



March, 2010

Dear Friends,

March is Women's History Month in America. Our fair city and many other upstate New York localities figured prominently in the history of the women's movement. Indeed, one of the most visionary and influential leaders of the suffrage movement, Susan B. Anthony, was a resident of Rochester. Chamber Music Rochester will join the nationwide celebration on March 7 at MAG with an illuminating program of music by women composers from the early 1800's to the present.

The concert will begin with German songs for voice and piano by Louise Reichardt (1779-1826), Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel (1805-1847), Clara Schumann (1819-1896), and Alma Mahler (1879-1964). These songs clearly demonstrate the progression of compositional styles from the simple harmonies of Reichardt to the extreme chromaticism of Mahler. The **Sonata for Viola and Piano** (1919) by Rebecca Clarke is an underplayed masterpiece. Nearly Brahmsian in scope and craft, the work abounds with lush harmonies and passionate climaxes. The brilliant, ear-tickling scherzo is, in and of itself, a testament to this composer's unique imagination.

The 1983 **Fantasy for Clarinet and Piano (...those Harbor Lights)** by Joan Tower is an exciting tour de force for two players. This musical journey incorporates an endless variety of textures, including rapidly alternating interplay and extended solos for both instruments. Near the end of the piece, the piano breaks into a virtuoso boogie-woogie, which is followed by an extended clarinet cadenza. The concert will end with a performance of "**Sifting Through the Ruins**" (2005) by Libby Larsen. Scored for soprano, viola, and piano, this work is a setting of texts collected from makeshift shrines in New York City after the tragedy of September 11, 2001. Larsen is well known for her uncanny ability to meld text with music. The result of her consummate skill in this regard is a concert experience that is both riveting and profoundly moving.

We are pleased to present the combined talents of soprano Pamela Kurau, clarinetist Kenneth Grant, violist Melissa Matson, and pianist Joseph Werner for this special program. During the concert intermission, MAG docents will feature work by women artists including "Peeling Onions," by Lilly Martin Spencer and "Swing Low," the recently-acquired maquette of Harriet Tubman by Alison Saar. The Fashioning Kimono exhibition will still be open for those who would like to see it again.

As always, the pre-concert chat will begin at 7:00 PM and will feature discussions of the evening's compositions with our distinguished performers. We look forward to seeing you on March 7 at the Memorial Art Gallery!

Stefan Reuss and Joseph Werner, Co-Artistic Directors