

*A joint presentation by the
UI String Quartet Residency Program,
the Center for New Music,
and the International Writing Program*

The Marriage of Words and Music

*A composer, a cellist, a singer and two poets
talk about writing words for music and music for words.*

Thursday, October 2, 2014

5:00 p.m.

UCC Recital Hall

Marvin Bell, *moderator*

Josh Levine, *composer*

Kevin McFarland, *cellist, JACK Quartet*

Tony Arnold, *soprano*

Omar Pérez, *poet, essayist and translator
and the*

JACK Quartet performing excerpt from Levine's *like morning* and
and a movement from David Gompfer's *Variations on a Sonic Imagination*

Variations on a Sonic Imagination

(Marvin Bell)

3. Falling through Space

In song, I fly.

In space, I spread my arms.
I reach higher.

I feel gravity releasing me as I go.
I know you are out there.
I have heard you singing.

As if afloat in a calm sea,
Moving farther from shore,
I am paddling beyond the planets.

I cross into other galaxies.
Then I fall and am free.
The waves of my song are the sea.

I sing as I go.
Others will hear me, I know,
Beyond time and space.

It will be my way of taking you in my arms.
It will be the way I come to where you are.

Nace (Pablo Neruda)

*yo aquí vine a los límites
en donde no hay que decir nada,
todo se aprende con tiempo y océano,
y volvía la luna,
sus líneas plateadas
y cada vez se rompía la sombra
con un golpe de ola
y cada día en el balcón del mar
abre las alas, nace el fuego
y todo sigue azul como mañana.*

It is Born

I came here to the farthest reaches
where there is nothing that needs saying,
everything is absorbed in timeweather and ocean,
and the moon washed back,
its beams all of silver
and time and again the darkness ruptured
with the crash of a wave
and every day on the balcony of the sea
wings open, fire is born
and everything still is blue like morning.

Panelists

Marvin Bell, moderator

Poet **Marvin Bell**, formerly Flannery O'Connor Professor of Letters at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, has collaborated with musicians, composers, dancers and photographers. On three occasions, he and Professor David Gompper team-taught a collaboration course for graduate student poets and composers called "Words & Music." The latest of Mr. Bell's 23 books are *Vertigo: The Living Dead Man Poems* and *Whiteout*, a collaboration with photographer Nathan Lyons.

Josh Levine, composer

Josh Levine trained in Switzerland as a classical guitarist before studying composition in Basel, Paris, and San Diego. His tape composition *Tel*, received First Prize at the Bourges International Electroacoustic Music Competition in 1987 and a Euphonie d'Or in 1992. Since then, his music has been commissioned and presented internationally by some of today's leading interpreters of new music. He has taught composition and related subjects at San Francisco State and Stanford University, as well as UC San Diego, and is currently Assistant Professor of Composition at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music.

Kevin McFarland, cellist, JACK string quartet

As cellist of the JACK Quartet, **Kevin McFarland** and his colleagues have electrified audiences worldwide with their "explosive virtuosity" (*Boston Globe*) and viscerally exciting performances (*New York Times*). He is a member of Ensemble Signal and has made guest appearances with Alarm Will Sound, the International Contemporary Music Ensemble and the Wordless Music Orchestra. Mr. McFarland is an active solo artist both as an interpreter of new works for cello, as well as an improviser, and is an active composer.

Tony Arnold, soprano

Hailed by the *New York Times* as a "bold, powerful interpreter," **Tony Arnold** is recognized internationally as a leading proponent of new music in concert and recording, praised for her sparkling and insightful performances of the most daunting contemporary scores. Soprano for the intrepid International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), Ms. Arnold has collaborated with the most cutting edge composers and instrumentalists.

Omar Pérez, poet, essayist and translator in residence with the International Writing Program

Omar Pérez won Cuba's National Critic's Prize for the collection of essays *La perseverancia de un hombre oscuro* (2000), and the 2010 Nicolás Guillén Award for Poetry for *Crítica de la razón puta*. His recent work moves across media, especially music and collage.

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