

Merkin Hall at Kaufman Music Center

Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 7:30 pm

Paul Salerni, Composer: A 70th Birthday Celebration

People Places Pets & Paul!

Music of Paul Salerni presented by Friends, Family & Colleagues of the Composer:

Luis Herrera Albertazzi, Jessica Bowers, Colin Brookes, Antonello DiMatteo,
SarahAnn Duffy, Oren Fader, Marisa Karchin, Blair McMillen, Diane Monroe,
Domenic Salerni, Miles Salerni, and Andrew Yee

Pop Quiz #3 *World Premiere*

pointed, but mercifully so

BLAIR MCMILLEN, *pianoforte*

from the song cycle *Something Permanent*

VI. Apartment (Cynthia Rylant)

JESSICA BOWERS, *mezzo-soprano*

OREN FADER, *guitar*

from the song cycle *Bad Pets*

II. The Cow in Apple Time (Robert Frost)

JESSICA BOWERS, *mezzo-soprano*

OREN FADER, *guitar*

DOMENIC SALERNI, *violin*

from *Three Places in Vicenza*

II. Carlo's Car

III. Margherita's Loft

DOMENIC SALERNI, *violin*

from the song cycle *Father and Daughter*

I. Repentance (Natasha Trethewey, after Vermeer's "Maid Asleep")

MARISA KARCHIN, *soprano*

DOMENIC SALERNI, *violin*

MILES SALERNI, *marimba*

*To view Kaufman Music Center's COVID-19 current health and safety protocols,
please visit KaufmanMusicCenter.org/Covid.*

Steinway is the official piano of Merkin Hall

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KaufmanMusicCenter.org/MH | 212 501 3330

Pop Quiz #1 *World Premiere*

con allegria, e ben ritmico

(Arranged for Two Marimbas by Miles Salerni)

LUIS HERRERA ALBERTAZZI, *marimba*; MILES SALERNI, *marimba*

from *The Big Sword and the Little Broom,* a fable for chamber orchestra and violin, narrative by Dana Gioia

I. Lament - *Adagio espressivo e rubato*

(orchestral reduction by Domenic Salerni)

DIANE MONROE, *violin*; COLIN BROOKES, *viola*

ANDREW YEE, *cello*; ANTONELLO DIMATTEO, *clarinet*

MILES SALERNI, *marimba*; BLAIR McMILLEN, *pianoforte*

Vola, vola, vola

variations on an Abruzzese folk tune

ANTONELLO DIMATTEO, *clarinet*

DOMENIC SALERNI, *violin*

from the song cycle *City Scenes*

I. Phone Booth

(Andrei Voznesensky, trans. Richard Wilbur)

JESSICA BOWERS, *mezzo-soprano*

OREN FADER, *guitar*

from the song cycle *City Scenes*

II. Mirabeau Bridge

(Guillaume Apollinaire, trans. Richard Wilbur)

JESSICA BOWERS, *mezzo-soprano*

OREN FADER, *guitar*

from *String Quartet 1.5*

V. Intermezzo

DIANE MONROE, *violin*; DOMENIC SALERNI, *violin*

COLIN BROOKES, *viola*; ANDREW YEE, *cello*

from the song cycle *Regimen Sanitatis Salerni,*

translated from the original Latin by P. Magenta

from the eponymous collection of advice for a healthy diet dated AD 1066

IV. Del modo di correggere le cattive bevande

SARAHANN DUFFY, *mezzo-soprano*

BLAIR McMILLEN, *pianoforte*

from the song cycle *Bad Pets*

III. Alley Cat Love Song (Dana Gioia)

ENSEMBLE

About the Composer

Paul Salerni's music "pulses with life, witty musical ideas and instrumental color" (*The Philadelphia Inquirer*) and has been described by the *New York Times* as "impressive" and "playful." Recent premieres include *Four City Scenes* for mezzo and guitar on poems by Richard Wilbur and Kevin Young (2018), *Haunted*, a one-act dance opera on a libretto by Dana Gioia for baritone, three dancers, string quartet, and percussion (2019), *Repentance* for mezzo and guitar on a poem by Natasha Trethewey (2019). A choral piece entitled *Bethlehem Carol* was published by Carl Fischer in fall 2018.

Salerni's one-act opera *Tony Caruso's Final Broadcast* won the National Opera Association's Chamber Opera competition in 2007, and a definitive recording of the opera was released on Naxos. His second one-act, *The Life and Love of Joe Coogan*, is an adaptation of a Dick Van Dyke TV Show episode. Both one-acts are published by Theodore Presser. Other recent pieces include a ballet (*FABLES*) commissioned by RIOULT New York as well as commissions from Philadelphia Brass, Gabriel Chamber Ensemble, Two-Part Invention, Cape Cod Symphony, San Diego Chamber Orchestra, New Haven Symphony, Emory Chamber Music Society of Atlanta, and SATORI. A CD of Salerni's chamber music, *Touched*, was released by Albany Records in January 2015, and a second Albany CD featuring chamber music and songs on texts by Dana Gioia, *Speaking of Love*, was released in January 2017. Salerni's most recent album, *People, Places, & Pets*, was released by the Bowers Fader Duo on Bridge Records in 2021.

One of Salerni's special projects is called "Paul's Song of the Week." Having written over 52 art songs, he decided to post a YouTube video of one of those art songs each week for a year.

Salerni is the NEH Distinguished Chair in the Humanities and Professor of Music at Lehigh University. He received his Ph.D. in composition from Harvard University, where he studied with Earl Kim. Salerni has performed and lectured about Kim's music in Korea, at the Kennedy Center, the 92nd St. Y, and the Aspen Music Festival. A dedicated educator, Salerni was the recipient of the Stabler Award, Lehigh University's most valued acknowledgment of excellence in teaching. He served for seven years on the Board of Directors of the Suzuki Association of the Americas, including two years as its Chair.

For more information please visit www.paulsalerni.com



Special Thanks

Domenic and Miles Salerni

Our guest artists for their participation

Merkin Hall Staff: John Glover, David Bridges, Margaret Evans, Jesse Itskowitz, Lauren Wimmer

Ian Rosenbaum

Andrew Yee

Linda Lipkis

Song Texts

Apartment

When her relatives from the south
came up for a visit,
they lamented her sorry state,
having to live in that little box,
having no fields nor trees,
having no hills to look toward.
She never told them
how she didn't miss those things,
how she would lie awake at night,
her apartment window wide open,
and listen to the city
like she was listening to birds,
like she was listening to hymns,
like she was hearing a lover.
She never told them how hard it was
to wipe that smile off her face
each and every minute they complained.

Poem reprinted with permission of the author

The Cow in Apple Time

Something inspires the only cow of late
To make no more of a wall than an open gate,
And think no more of wall-builders than fools.
Her face is flecked with pomace and she drools
A cider syrup. Having tasted fruit,
She scorns a pasture withering to the root.
She runs from tree to tree where lie and sweeten
The windfalls spiked with stubble and worm-eaten.
She leaves them bitten when she has to fly.
She bellows on a knoll against the sky.
Her udder shrivels and the milk goes dry.



Repentance

After Vermeer's "Maid Asleep"

To make it right Vermeer painted then painted over
this scene a woman alone at a table the cloth pushed back
rough folds at the edge as if someone had risen
in haste abandoning the chair beside her a wineglass
nearly empty just in her reach Though she's been called
idle and drunken a woman drowsing you might see
in her gesture melancholia Eyelids drawn
she rests her head in her hand Beyond her a still-life
white jug bowl of fruit a goblet overturned Before this
a man stood in the doorway a dog lay on the floor
Perhaps to exchange loyalty for betrayal
Vermeer erased the dog and made of the man
a mirror framed by the open door *Pentimento*
the word for a painter's change of heart revision
on canvas means the same as remorse after sin
Were she to rise a mirror behind her the woman
might see herself as I did turning to rise
from my table then back as if into Vermeer's scene
It was after the quarrel after you'd had again
too much to drink after the bottle did not shatter though
I'd brought it down hard on the table and the dog
had crept from the room to hide Later I found
a trace of what I'd done bruise on the table the size
of my thumb Worrying it I must have looked as she does
eyes downcast my head on the heel of my palm In paint
a story can change mistakes be undone Imagine
Still-Life with Father and Daughter a moment so
far back there's still time to take the glass from your hand
or mine

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Mirabeau Bridge

Under the Mirabeau Bridge there flows the Seine
Must I recall
Our loves recall how then
After each sorrow joy came back again

Let night come on bells end the day
The days go by me still I stay

Hands joined and face to face let's stay just so
While underneath
The bridge of our arms shall go
Eternal gazes in their weary flow

Let night come on bells end the day
The days go by me still I stay

All love goes by as water to the sea
All love goes by
How slow life seems to me
How violent the hope of love can be

Let night come on bells end the day
The days go by me still I stay

The days the weeks pass by beyond our ken
Neither time past
Nor love comes back again
Under the Mirabeau Bridge there flows the Seine

Let night come on bells end the day
The days go by me still I stay

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Phone Booth

Someone is loose in Moscow who won't stop
Ringing my 'phone.
Whoever-it-is listens, then hangs up.
Dial tone.

What do you want? A bushel of rhymes or so?
An autograph? A bone?
Hello?
Dial tone.

Someone's lucky number, for all I know,
Is the same, worse luck, as my own.
Hello?
Dial tone.

Or perhaps it's an angel calling collect
To invite me to God's throne.
Damn, I've been disconnected.
Dial tone.

Or is it my old conscience, my power of choice
To which I've grown
A stranger, and which no longer knows my voice?
Dial tone.

Are you standing there in some subway station, stiff
And hatless in the cold,
With your finger stuck in the dial as if
In a ring of gold?

And is there, outside the booth, a desperate throng
Tapping its coins on the glass, chafing its hands,
Like a line of people who have been waiting long
To be measured for wedding-bands?

I hear you breathe and blow into some remote
Mouthpiece, and as you exhale
The lapels of my coat
Flutter like pennants in a gale.

Speak up, friend! Are you deaf and dumb as a stone?
Dial tone.

The planet's communications are broken.
I'm tired of saying *hello*.
My questions might as well be unspoken.
Into the void my answers go.

Thrown together, together
With you, with you unknown.
Hello. Hello. Hello there.
Dial tone. Dial tone. Dial tone.

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Del modo di correggere le cattive bevande

Salvia e ruta nel bicchiere
Ti faran sicuro il bere;
Se di rosa aggiungi il fiore,
Scemerai l'estro d'amore.

How to correct bad drinks

*Sage and rue in the glass
will make you a safe drink;
If from the rose you add its flower,
it will reduce the fever of love.*

Alley Cat Love Song

Come into the garden, Fred,
For the neighborhood tabby is gone.
Come into the garden, Fred.
I have nothing but my flea collar on,
And the scent of catnip has gone to my head.
I'll wait by the screen door till dawn.

The fireflies court in the sweetgum tree.
The nightjar calls from the pine,
And she seems to say in her rhapsody,
"Oh, mustard-brown Fred, be mine!"
The full moon lights my whiskers afire,
And the fur goes erect on my spine.

I hear the frogs in the muddy lake
Croaking from shore to shore.
They've one swift season to soothe their ache.
In autumn they sing no more.
So ignore me now, and you'll hear my meow
As I scratch all night at the door.

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