

THE ARTISTS:

Stephen Scott was born in 1944 to parents trained in the sciences; he is a professor of music at Colorado College. He has served on the faculty of The Evergreen State College and as visiting composer at Eastman School of Music, Aspen Music School, New England Conservatory, Princeton University, University of Southern California, Cal Arts, and at festivals and conservatories in Germany, Estonia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Ireland, Norway, England, Canary Islands and Australia. In 2004 he was a resident scholar at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Study and Conference Center on Lake Como, Italy. Scott's awards include commissions from Meet the Composer/USA and the Barlow Endowment, a grant from the Peter S. Reed Foundation, the New England Conservatory/Rockefeller Foundation Chamber Music Prize, and a National Endowment for the Arts Composer's Fellowship. His music may be heard on New Albion Records. Film and television credits include *Traffic* (DVD version), *Egg: the Arts Show* (PBS) and the NBC special *Revenge of the Whale*.

The Bowed Piano Ensemble, founded by Stephen Scott in 1977, has toured and broadcast widely in the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia. Major performances have been given at Sydney Opera House, Melba Hall (Melbourne), Almeida Opera Festival (London), New Music America Los Angeles, Cabrillo Festival, Town Hall, Merkin Hall and World Financial Center (New York), Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), Theater Artaud and Other Minds Festival (San Francisco), NYFD Festival (Tallinn/Tartu), Musica Ficta Festival (Vilnius), Festival de Musica Visual (Lanzarote, Canary Islands), Freunde Guter Musik and MaerzMusik (Berlin), ppLANISSIMO Festival (Sofia) and Sionna Festival (Limerick). Film screenings have been at MIP Video Festival (Cannes) and the Key of Z Festival (Pacific Film Archives, San Francisco).

Victoria Hansen, soprano, appears often as a recitalist and in theatrical works. Opera audiences have heard her sing featured roles in *Gianni Schicchi*, *La Traviata*, *Suor Angelica*, *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, *The Merry Widow*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Old Maid and the Thief*, *Boris Godunov*, *Semele*, *Dido and Aeneas*, *Noye's Fludde*, and *The Stoned Guest*. Music Theatre, her guilty pleasure, has given her the opportunity to perform leading roles in *Phantom*, *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Ruddigore*, *Hello Dolly!*, and, most recently, *Three Penny Opera*. As a recitalist, Ms. Hansen frequently performs New Music compositions including those of her colleagues at Colorado College as well as composers showcased at C.C.'s annual New Music Symposium. She performs as vocalist with **The Bowed Piano Ensemble** throughout the USA and Europe, which has included concerts with The Other Minds Festival (San Francisco), the New Music Santa Fe series, MaerzMuzik (Berlin), ppLANISSIMO FESTIVAL (Sofia) and the Festival Musica Visual (Lanzarote, Canary Islands). *The Deep Spaces* is her second recording with the Ensemble.



College-Conservatory
of Music
presents

Stephen Scott and The Bowed Piano Ensemble with Victoria Hansen, soprano

Thursday, October 26, 2006
The Contemporary Arts Center
8:00 p.m.

Guest Artist Series

PROGRAM

New York Drones (2006) (*for Steve Reich on his 70th birthday*) Stephen Scott
(b. 1944)

The Ensemble*

The Deep Spaces (2005) Stephen Scott

Primordium

A letter from Pliny (to his friend Caninius Rufus at Como)

The Old Hall (poetry by William Wordsworth)

Windermere Racing (poetry by William Wordsworth)

Barcarola (poetry by William Wordsworth)

O'er Vales that Teem with Fruits: Hector and Harold in Italy (poetry by
George Gordon, Lord Byron)

Evening on Como (from prose by Mary Shelley)

The Face of Heaven (poetry by George Gordon, Lord Byron)

Scorn not the Sonnet (poetry by William Wordsworth)

The Deep Spaces (poetry by Pablo Medina)

Postludium

The Ensemble**; Victoria Hansen, soprano

THE BOWED PIANO ENSEMBLE

Ian Asbjornsen, Stephanie Brink, Bernard Brink,
Joseph Goetz, Jeffrey Jacobson, Stephen Scott

* for *New York Drones* add Elizabeth Beckel, Katherine Caouette,
Jennifer Mendoza, Jesse Morris

** for *The Deep Spaces* add Benjamin Schleiffer, Kevin Weitemier,
Courtney Winn, Sienna Wolf-Ekblad

The composer wishes to acknowledge a huge debt of gratitude to the Rockefeller Foundation, whose support in granting him a month-long residency at the Bellagio Study and Conference Center on Lake Como, Italy allowed him to begin, and to complete a substantial portion of, *The Deep Spaces* in such an inspiring and nurturing environment.

PROGRAM NOTES BY THE COMPOSER

New York Drones, the newest in my series of bowed piano compositions, is being premiered this week at Cincinnati's Contemporary Arts Center and the Allen Room in New York. The work is dedicated to the great American composer Steve Reich in honor of his seventieth birthday this month. Without his brilliant and sustained vision, our contemporary musical language would be much poorer. In this piece I've interpreted the concept of drones quite liberally to encompass not only long-sustained tones but also repeating rhythms on one pitch or repeating melodic and harmonic patterns in a single mode. Perhaps paradoxically, the work is also marked by more changes in tempo than might be expected in its short time-span.

The Deep Spaces, the newest work in my series of bowed piano compositions, is a fantasy song-cycle celebrating the power and grandeur—evoked by poets and composers over two millennia—of one of the world's most dazzling and enchanting locales: Lake Como, surely the brightest jewel in the crown of alps and mountain lakes that adorns Italy's far north, just below Switzerland. The song texts, set for soprano soloist with the ensemble serving as accompanying orchestra (and, occasionally, chorus), are taken from writers as distant in time, culture, psychology and aesthetic stance from one another as Pliny the Younger, aristocratic native of Como and chronicler of many aspects of Roman life in the first and second centuries A.D., William Wordsworth, whose poetry celebrates both the Lake District of his native England and the Italian Lake District he loved, and Pablo Medina, a twenty-first century poet and novelist of Cuban ancestry residing and teaching in New York. Listeners may also recognize musical themes and motives I have borrowed from composers linked to Como and the Italian mountains such as Liszt and Berlioz, weaving them together with my own melodies and textures. What ties all of these artists together is their attraction to and artistic connection with Lake Como and, more generally, Northern Italy.

The Deep Spaces is technically and compositionally much more complex than my early works, employing a wide range of forms, tools and performance strategies far beyond the simple bowed sounds of Arcs. It follows another recent work for soprano Victoria Hansen and The Bowed Piano Ensemble, *Paisajes Audibles/Sounding Landscapes*, which may be heard on Albany Records (Troy 649). This CD and others will be for sale following the concert.

Co-sponsored by the Visiting Composers Program at the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music and the Contemporary Arts Center.