

NEXUS

Bob Becker, Bill Cahn, Robin Engelman, Russell Hartenberger, Garry Kvistad

Premieres Two Works for Percussion

April 3 and 5, 2009

NEXUS, the Toronto-based percussion quintet, has been credited with expanding the modern percussion ensemble's world of possibilities. Since the group's first all improvised concert in 1971 *NEXUS* has performed its music in solo recitals and with symphony orchestras worldwide and has captivated its audiences with an eclectic mix of music that includes contemporary percussion masterworks, novelty ragtime, world music, group improvisations and compositions by the members of *NEXUS* themselves. Recent examples of the ensemble's commitment to new music for percussion are two premieres in Canada.

Orangeville Concert Association, Ontario - April 3, 2009

NEXUS presented the world premiere of "**Prelude - Winter Song**" by Gordon Stout. Commissioned by Ruth Underwood, this short work is scored for percussion quintet. It is dedicated to Warren Benson and *NEXUS*' own Robin Engelman.

The second premiere on the program was "**Soliloquy and Rondo (from 'The Eternal Dance of Life')**" by Eric Ewazen. The piece was originally composed for *NEXUS* with wind ensemble, and was first performed with the Meadows (Southern Methodist University) Wind Ensemble in Texas in November 2008. This premiere featured sections from the original work rearranged for solo percussion quintet.

The Glenn Gould Studio, Toronto - April 5, 2009

The *NEXUS* performance at this prestigious venue included the Toronto premieres of the two works above, as well as the world premiere of "**Spiegel im Spiegel**" by Arvo Pärt, arranged by Russell Hartenberger of *NEXUS*. Also on the program were works from the quintet's standing repertoire - "**The Invisible Proverb**" by Russell Hartenberger, and "**Kebjar-Bali**" by Bill Cahn - and two works by John Cage - "**Dance Music for Elfrid Ide**" and "**Chess Pieces**" (arr. Nozny).

"[NEXUS] . . . The panache of virtuosity, stamina, more than a hint of poetry and an infectious delight in their music making."

- The Australian

The future of music will be secure as long as **musicians with the originality, power and skill of Nexus** continue to exist, and presenters like Onstage continue to use their own creativity in bringing them together."

- Robert Harris in The (Toronto) Globe and Mail

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