

Saturday, March 9, 2019 at 5pm
Princeton University Chapel



PRINCETON SOUND KITCHEN

Dan Trueman, *Director*

Michael Pratt, *Resident Conductor*

presents

**Princeton Laptop Orchestra
(PLOrk)**

Jeff Snyder, *Director*

RAGE THORBONES

Matt Barbier, *Trombone*

Weston Olencki, *Trombone*

Eric Plutz, *Organ*

Performing new works by

Christopher Douthitt

Cleek Schrey

Daniel Silliman

Members of PLOrk

Josh Becker '19

Liam Elliot

Raphaël Forment

Claire Hu

Abbie Minard'20

Porter Sherman'19

Nikitas Tampakis

Theo Trevisan'21

Matt Wang'19



PROGRAM

CHRISTOPHER DOUTHITT

Glyptic Channels

Glyptics refers to the art of carving channels or grooves into stone, the art of scratching a surface. The result might be a symbol or a letter or a gem. It seemed like a good metaphor for the feelings of proto-thought and coming-into-knowledge that guide this piece.

I associate those feelings particularly with this space. As an undergraduate, I spent many hours in this chapel. I sang in Penna Rose's glorious choir. I worked at the desks in the narthex and the nave until late at night. I sat in the pews and let my mind go blank. To me, being in the chapel means aimless contemplation and hard mental labor; it means the pure joy of sound and the mystery of revelation.

This music was written in close creative partnership with Matt Barbier, Weston Olencki, Eric Plutz, and PLOrk. I can't thank them enough. They are incredible collaborators. Thank you to Rosalie Kaplan for lending her voice to the loudspeakers.

And of course, we all owe a massive debt of gratitude to Jeff Snyder, Dan Trueman, Andres Villalta, Wally Gunn, Penna Rose, and Liz Powers for making this concert possible. Thank you.

CLEEK SCHREY

/'bilō/

“Would now the wind but had a body; but all the things that most exasperate and outrage mortal man, all these things are bodiless, but only bodiless as objects, not as agents. There’s a most special, a most cunning, oh, a most malicious difference! And yet, I say again, and swear it now, that there’s something all glorious and gracious in the wind.”

from *Moby Dick; Or the Whale*, By Herman Melville

DANIEL SILLIMAN

untitled for brass and synthesis

untitled for brass and synthesis is a continuation of a number of different threads in my work, including instrument design, collaborative composition, so-called ‘rational’ tunings, and long durations. Given the vast extent to which our interests overlap, I simply couldn’t have asked for better partners in that process than Matt Barbier and Weston Olencki. Written gratitude is not sufficient.

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

RAGE THORBONES is an ongoing collaboration between trombonist/composers Matt Barbier and Weston Olencki. They explore the outer reaches of instrumental performance and brass technique, often combining hand-built instruments, extreme preparations, and geometric approaches toward harmony with analog/digital synthesis to create immersive environments of dense sonic forces. Recent collaborators include Kevin Drumm, Michelle Lou, Liza Lim, Timothy McCormack, Laura Steenberge, Wolfgang von Schweinitz, Lester St. Louis, Katherine Young, and British pop maverick Scott Walker. They have fulfilled residencies in the composition departments at Harvard, Stanford, Columbia, and New York Universities, and are currently in residence at Princeton University. They have recorded for HatHut and Populist Records. Weston lives in New York City and Matt lives in Los Angeles; they are best friends.

Eric Plutz is University Organist at Princeton University, where his responsibilities include playing for weekly services at the Chapel, Academic Ceremonies, and solo concerts. He also coordinates the weekly After Noon Concert Series at the University Chapel, and maintains a private studio of organ students. In addition, Mr. Plutz is

rehearsal accompanist for the Westminster Symphonic Choir at Westminster Choir College of Rider University, and Princeton Pro Musica, both in Princeton, NJ.

First performing in 2006, the **Princeton Laptop Orchestra**, or **PLOrk**, takes the traditional model of the orchestra and reinvents it for the 21st century. Each laptopist performs with a laptop and custom designed hemispherical speaker that emulates the way traditional orchestral instruments cast their sound in space. Wireless networking and video augment the familiar role of the conductor, suggesting unprecedented ways of organizing large ensembles.

Originally founded by Dan Trueman and Perry Cook, the group is currently directed by composer and instrument designer Jeff Snyder, and features new electronic instruments that arise from his research. Assisting in leadership of the group are Jason Treuting (Associate Director) and Mike Mulshine (Assistant Director). Performers and composers who have worked with PLOrk include Zakir Hussain, Pauline Oliveros, Matmos, Sō Percussion, the American Composers Orchestra, and others. In the past 11 years, PLOrk has performed widely at locations including the Northwestern Spring Festival in Chicago, the American Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., Carnegie Hall, the Kitchen, and the 92nd Street Y in New York City, and has inspired the formation of laptop orchestras across the world, from Oslo to Bangkok.

ABOUT THE COMPOSERS

Christopher Douthitt is a composer, vocalist-guitarist, and electronic musician from Spokane, Washington. His music draws on eclectic sources, including the twentieth-century European avant-garde, American primitive guitar, electronic sound art, and West Coast minimalism. A songwriter at heart, Douthitt's work often combines poetic language, non-traditional ensembles, and voice. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Music Composition at Princeton University.

Cleek Schrey is a fiddler, composer, and improviser based in Princeton, NJ.

Daniel Silliman writes, performs, and presents experimental music in its many forms. Born in upstate New York, Daniel grew up in unincorporated Harris County, Texas. His work has been presented internationally at venues including the Palacio des Bellas Artes, Mexico City, nyMusikk Bergen, Norway, Studio LOOS, The Hague (NL), and New York City's Carnegie Hall, The Kitchen, and The Stone.