



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 27, 2021

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Zeitgeist's 10th Early Music Festival revisits collaborations with the late Frederic Rzewski

Zeitgeist's 10th Annual Early Music Festival explores the powerful contributions of our musical pioneers with a celebration of composer Frederic Rzewski. From the 1960s to today, Rzewski has influenced American music profoundly through his work with minimalism, improvisation, text notation, and politically charged music.

Zeitgeist frequently collaborated with Rzewski in the 1980s and he composed four new works for the ensemble, which were recorded for Zeitgeist's album *A Decade*. Performances at Zeitgeist's Early Music Festival will include works composed for Zeitgeist, other chamber works, and guest artist Allen Otte performing *The Fall of the Empire* for speaking percussionist, which was written for Otte in 2007.

As a group of musicians dedicated to the music of our time, Zeitgeist knows the most meaningful expressions of today are informed by the musical contributions of yesterday. The annual Early Music Festival honors that artistic debt with performances of influential and rarely-heard works by 20th century masters.

Frederic Rzewski (April 13, 1938 – June 26, 2021) was an American composer and pianist who is considered to be one of the most important American composer-pianists of his time. His major compositions, which often incorporate social and political themes, include the minimalist *Coming Together* and the variation set *The People United Will Never Be Defeated!*, which has become a modern classic.

Rzewski studied music privately with Charles Mackey in Springfield, Massachusetts as a child and studied composition with Walter Piston, counterpoint with Randall Thompson and orchestration with Claudio Spies at Harvard University from 1954–58. He studied composition with Milton Babbitt and Roger Sessions and the music of Richard Wagner with Oliver Strunk at Princeton University from 1958–60, where he also studied literature and philosophy from Greece. In addition, he studied composition privately with Luigi Dallapiccola in Rome in 1960.

As a pianist, he frequently performed with the flautist Severino Gazzelloni in the 1960s. He then co-founded with Alvin Curran and Richard Teitelbaum the improvisational and

live electronic ensemble Musica Elettronica Viva in Rome in 1966 and performed with it from 1966–71. He was thereafter active as a pianist, primarily in performances of his own pieces and music by other contemporary composers.

He taught at the Conservatoire royal de musique in Liège from 1977–2003, where he was Professeur de Composition from 1983–2003. He gave lectures in Germany, the Netherlands and the USA.

Zeitgeist Early Music Festival: Frederic Rzewski

Nov. 19-20, 7:30 p.m.

Studio Z: 275 East Fourth Street, Suite 200, St. Paul

\$15 / \$10 students & seniors

Friday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Chamber Music of Frederic Rzewski

The Lost Melody (written for Zeitgeist)

Song and Dance (with guest artists Rolf Erdahl and James DeVoll)

Les Moutons de Panurge

Saturday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m.

The Fall of the Empire for speaking percussionist, featuring Al Otte

Plan for Spacecraft featuring Zeitgeist and guest improvisors

Tickets and info at zeitgeistnewmusic.org.

COVID 19 policy:

Masks will be required. Attendees must provide proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test result from the previous 72 hours. Seating is limited to allow for social distancing.

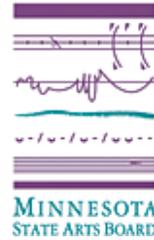
About Zeitgeist:

Founded in 1977, Zeitgeist is a new music chamber ensemble consisting of two percussion, piano and woodwinds, and is one of the oldest and most successful new music groups in the country. Based in St. Paul, Minn., the group presents an annual concert series and delivers a wide variety of community-based performance programs for residents of the Twin Cities and the surrounding areas. Zeitgeist's mission is to bring newly created music to life with performances that engage and stimulate. Members are: Heather Barringer, percussion; Patti Cudd, percussion; Pat O'Keefe, woodwinds; Nicola Melville, piano.

Zeitgeist is supported by the The City of St. Paul's Cultural STAR Program, The Amphion Foundation, The Knight Foundation, The Lowertown Future Fund, the Target Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, the Albrecht Family Foundation, the Aaron Copland Fund, The Mandel Family Foundation, and the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature.

Zeitgeist Early Music Workshops are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Zeitgeist Early Music Festival is made possible in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.



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