

Kenneth Meyer, Guitar
Concert Program
CGSUNY Guitar Festival
SUNY Oneonta Fine Arts Building M201
October 16, 2016 3 p.m.

Lady Rich's Galliard John Dowland (1563-1626)
The Frog Galliard
Lachrimae Pavan
Tarleton's Riserrectione
Lady Laiton's Almains

A Seeker's Song (2006)* Gregory Mertl (b. 1969)
Prelude, Fuga and Allegro, BWV 998 - Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Ricordanza (2012)** Jesse Jones (b.1978)

Valses Venezolanas Antonio Lauro (1917-1986) El Marabino
El Niño
Maria Luisa

*Commissioned and written through the generous support of the Hanson Institute for American Music

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Ken Meyer's Program Notes

A Seeker's Song (2006)

In virtually all of my pieces, it is the sound and personality of an instrument (or combination of instruments) that inspires a piece. As I gradually acquainted myself with it, the guitar revealed its searing, vulnerable beauty - a quality which totally enchanted me. It is the guitar's inability to sustain, its particular six-string resonance, the method of plucking, and the special sound of turns or ornaments - due to the technique of hammer-ons and pull-offs, that I believe yields this beauty. Turns, in particular, enthralled me. (There is simply nothing like that sound on any other instrument.) They are central to the musical fabric of the piece, as both rhythmic and figurative elements.

Although we are used to the guitar in highly amplified settings, in its untainted state the guitar seems to me to embody intimacy, both in its delicacy and in its quiet power. And it is intimacy, mainly, that I explore in this piece - an exploration which unconsciously and naturally gave rise to an air of seeking. Seeking is universal to humans, but how and why we seek is uniquely particular to each individual. It is a personal process, intimate in the extreme. "Song" in the title speaks to an overarching lyricism, a particular quality in the music, which is punctuated by impassioned cries and invocations that seem to spill out beyond its confines.

I am profoundly indebted to Kenneth Meyer for his confidence in my creativity and his courage in commissioning new works for guitar. I hope I have done justice to this trust and am grateful to have come to know this remarkable instrument.

Ricordanza (2012)

Written for guitarist Kenneth Meyer, *Ricordanza* is a reflection on the nature of musical memory. Over the course of the piece, different musical characters come in and out of focus: some are solemn, some are dancelike, some are pained and poignant, some are discursive, some are static, some return while others do not, and perhaps a new music arrives toward the end, shedding a new light on what came before. The unifying factor in the piece is that all these disparate characters are made from six different, though related chords, forming a harmonic frame that joins everything together into a single hazy memory.