

Makoto Nakura commissions new work for marimba and choir



Continuing his interest in nature as well as in multi-cultural collaborations, Latitude 45 artist Makoto Nakura has commissioned composers Akemi Naito (Japan), Jacob Bancks (USA) and David Bruce (UK) to write ten minute works for marimba and choir using the texts of poems about wood and forest. Each composer will draw on the work of poets that represent their respective countries.

The world premiere is scheduled to take place in the spring of 2011 in New York City with Cantori New York, directed by Mark Shapiro. The Japanese premiere is scheduled for the fall of 2011 in Kyoto with Kyoto Gewandhauschor, directed by Agnes Grossmann.

The Composers and Poets

Akemi Naito (Japan)

<http://akeminaito.com>

Akemi Naito's works have been featured in such international music festivals as the International Bayan Festival in Moscow, the Japan Society Spring Festival, Music from Japan Festival, Foro Internacional de Musica Nueva in Mexico and Music Today International Festival in Tokyo.

Ms. Naito will draw on the text of the 12th century Japanese poet Saigyō. The works will be about a lonely hermit who reflects on a pine tree and expresses his love for cherry blossoms.

Jacob Bancks (USA)

<http://jbancks.com>

The music of Jacob Bancks has been described as "invitingly lyrical" and "colorfully orchestrated" (*The New York Times*). Upcoming world premieres of his works are planned at the Tanglewood Festival of Contemporary Music, with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, mezzo-soprano Julia Bentley, eighth blackbird, and the Millennium Chamber Players

Mr. Bancks will draw on the text of Walt Whitman's poem, *I Saw in Louisiana a Live-Oak Growing*.

David Bruce (UK)

<http://www.davidbruce.net>

Mr. Bruce is developing a growing international reputation as a composer, with performances this season in the US, UK, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Australia and Israel. His work has attracted the attention of some of the world's leading musicians, including soprano Dawn Upshaw, Klezmer pioneer Giora Feidman, clarinetist Todd Palmer and the St Lawrence String Quartet.

Mr. Bruce will draw on the text of *Forest* by Alasdair Middleton.

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