

# Fromm Players at Harvard: Resistance and Hope

Saturday, March 31 at \*7:00\* pm

FREE



Clockwise from top: Galina Ustvolskaya, Rick Burkhardt of Prince Myshkins, Ben Johnston, Graciela Paraskevaidis

*John Knowles Paine Concert Hall | 3 Oxford Street, Cambridge (Harvard University campus)  
FREE, no tickets required. Free parking in Broadway Garage, corner of Felton St. and Broadway  
in Cambridge. T stop: Harvard Square Red Line. The hall is wheelchair accessible.*

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CAMBRIDGE, MA: Curated by Chaya Czernowin, the 2018 Fromm Concert at Harvard is a celebration of artistic integrity, individuality, and freedom of expression.

The satirical songwriting duo Prince Myshkins (named after Dostoyevsky's "idiot") - accordionist/singer Rick Burkhardt and guitarist/singer Andy Gricevich - poke hilariously accurate holes in the facades of power's privilege and arrive with new songs for our interesting times.

The remainder of the program focuses on music of the great Russian composer Galina Ustvolskaya (1919-2006), whose work was greatly admired by Dmitri Shostakovich. Although her career was limited in part by official Soviet and Russian apathy and misunderstanding, Ustvolskaya unswervingly developed a distinctive, penetratingly intense compositional voice,

represented here by her Duet for violin and piano and the rarely heard Symphony No. 2, *True and Eternal Bliss* (performed by Boston-based Sound Icon w/Ryne Cherry, baritone).

The Argentine-born composer Graciela Paraskevaidis (1940-2017) and the American Ben Johnston (b.1926) are likewise strong individualists. Born in Argentina and trained largely in Europe, Paraskevaidis lived and worked much of her life in Montevideo, Uruguay, where she was committed to education and the advancement of South American musical culture. Her *algún sonido de la vida* ("any sound of life"), which opens the concert, is an intimate, intricate dialog between two oboes (Ben Fox and Elizabeth England, oboe). Considered by many one of the great living composers, Ben Johnston has dedicated his life to writing music exploring extended Just-intonation tuning systems. His String Quartet No. 5 is an evolving variation on the folk song "Lonesome Valley" performed by the Kepler Quartet, the leading proponent of Johnston's music.

The Fromm Players at Harvard, a professional ensemble dedicated to the performance of contemporary music, play works organized around a strong theme that add something unique to new music in Boston. They are curated by a faculty member of the Harvard Department of Music. Each year's curator and performers are different, and each year the concerts focus on a new area of work.

John Knowles Paine Hall is located in the Music Building on the Harvard University campus at 3 Oxford Street. It is directly behind the Science Center, and a short walk from the Harvard Square Red Line T stop. Paine Hall is located on the second floor, and is wheelchair accessible.

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