

## The Bowed Piano Ensemble

Stephen Scott, Composer and Director

Victoria Hansen, soprano soloist

### Members of the Ensemble:

Joseph Beach, Stephanie Brink, David Cummings,  
Vincent Gumlich, Neil Hesse, Tabitha Hrynicky, Thomas Johnson,  
Jesse Morris, Stephen Scott, Courtney Winn

### New York Drones (2006)

New York Drones was premiered in October 2006 by the Ensemble at the Allen Room (Jazz at Lincoln Center, New York) and the Contemporary Arts Center of Cincinnati. The work was dedicated to the great American composer Steve Reich in honor of his seventieth birthday that month. Without his brilliant and sustained vision, our contemporary musical language would be much poorer. In this piece I've interpreted the concept of drones quite liberally to encompass not only long-sustained tones but also repeating rhythms on one pitch or repeating melodic and harmonic patterns in a single mode. Perhaps paradoxically, the work is also marked by more changes in meter, tempo and mood than might be expected in its short time-span.

### Aurora Ficta 2008 (world premiere)

*The False Dawn speaks of truth,  
But its light lasts only one or two breaths.*

Jami, 1414-1492 (Persia)

This tone poem is the newest in my series of pieces for bowed piano ensemble; it is meant to evoke the astronomical phenomenon known to the ancients as "false dawn," and known today as Zodiacal light and described by NASA astronomy writer Tammy Plotner as "a dimly glowing triangle rising up from the horizon... [created] where sunlight reflects off dust particles in the Solar System."

My effort here has been to evoke through sound the romance and color of the False Dawn celebrated by several of the Persian poets of the Middle Ages, most famously in the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam (c. 1120), as in the 200th quatrain:

*When false dawn streaks the east with cold, gray line,  
Pour in your cups the pure blood of the vine;  
The truth, they say, tastes bitter in the mouth,  
This is a token that the "Truth" is wine.*

Translated by E. H. Whinfield

DESIGN BY AKJETAM PRODUKT / PHOTO BY DEBRA GUMLICH / PLATFORM DigiVAF(ex) / 2009



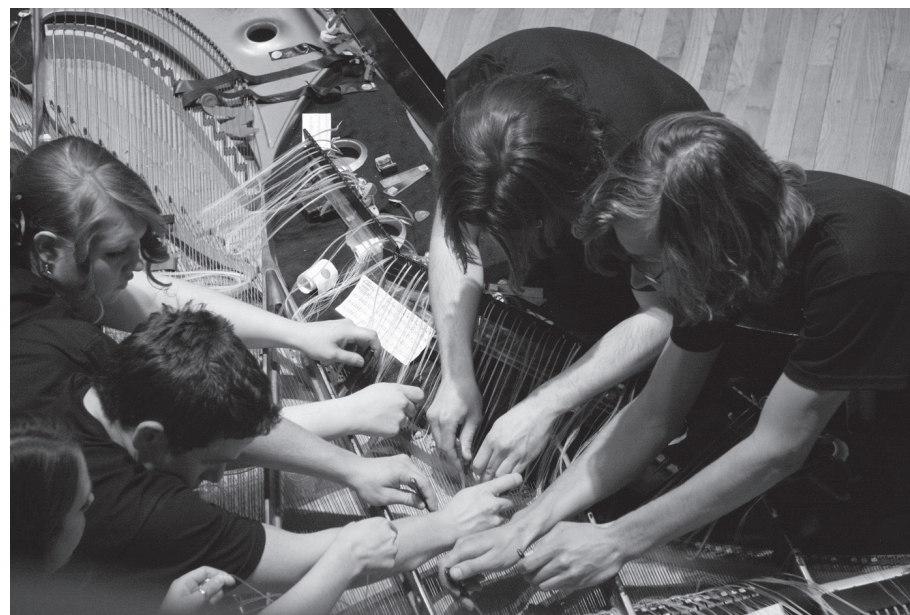
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Entry free / Vstup voľný

# The Bowed Piano Ensemble

1. jún 2009 / 19.00 hod.

Komorné štúdio, Slovenský rozhlas, Mýtna č. 1, Bratislava / Slovakia



Hlavný usporiadateľ koncertu:

Slovenský rozhlas, Bratislava

Pozývateľ a postprodukcia:

Platform DigiVAF(ex), Fakulta výtvarných umení, Akadémia umení v Banskej Bystrici

Koncert sa uskutočňuje pri príležitosti:

20. výročie založenia Transmusic Comp. a SNEH - Spoločnosti pre nekonvenčnú hudbu

12. výročie realizácie Left hand of the Universe v rámci výstavy PIANO HOTEL

Mediálna podpora:

Slovenský rozhlas, [www.rozhlas.sk](http://www.rozhlas.sk), [www.radioart.sk](http://www.radioart.sk), [www.radiofm.sk](http://www.radiofm.sk), Slovak Spectator, SME

Koncert podporila: Ambasáda USA, Bratislava