Een with thanks to John Een, Karen Levitas, Aria and Elaiya Een and Melanie Een, Elliott and Barbara Levitas, Stuart Hillman, Bud and Carol Lifton.