

Press Release for 3/18/15 Performance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 12, 2015

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URBAN PLAYGROUND CHAMBER ORCHESTRA with ADDI & JACQ

New Music with Addi & Jacq at The C.O.W.

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 | 8 PM

21 Clinton St., New York, NY

\$25/15/12 Tickets

Box Office:

For tickets visit: <http://www.upchamberorchestra.org/addi--jacq-and-more.html> or

For press tickets call (580) 327-7136 or email info@upchamberorchestra.org

PROGRAM

Evan Williams: *Beautiful Death* (World Premiere) 2015

Stephen Feigenbaum: *Angel* (2013)

Andrew Davis: *Sextet* (2009)

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Original music by Addi & Jacq, in arrangements by Max Moston (Antony and the Johnsons, Rufus Wainwright), and Thomas Cunningham.

Urban Playground Chamber Orchestra will close out its inaugural season with a performance in collaboration with Broadway veterans turned soulful duo **Addi & Jacq**. This program also includes the world premiere of *Beautiful Death* by composer **Evan Williams**, and recent compositions by **Feigenbaum**, and **Davis**.

Bar 7:30, Show 8:00

Artists

Addi & Jacq

"A dynamo with a brass-plated voice"

- *The Los Angeles Times*

"An exceptionally virtuosic and sensitive harpist"

- *Classical Source Online*

(more)

The eclectic, acoustic-oriented sound of Addi & Jacq is not exactly easy to categorize, but that hasn't prevented the NYC-based duo from acquiring an enthusiastic and diverse following.

Coming from very different backgrounds, their individual styles have blended to create a soulful mix of folk, classical, jazz, pop and R&B. Their greatest musical influences are drawn from Nellie McKay, Feist, Paul Simon, & Rufus Wainwright.

The title track "Less Likely Places" was loosely based on a Craigslist post from a woman in Arizona, "You can find something great in the less likely places". Her story would ultimately be the impetus for creating the album.

"We talked a lot about what really inspired us - human connection in music and in life, the beauty in the imperfect and the magic in the spontaneous, but what seemed to be the greatest desire for both of us was to create something that was truly our own," shared South African born Kerrod. "We stumbled upon something that continues to bring light and creativity to the forefront of our lives and we're running with it," McDaniel adds.

Collectively Addi McDaniel and Jacqueline Kerrod have performed all over NYC including Lincoln Center, The Metropolitan Opera, Carnegie Hall, Birdland & Joe's Pub. Their debut album *Less Likely Places* was released April 2014.

The music of **Evan Williams** draws from a wide range of influences, both musical and cultural. His work reflects inspirations from the Baroque, Romanticism, Modernism, Post-Minimalism, contemporary popular music, and everything in between. Originally from the Chicago suburbs, Williams is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Composition at the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, where he has studied with Michael Fiday and Mara Helmuth. He holds a Master's degree from Bowling Green State University (Bowling Green, OH) and a Bachelor's from the Conservatory of Music at Lawrence University (Appleton, WI). His other primary teachers have been Asha Srinivasan, Joanne Metcalf, Christopher Dietz, Mikel Kuehn, and Marilyn Shrude. He has also received instruction in festivals, masterclasses, and lessons from composers Libby Larson, David Maslanka, Evan Chambers, Stacy Garrop, Dan Visconti, Bill McGlaughlin, Adam Gorb, and others.

Williams' music has been performed across the country and internationally in Canada, Italy, and Switzerland. His work has been performed by members of Fifth House Ensemble, the Verb Ballets, the Lawrence University Symphony Orchestra, and at festivals such as Fresh Inc, Studio 300, the Electroacoustic Barn Dance, and the Midwest Composers Symposium. He has also received readings by the JACK Quartet, Oasis Saxophone Quartet, and Toledo Symphony Orchestra, among others. His piece *the waters wrecked the sky* for unaccompanied clarinet can be found on album *In Memoriam Dinu Ghezzo* by The Namaste Ensemble's "No Borders Quartet" performed by Italian clarinetist Arianna Tieghi, and his work *GRIME* for violin, viola, cello, and double bass (premiered at the Grand Finale of Make Music Chicago 2013) was featured on I CARE IF YOU LISTEN's Spring 2014 Mixtape.

He has received awards from the National Federation of Music Clubs, ASCAP Plus, a Fellowship from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and others. He served as the graduate assistant for the MidAmerican Center for Contemporary Music at BGSU, and now serves as a teaching assistant in Electronic Music at CCM.

Conductor **Thomas Cunningham** is artistic director of Urban Playground Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Cunningham made his New York City debut conducting Tchaikovsky's final opera, *Iolanta* for Opera Slavica. He is conductor of the Ripieno Ensemble in Bucks County, PA, and works regularly with The Princeton Festival, Opera Slavica, and The CoOPERative program. Previously, he has worked on productions ranging from *Jenůfa* and *Eugene Onegin*, to *Alcina*, *Così fan tutte* and *La fille du régiment*. Also in demand as a chorus master, Mr. Cunningham regularly prepares choruses in Romantic, Germanic and Slavic languages. For more information, visit www.ThomasCunningham.us

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About Urban Playground Chamber Orchestra

Founded in 2014, Urban Playground Chamber Orchestra's purpose is to collaborate anywhere, anytime, with anyone. A collection of musicians from the greater New York City area, we work with artists, organizations and communities to create engaging programming and events.

Urban Playground is made up of graduates from the major conservatories of New York, and boasts players who have performed with leading orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic.

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