



Zeitgeist

Zeitgeist History

Lauded for providing “a once-in-a-lifetime experience for adventurous concertgoers,” Zeitgeist is a new music chamber ensemble comprised of two percussion, piano and woodwinds. One of the longest established new music groups in the country, Zeitgeist commissions and presents a wide variety of new music for audiences in the Twin Cities and on tour. Always eager to explore new artistic frontiers, Zeitgeist collaborates with poets, choreographers, directors, visual artists and sound artists of all types to create imaginative new work that challenges the boundaries of traditional chamber music. The members of Zeitgeist are: Heather Barringer, percussion; Patti Cudd, percussion; Pat O’Keefe, woodwinds; Shannon Wettstein, piano.

Zeitgeist has maintained a fierce dedication to the creation of new music for the past three decades, commissioning more than 150 works and collaborating with emerging composers and some of the finest established composers, including Frederic Rzewski, Terry Riley, John Cage, Pauline Oliveros, Paul Dresner, Mark Applebaum, Scott Lindroth, Pamela Madsen, Edie Hill, Libby Larsen, Arthur Kreiger and Jin Hi Kim. Zeitgeist’s upcoming commissioning projects include *For the Birds*, a chamber suite by Victor Zupanc based on a series of poems by humorist Kevin Kling, and *The Risk of Flight* by Mary Ellen Childs, an opera for Nautilus Music Theater and Zeitgeist that employs instrumental music, video imagery and staging to explore the nature of flight and the infinite.

Further, Zeitgeist has earned an international reputation for superb craftsmanship and virtuosic performance of contemporary music. Recent highlights include a Walker Art Center premiere of *Pine Eyes* by Martin Bresnick (2006), 2007 tour of the Czech Republic with a production of *Shape Shifting: Shades of Transformation* with composer Scott Müller and poet Philippe Costaglioli, and the 30th anniversary celebration, *Glancing Back/Charging Forward: 30 Years of Groundbreaking Music* featuring the world premieres of works by 30 Minnesota composers.

Zeitgeist presents a full season of events for audiences in the Twin Cities. Highlights of the 2008-09 season include a partnership with the Walker Art Center to premiere *The Making of Americans* by composer Anthony Gatto and director Jay Scheib, an innovative, media-rich chamber opera based on Gertrude Stein’s novel of the same name. Zeitgeist’s annual



Playing it Close to Home concert features works by Minnesota composers Janika Vandervelde, Jeffrey Brooks, David Wolff, Carei Thomas and Libby Larsen as well as works from the 14th annual *Eric Stokes Song Contest* and *Zeitgeist in the Schools Project*. *Earth, Wind, and Fire* includes a fascinating musical exploration of the natural world featuring the world premiere of *Angles of Repose* by Ethan Wickman plus works by James Dillon, Frederic Rzewski, Alex Shapiro and John Luther Adams. The season closes with *Converging Traditions* featuring world premieres of Paul Elwood’s Appalachian-infused work, *The Labyrinths of Time*, and *Seasons*, a new work by Chinese-born composer Gao Hong. Both composers will perform with Zeitgeist.

Zeitgeist has developed several audience-building programs designed to create connections with communities, diversify audiences, and encourage individuals to participate in the creative process of music-making. These programs include the *Eric Stokes Song Contest* (amateur composition contest), *Lowertown Listening Sessions* (performance/discussion series) and *St. Paul Listens*, a partnership with the American Composers Forum placing composers and Zeitgeist in residence at St. Paul middle schools. In addition, Zeitgeist operates Studio Z, a performance space where audiences, composers and new music performers can come together to experience new music.

Zeitgeist has released recordings including *She is a Phantom* (music of Harold Budd), *A Decade* (music of Frederic Rzewski), *Intuitive Leaps* (music of Terry Riley), *Eric Stokes* (music of Eric Stokes), *If Tigers Were Clouds* (featuring the music of experimental women composers), and *Shape Shifting* (music by Scott Miller, poetry by Philippe Costaglioli). Zeitgeist is currently working on its seventh CD, *Night Singing*, featuring works by Andrew Rindfleisch, Anthony Gatto, Katherine Jackanich, and Jerome Kitzke.



Zeitgeist

Artistic Personnel

Percussionist and artistic co-director Heather Barringer joined Zeitgeist in 1990. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a bachelor's of Music Education in 1987 and also studied at the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory, studying with Allen Otte from 1988-90. In addition to performing and recording with Zeitgeist, she is a member of Mary Ellen Child's ensemble, Crash, and has worked with many Twin Cities organizations, including Nautilus Music Theater, The Dale Warland Singers, Theatre de la Jeune Lune and Ten Thousand Things Theater.

As an active performer of the music of the 20th and 21st centuries, Patti Cudd has given concerts and master classes throughout the United States, China, Mexico and Europe. She has commissioned a variety of new pieces from the composers of her generation and has given close to 100 premieres. Prior to joining Zeitgeist in 1999, she received a doctorate of musical arts in Contemporary Musical Studies at the University of California, San Diego. In addition, she earned a Master of Music degree from SUNY Buffalo, and a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. She was also awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study at the Royal Danish Conservatory of Music. Patti teaches percussion and new music at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and is a Yamaha Performing Artist.

Woodwind player and artistic co-director Pat O'Keefe is a graduate of Indiana University, the New England Conservatory and the University of California, San Diego. In San Diego, he performed regularly with the new music ensemble

SONOR as well as with the San Diego Symphony, and he has performed and recorded with many noted new music groups around the country, including the California EAR Unit, the Cleveland New Music Associates and Ensemble Sospeso in New York. Pat can also be heard performing regularly with the Brazilian ensembles Brasamba and Batucada do Norte (of which he is the co-founder and co-director), the world music group Music Mundial and the improvisation ensemble AntiGravity. He is currently on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Shannon Wettstein, pianist, has premiered countless new works throughout the United States and internationally, including performances in New York's Lincoln Center, Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the New Zealand Embassy in Washington D.C. and the Japan America Theater in Los Angeles. Awards include the 2003 American Composers Forum Commissioning Grant, the Merle Montgomery Grant given by Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation and grants from the Minnesota Arts Council. Her solo CD is on the Centaur label; other recordings are available on the Tzadik and Innova labels. A new CD of music by Xenakis will soon be released by Mode. She holds a doctorate of music arts from the University of California, San Diego, a bachelor of music (highest distinction) from the University of Kansas and a Master of Music degree (honors) from New England Conservatory. Her teachers have included Aleck Karis, Stephen Drury, Sequiera Costa, Richard Angeletti and Claude Frank. She is on the faculty of Augsburg College and New England Conservatory's Summer Institute for Contemporary Piano Performance.



HEATHER BARRINGER
percussion



PAT O'KEEFE
woodwinds



PATTI CUDD
percussion



SHANNON WETTSTEIN
piano



Zeitgeist

**For media inquiries, please contact
Megan Peterson, Zeitgeist director of
marketing and communications**

651-274-8512
megan@zeitgeistnewmusic.org

Zeitgeist
275 East Fourth Street
Suite 100
St. Paul, MN 55101

Heather Barringer heather@zeitgeistnewmusic.org

Patti Cudd patti@zeitgeistnewmusic.org

Pat O'Keefe pat@zeitgeistnewmusic.org

Shannon Wettstein shannon@zeitgeistnewmusic.org