

"an essential source of adventurous new music"
— Alex Ross, *The New Yorker*

Argento Chamber Ensemble Austrian Cultural Forum New York

present

The Argento Performers Series: Lunar Movements

A six-part concert series celebrating the centennial of Arnold Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*

featuring

Paula Robison in *Pierrot Lunaire*
Conducted by Michel Galante



December 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, and 16, 2012
Austrian Cultural Forum New York
11 East 52nd Street, New York, NY

Tickets: suggested donation \$10. No reservation necessary

Audience discussions with performers and composers at each concert

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Saturday, December 1, 2012, 7:30 PM

Pierrot Lunaire + music of Matthias Pintscher
with David Fulmer, violin



Matthias Pintscher - *Study III for Treatise on the Veil* for solo violin
Matthias Pintscher - *Study II for Treatise on the Veil* for violin, viola and cello
Matthias Pintscher - *Janusgesicht* for viola and cello
Matthias Pintscher - *On a Clear Day* for solo piano
Arnold Schoenberg - *Pierrot Lunaire*

David Fulmer, violin, **Taka Kigawa**, piano
Paula Robison, voice, **Michel Galante**, conductor

As both an active painter and composer, Schoenberg's visual artwork and compositions grew from the same inner need for expression. With this in mind, Argento offers a program of works by Matthias Pintscher that focuses on the connections between painting and music. Pintscher's *Treatise on a Veil* was inspired by painter Cy Twombly's piece of the same name and contains many associations with visual and acoustic phenomena.

Sunday, December 2, 2012, 4:00 PM

Pierrot Lunaire + music of Debussy, John Zorn, and Charles Wuorinen
with Jay Campbell, cello



Toru Takemitsu - *Orion*
Claude Debussy - *Sonata in D minor*
Charles Wuorinen - *An Orbicle of Jasp*
Arnold Schoenberg - *Pierrot Lunaire*

Jay Campbell, cello, **Taka Kigawa**, **Conor Hanick**, piano
Paula Robison, voice, **Michel Galante**, conductor

A recent first prize winner of Concert Artists Guild competition, cellist Jay Campbell offers a recital of the old and new, with an emphasis on New York composers. In particular, the pairing of *An Orbicle of Jasp* with *Pierrot Lunaire* emphasizes Schoenberg's influence on living composers and underlines continuity. Wuorinen, exceptionally among his generation, has developed implications of Schoenberg's 12-tone as a vehicle for his own musical ends.

Saturday, December 8, 2012, 7:30 PM

Pierrot Lunaire + music of Morton Feldman, Lei Liang, and Jason Eckardt
with Joanna Chao, piano, and Stephanie Griffin, viola



Lei Lang – *Garden Eight* for solo piano

Jason Eckardt – *to be held...* for voice, viola & electronics

Morton Feldman – *The Viola in My Life 2* for viola & ensemble

Arnold Schoenberg - *Pierrot Lunaire*

Joanna Chao, piano, **Stephanie Griffin**, viola

Paula Robison, voice, **Michel Galante**, conductor

In *Pierrot Lunaire*, Schoenberg originally instructed his violinist to double on viola. Today, performances typically use two separate players to cover the part, effectively minimizing the violist's role. Considering this, Argento presents a program featuring the viola, the "forgotten" member of the *Pierrot* ensemble. Included is Feldman's seminal "viola-plus-*Pierrot*" composition, *The Viola in My Life 2*, along with a solo work for the instrument by Jason Eckardt.

Sunday, December 9, 2012, 4:00 PM

Pierrot Lunaire + music of Elliott Carter, Salvatore Sciarrino, and Max Grafe
with Joanna Chao, piano



Max Grafe - *Parthenogenesis* for piano & electronics

Salvatore Sciarrino - *Lo spazio inverso* for flute, clarinet, violin, cello & celeste

Elliott Carter - *Gra* for solo clarinet

Morton Feldman – *I met Heine on the rue Fürstenberg* for soprano and ensemble

Arnold Schoenberg - *Pierrot Lunaire*

Joanna Chao, piano, **Carol McGonnell**, clarinet, **Sharon Harms**, soprano

Paula Robison, voice, **Michel Galante**, conductor

Musically encapsulating modernity's cultural and social dislocations, the heterogeneous timbres of Schoenberg's *Pierrot* ensemble have served as an endless source of fascination and inspiration for living composers. Featured are works by Feldman and Sciarrino that explore the various potentials of this most quintessential of twentieth-century instrumental contingents, along with contrasting solo compositions by Elliott Carter and Max Grafe.

Saturday, December 15, 2012, 4:00 PM

Pierrot Lunaire + music of John Zorn, Elainie Lillios, and David Fulmer
with Erin Lesser, flute, David Fulmer and Christopher Otto, violin



Elainie Lillios - *Among Fireflies* for alto flute and live electronics
John Zorn - *Apophthegms* for two violins
Arnold Schoenberg - *Pierrot Lunaire*

Erin Lesser, flute, **David Fulmer** and **Christopher Otto**, violin
Paula Robison, voice, **Michel Galante**, conductor

Rarely employing full ensemble tuttis, the restraint with which Schoenberg marshals his instrumental forces in *Pierrot Lunaire* has long been recognized as one of the work's most noteworthy qualities. Indeed, many important moments in the score are actually reserved for the reciter and a single monophonic instrument. Highlighting the delicate, chamber-like scoring of *Pierrot*, Argento presents mold-breaking solo and duo works by Lillios and Zorn, exploring the unique string and wind timbres that Schoenberg had at his disposal.

Sunday, December 16, 2012, 4:00 PM

Pierrot Lunaire + music of Elliott Carter, Elaine Lillios, and Michel Galante
with Erin Lesser, flute, Carol McGonnell, clarinet, and Matt Ward, marimba



Bonnie Mitchell and Elainie Lillios - *2BTextures* for video and electronics
Bonnie Mitchell and Elainie Lillios - *Sweeping Memories* (world premiere)
Elliott Carter - *Esprit Rude / Esprit Doux* for flute and clarinet
David Fulmer - *New Work* for soprano and ensemble, world premiere
Michel Galante - *Duos and Trios* for flute and marimba
Arnold Schoenberg - *Pierrot Lunaire*

Sharon Harms, soprano, **Erin Lesser**, flute, **Carol McGonnell**, clarinet, **Matt Ward**, marimba, **Paula Robison**, voice, **Michel Galante**, conductor

Argento presents a pair of virtuosic duos by Carter and Galante for subsets of the “expanded Pierrot” line-up, followed by a new work for the full ensemble by Fulmer. The *Lunar Movements* concert series is capped with a final performance of Schoenberg’s century-old masterpiece, the work Igor Stravinsky famously dubbed the “solar plexus” of twentieth-century composition.

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Elainie Lillios - *Among Fireflies* for alto flute and live electronics
John Zorn - *Apophthegms* for two violins
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Sharon Harms, soprano, **Erin Lesser**, flute, **Carol McGonnell**, clarinet, **Matt Ward**,
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The last weekend of concerts features **David Fulmer** on double-duty. David will premiere his new composition for the *Pierrot* ensemble, as well as joining forces with JACK Quartet's **Christopher Otto** to perform *Apophthegms*, John Zorn's hot-off-the-press composition for two violins. Argento will also present electroacoustic compositions by **Elainie Lillios**, including the world premiere of *Sweeping Memories*, an abstract animation that takes the audience on an integrated sonic and visual journey into the surreal. **Erin Lesser** and **Carol McGonnell** will perform their signature favorite *Esprit Rude / Esprit Doux* by Elliott Carter.

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