

FY2012
Music Composition
Panelist Biographies

Daniel Brewbaker

Daniel Brewbaker, renowned composer currently residing in New York, holds the distinction of being the first American commissioned to compose a work for the legendary Kirov Orchestra and Chorus in St. Petersburg, Russia. His composition, "The Poet," received its premier at the White Nights Festival in June of 1999, conducted by the notable Valery Gergiev.

Born in Elgin, Illinois, in 1951 and a pianist since the age of 4, Daniel Brewbaker had a brilliant academic career, starting with undergraduate study at the University of Illinois, then a Master's and Doctorate degree from the Juilliard School. While beginning his career as a composer, he was an educator at Juilliard, Hunter, Queens Colleges (CUNY) and the Westminster Choir College. Further studies took him to Rome and other major European musical centers, where he became acquainted with many of the major composers of the last half-century.

His first composition, "Psalm 39," for soprano and piano, was premiered at the University of Illinois in 1970. After several decades and creating fifty-three compositions, Daniel has been established as an important American composer, receiving a large number of commissions both in the United States and abroad. His works have been performed by some of the world's leading performers in the foremost musical centers of the world.

His awards include the Nadia Boulanger Award at the Ecole des Artes Americaines in Fontainebleau, as well as first prize in the Lili Boulanger International Music Competition in Paris. He was a Tanglewood Fellow and won an Ives Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He has served as composer-in-residence at the Camargo Foundation in France in 1988 and 1994, and at the 1997 Spoleto USA Music Festival in Charleston, South Carolina.

Bobby Floyd

The passion with which Bobby Floyd plays piano, organ and keyboards are the result of his natural ability discovered at the age of two, his love of music, and years of practice. Whether performing jazz or gospel, as a soloist, with a trio or big band, his feel is unique and inspirational leading him to many distinguished appearances around the world.

Mr. Floyd has performed extensively in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Japan. Touring events include major jazz festivals, concert halls, and numerous night clubs with Ray Charles, Jeff Tyzik, Chris Howes and Sarah Morrow. The prestige associated with Floyd's international appearances can also be witnessed at home.

In his hometown, Columbus, Ohio, Bobby has been a feature with the *Columbus Jazz Orchestra*, *The Columbus Symphony*, and *ProMusica Chamber Orchestra* sharing the stage with Dionne Warwick, Doc Severinson, Arturo Sandoval, Faye Robinson and many others. He has also appeared in a variety of performances opening for Spyro Gyra, Smokey Robinson, Stanley Clark and George Duke, as well as accompanying other artists like David "Fathead" Newman, Bobby Watson, Greg Osby and Billy Hart.

He has completed three recordings: "Interpretations", "Setting the Standards" and "Floyd's Finest Gift". He has also recorded with Gerald Levert ("Groove On") and Faye Robinson ("Remembering Marian Anderson"). Additionally, he is featured on a Rusty Bryant album, "Rusty Rides Again", which received five stars in *Downbeat* magazine.

Mara Helmuth

Mara Helmuth (Margaret Mathilda Helmuth) composes music often involving the computer, and creates multimedia and software for composition and improvisation. Her recordings include *Sound Collaborations*, (CDCM v.36, Centaur CRC 2903), *Implements of Actuation* (Electronic Music Foundation EMF 023), *Sounding Out!* (Everglade) and works included on *Open Space CD 16* and the *50th Anniversary University of Illinois Experimental Music Studios commemorative collection*. Her work has been performed internationally at conferences, festivals and arts spaces. She is on the faculty of the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati and director of the Center for Computer Music there. She holds a D.M.A. from Columbia University, and earlier degrees (M.M., B.A.) from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Her software for composition and improvisation has involved granular synthesis, user interfaces, Internet2, and contributions to the RTcmix music programming language. Her writings have appeared in the monographs *Audible Traces* and *Analytical Methods of Electroacoustic Music*, and in the *Journal of New Music Research* and *Perspectives of New Music*. Recent installations *Hidden Mountain* (2007) and *Staircase of Light* (2003) were created for the Sino-Nordic Arts Space in Beijing. She is a recent president of the International Computer Music Association. She also plays piano and performs interactive works on computer. She participated in Deep Listening® retreats in 2000 and 2010.