

NEXUS

Bob Becker, Bill Cahn, Russell Hartenberger, Garry Kvistad

Back-to-Back at the Ottawa Chamberfest

Ottawa, Ontario – July 31, 2011



(L. to R. - Bob Becker, Russell Hartenberger, Bill Cahn, Garry Kvistad)

In celebration of the 40th anniversary season of *NEXUS*, two back-to-back performances were given by the Toronto-based quartet as part of the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival “Chamberfest” at St. Brigid’s Centre for the Arts.

The first performance was a full *NEXUS* solo concert featuring works by Steve Reich, John Cage, and *NEXUS* member, Bill Cahn, as well as several of the group’s signature novelty ragtime xylophone arrangements featuring Bob Becker.

“The Crystal Cabinet” by Bill Cahn uses an electronic accompaniment and is based on a verse by the 18th century English poet, William Blake. The “Third Construction,” a masterpiece by John Cage, has been in *NEXUS*’ repertoire since the 1970s and was recorded on the first *NEXUS* CD “The Best of *NEXUS*.” Another highlight was Steve Reich’s “Mallet Quartet” which was co-commissioned in 2009 and given its Canadian premiere by *NEXUS* in 2010.

The second late-night concert was a complete performance of an earlier important work by Steve Reich, “Drumming.” Also joining *NEXUS* for this event was the Canadian percussion group, *TorQ*.

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

- The Australian

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