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## ***GREAT MUSIC AT ST. BART'S PRESENTS***

- **THIRD SOUND – A NEW ENSEMBLE MAKES ITS U.S. DEBUT WITH A PROGRAM OF NEW AMERICAN & CUBAN MUSIC – January 12**
- **CONCORDIA CHOIR – February 23**



*Third Sound in Havana, photo by Tristan Cook. [Download](#) this photo in hi-res.*

The U.S. debut of Third Sound, a “supergroup” of young New York musicians, performing new American and Cuban music, and a performance by the renowned Concordia Choir from Moorhead, Minnesota, are the first events of 2016 from *Great Music at St. Bart's*, presented by the Mid-Manhattan Performing Arts Foundation:

**[Tuesday, January 12, 2016, at 7:30 pm in the Chapel](#)**

### **THIRD SOUND – U.S. Debut**

Third Sound is a new collective of virtuoso performers drawn from New York City's finest chamber musicians: **Sooyun Kim, flute; Romie de Guise-Langlois, clarinet; Karen Kim, violin; Michael Nicolas, cello; and Orion Weiss, piano; composer Patrick Castillo is the artistic director.** Having just made its debut as part of the delegation from the American Composers Forum invited to participate in the Festival de Música Contemporánea (Contemporary Music Festival) in Havana, Cuba, this New York

ensemble will present its first performance in the U.S. in the St. Bart's chapel, an acoustically brilliant space perfectly suited for contemporary chamber music.

"Third Sound is already one of the country's best contemporary music ensembles," says composer Michael Harrison, who also took part in the Havana residency. "For their debut concert at the Havana Contemporary Music Festival they selected an incredibly diverse range of ten works by leading American composers. Everything was executed with the kind of passion and precision that one only hears from the most experienced ensembles. Working with Third Sound is a composer's dream!"

Drawing on its Havana program, which was the first live concert in that festival's history featuring American performers in a program of exclusively contemporary American music (read about it, and hear selections from the concert, in Anastasia Tsioulcas's story for NPR Music, "[Hear a New Music Journey, from the U.S. to Havana](#)"), Third Sound will perform American works along with music by Cuban composers Wilma Alba Cal, Juan Piñera, and others to be announced, acquired during the ensemble's Havana visit. All the works on the program were written within the past 15 years, and eight of them will receive their New York or U.S. premiere performances:

CINDY COX *Wave* for piano trio (first movement) (2009) (*New York premiere*)  
KAI-YOUNG CHAN *Mieko* for flute and electronics (2014) (*New York premiere*)  
AMADEUS REGUCERA *Inexpressible (v. 2)* for flute, violin, and cello (2013, rev. 2015) (*U.S. premiere*)  
JUAN PIÑERA *Work* for clarinet, violin, and piano to be announced (*U.S. premiere*)  
INGRID ARAUCO *Fantasy Quartet* for clarinet, violin, cello, and piano (2001) (*New York premiere*)  
WILMA ALBA CAL *Homenaje a Piazzolla* for clarinet and piano (second movement) (*U.S. premiere*)  
CHRISTOPHER WENDELL JONES *A Crowd of Twisted Things* for violin and piano (2011) (*New York premiere*)  
JEREMY GILL *Paeon, Epitaph, and Dithyramb* for flute, cello, and piano (2008) (*New York premiere*)  
JENNIFER HIGDON *Smash* for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, and piano (2006)

The program, which will be recorded for commercial release later in 2016, is the first of two American/Cuban programs that Third Sound will present this season, the second to take place in May.

Conceived from a desire to present music as a rich and dynamic continuum, Third Sound brings together an accomplished group of musicians equally skilled in – and equally passionate about – the work of Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms as that of composers ranging from Schoenberg, Stravinsky, and Messiaen; Carter, Wuorinen, Adams, and Reich; to emerging composers of the early 21st century. The group's members have appeared on the most prestigious series and stages around the world and garnered major honors, including the Avery Fisher Career Grant, the Georg Solti Foundation Career Grant, and the Grammy Award for Best Chamber Music Performance, among many others.

**Learn more:**

"Hear a New Music Journey, from the U.S. to Havana," coverage and concert excerpts, from NPR Music: <http://tinyurl.com/gg9nr3t>

Third Sound and the ACF delegation to Havana: <http://composersforum.org/press/acf-cuba-delegation>

Third Sound: [Facebook](#) and [website](#)

Blog post from composer Kati Agócs about the Havana festival: <http://www.katiagocs.com/blog/>

Tickets: \$35, \$15 for Students and Seniors

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**Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at 7:30 pm, in the Church**

**THE CONCORDIA CHOIR**

The Concordia Choir

René Clausen, conductor

The renowned 72-voice Concordia Choir from Moorhead, Minnesota, makes its only New York City appearance this season with a return visit to St. Bart's, part of a 16-city U.S. tour. The choir, led by Dr. René Clausen, will perform a diverse program of traditional and contemporary choral works drawing from, or inspired by, hymns, spirituals, and the Lutheran tradition – including works by Dr. Clausen, Stephen Paulus, Jens Klimek, David Dickau, and Bobby McFerrin; Ives, Vaughan Williams, and Copland; and Bach and Mendelssohn.

The Concordia Choir continues to affirm its reputation as one of America's finest a cappella choirs. Since 1920, the choir has performed in nearly every major hall including Carnegie Hall and Kennedy Center as well as on numerous international tours, and has performed many times on Garrison Keillor's "Prairie Home Companion" radio show. Recent activities include a 2010 performance and recording with the Grammy Award-winning King's Singers and a 2011 tour of South Korea. The Concordia Choir is featured in the Emmy-winning "Concordia Christmas Concerts," which are nationally broadcast on public television. The choir's recordings are distributed internationally and through iTunes, and it is one of the top-selling choirs in the country.

Dr. René Clausen is the third conductor in the choir's history, assuming the role in 1986. As a composer he has written more than 120 commissioned works. The Kansas City Chorale recording *Life and Breath: Choral Works by René Clausen* won two Grammy awards in 2013.

**Learn more:**

**<https://www.concordiacollege.edu/music/ensembles/choirs/the-concordia-choir/>**

*Tickets: \$30, \$20 for Seniors, \$10 for Students*

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***Tickets may be purchased online at <http://mmpaf.org>, by phone by calling 212-378-0248, or in person at St. Bart's in Midtown Manhattan, 325 Park Avenue at 51st Street.***

**Great Music at St. Bart's** is produced by the Mid-Manhattan Performing Arts Foundation, an independent 501(c)(3) corporation established to cultivate, promote, sponsor and develop the understanding and love of the performing arts as presented at St. Bartholomew's Church, a treasured masterpiece of architecture on the east side of Manhattan's midtown. The corporation sponsors performances of music, dance, drama, and other performing arts as well as the exhibition of works in the film and fine arts genres. <http://mmpaf.org>

*December 11, 2015*