

Aaron PERRINE

...of the Saints

The Avenue of the Saints is a 550 mile four-lane highway connecting Saint Paul, Minnesota, with Saint Louis, Missouri. It also happens to be the highway I commute on to Iowa City, each and every day. This past fall on my way in to school, I often noticed the same red, twin-engine airplane doing tricks and buzzing around over the fields. In *...of the Saints* I tried to capture the sense of anticipation I felt when I was waiting for the plane to appear on the distance, the rush of excitement I experienced as it swooped overhead, and the feeling of inevitability, knowing I'd soon be past it, hoping to catch one more look in the rear-view mirror.

Aaron Perrine. Born in McGregor, Minnesota, Aaron Perrine earned his bachelor's degree in trombone performance with high distinction from the University of Minnesota, Morris, in 2002. In 2006, Aaron received his master's degree from the University of Minnesota in music education while studying composition with Judith Zaimont and jazz arranging with Dean Sorenson. Recently one of his compositions was a finalist in the Frank Ticheli Composition Contest. His music is published with C. Alan Publications.

Anthony DONOFRIO

Blue

Blue was composed for percussionist Meggie Aube and was composed in January of 2010. *Blue* takes its structure from an abstract blue painting in which different lines of varying thickness and length are juxtaposed against a black background. At the center is a spiral which reaches out over exactly half of the painting. I interpreted the painting as a graph in which the top and bottom of the form represented the outer ranges of the marimba. I then followed the lines as they moved from left to right. In the center of the work, I departed from the lines and elaborated a pitch set by spiraling through the 12 different transpositions of the set. At the right side of the painting, the lines had fused and covered the whole range from top to bottom. This is represented musically by a forceful and almost violent coda that spans most of the marimba's range.

Anthony Donofrio is currently a second year Ph.D. candidate at The University of Iowa. He holds a Bachelor of Music Education, a Master of Music in percussion performance, and a Master of Arts in music composition from Kent State University. He has studied composition with Frank Wiley, John Eaton, Paul Schoenfield, Thomas Janson, and currently studies with David Gompper. His chamber work *Obituary* was recently premiered by the Five-One Ensemble as part of the Cleveland Public Theatre's BigBOX series, which features artistic work from Cleveland-based artists.

THE UNIVERSITY
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UNIVERSITY OF IOWA SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Composers
Workshop

7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 7, 2010

Riverside Recital Hall

CENTER FOR NEW MUSIC

David Gompper, *director*

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
DIVISION OF PERFORMING ARTS
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Composers *Workshop*

David Gompper, *director*
Anthony Donofrio, *concert organizer*

March 7, 2010, 7:30 p.m. RIVERSIDE RECITAL HALL

PROGRAM

Onward (2010)

Daniel Houglum, *piano*

Daniel HOUGLUM
(b. 1983)

Answers from Nature (2010)

- I. *Nature*
- II. *The Brook and the Wave*
- III. *The Rainy Day*
- IV. *The Harvest Moon*
- V. *Snow-Flakes*

Clara Osowski, *mezzo-soprano*
Casey Rafn, *piano*

Zach ZUBOW
(b. 1984)

...of the Saints (2009)

Lisa Bost-Sandberg, *flute*

Aaron PERRINE
(b. 1979)

Blue (2010)

Meggie Aube, *marimba*

Anthony DONOFRIO
(b. 1981)

NOTES & BIOGRAPHIES

Daniel HOUGLUM

Onward

Onward was composed for pianist Mabel Kwan at the end of 2009. Ms. Kwan gave the World Premiere performance at the Boston New Music Initiative Inaugural Concert, February 4, 2010. Though not originally intended to be programmatic, *Onward* refers to the concept of acceleration after a period of rest, a fall, or a pause... In this work, musical acceleration results from the compression of time and space. A variety of musical elements on the surface and in the structure of the work exhibit the effects of compression and expansion. For example, harmonic and melodic structures of three semitones contrast motivic material of three ascending whole tones. This recurring whole-tone melody echoes J.S. Bach's Chorale, *Es ist Genug* (It is enough), which was quoted by Alban Berg in the second movement of his *Violin Concerto*. The title for *Onward* was taken from the valediction to an email from University of Iowa Creative Writers' Workshop poet and translator Michael Schorsch, December 2009.

Daniel Houglum, from Soldotna, Alaska, is currently in the Ph.D. in Music Composition program at the University of Iowa. He received his B.A. degree from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington and his M.Mus. degree from Northern Illinois University. Houglum has served as an instructor for Kishwaukee College in Malta, Illinois. His composition teachers include Kevin Waters (S.J.), Robert Fleisher, David Maki, John Eaton and David Gompper. His chamber work, *Pieta(s)*, was premiered at the Midwest Composers Symposium at the University of Michigan (February 2009). *Intercessions II*, for soprano saxophone and tape, was premiered by Stephen Page at the Society of Composers Region V Conference (November 2009). Houglum currently teaches at the Preucil School of Music as theory instructor for the Certificate Program. For more information please visit www.houglum-music.com

Zach ZUBOW

Answers from nature

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poetry typically follows a lyric poetry style with rhyming schemes that are based on personal feelings. The emotions described in his poetry contain elements of comparison between nature and personal strife. This could be in part due to having lost two wives of untimely deaths, which drove him to burn his own face, inducing the iconic Longfellow beard. The poetry by Longfellow chosen for *Answers from Nature* begins with a poem describing the close relationship between nature and mother that is followed by a sequence of seasonal change. The poetic feelings imbued throughout appear as though it was sequenced during and after his time with his second wife. It begins with happiness and motherhood that has been taken away abruptly and slowly finds peace through the seasons in the cloudy bosom of the silent, soft snow.

Zach Zubow started his music education at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa and recently graduated with a master's in music from Illinois State University in May of 2008. His music has been performed throughout the midwest as well as Europe in recent years. Zach is now pursuing a Ph.D. in music composition at The University of Iowa.

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