



Music

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE + THE ARTS

FIU SCHOOL OF MUSIC: New Music Miami ISCM Festival

**in collaboration with the
Subtropics Music Festival**

Thomas Buckner, Baritone Voice
FIU New Music Ensemble
Jason Calloway, Director

Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 7:30pm

FIU College of Architecture + The Arts | Miami Beach Urban Studios

420 Lincoln Road, Miami, FL 33139



AN ALL ROBERT ASHLEY PROGRAM

Odalisque (10')
Voice and 3 keyboards

The Mystery of the River (10')
Voice and prerecorded electronic orchestra

The Producer Speaks (24')
Voice and piano

Intermission

Tract (24')
Voice and prerecorded electronic orchestra

World War III, Just the Highlights (12')
Voice and chorus of three doing mouth percussion

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Robert Ashley was one of the most original minds in contemporary music. Based on his insights into the relation between music and words, he invented a new form of opera, a kind of singing in a manner of speaking, which has fascinated audiences and critics world wide. Over the more than thirty years that they worked together, Ashley wrote a number of concert versions of arias from his operas, as well as stand alone works, for baritone Thomas Buckner. Each piece in this concert showcases a different aspect of Ashley's creativity, and yet the concert cannot begin to cover the astonishing range of his work.

The first half of the concert is the briefest possible performance of the opera he often called his favorite, "Atalanta, Acts of God." Ashley composed and wrote 10 hours of material for the opera, from which each performance could be constructed. For this concert, Buckner will perform an aria from each of the opera's three acts. The style of this opera is what the composer calls 'spontaneous musical invention based on the declamation of the text'.

The second half contains two stand alone pieces composed especially for Buckner, one without words, in which the singer is one voice in an electronic orchestra, and one in which the accompaniment uses mouth percussion and amplification in an entirely new way. In each of Robert Ashley's vocal works, there is a unique combination of precision and freedom for the performer, making for an exciting musical experience.

ABOUT THOMAS BUCKNER

For over forty years, baritone Thomas Buckner has been active as a singer and producer of new and experimental composed and improvised music. A long-time member of the late Robert Ashley's Ensemble, Thomas Buckner returns to Miami Beach to present music specially composed for him. In tonight's program Ashley's *Odalisque*, *The Producer Speaks*, and *WWIII, Just The Highlights*, will be accompanied by members of FIU's New Music Ensemble.

Thomas Buckner, who was awarded the American Music Center's Letter of Distinction, has for four decades championed music of the avant-garde in America and throughout the world as a performer, producer, and promoter. A former student of the legendary Metropolitan Opera baritone, Martial Singher, he was trained in the classical tradition and has continued throughout his distinguished career to broaden the scope of his vocal styles, specializing in a wide range of experimental music. Buckner has collaborated with a host of "new music" composers including Robert Ashley, Noah Creshevsky, Tom Hamilton, Earl Howard, Matthias Kaul, Leroy Jenkins, Bun Ching Lam, Annea Lockwood, Roscoe Mitchell, Phill Niblock, Wadada Leo Smith, Chinari Ung, Christian Wolff, and many others. He has made solo appearances at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Harvard University, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Edinburgh Festival, the Prague Spring Festival, and the Biennale Festival of Venice, presenting a repertoire that includes more than 100 compositions, written for, or dedicated to him.

Thomas Buckner has participated in over 40 recordings, including six solo albums: *Full Spectrum Voice* [1991], *Sign of the Times* [1994], *Inner Journey* [1998], and *His Tone of Voice* [2001], *Contexts* [2006], and *New Music for Baritone and Chamber Ensemble* [2007] as well as collaborations with distinguished artists Borah Bergman (piano), and David Darling (cello), Earl Howard (saxophone), Gustavo Aguilar (percussion), and Wu Man (pipa). The entire discography features newly commissioned works by an impressive array of composers including Annea Lockwood, Somei Satoh, Alvin Lucier, Muhal Richard Abrams, Blue Gene Tyranny, Brian Smith, David Behrman, Robert Ashley, Petr Kotik, Tania León and many others, who utilize Buckner's wide range of musical styles.

He also has created the Mutable Music record label to produce new recordings and reissue some important historic recordings, previously unavailable in CD format. The impressive catalog includes recordings by Randy Weston, Roscoe Mitchell, Borah Bergman, Jerome Cooper, Joseph Bacon, Earl Howard, Noah Creshevsky, and Tom Hamilton.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tickets may be obtained by phone through the Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center Box Office at 305.348.0496, in person, or online at wpac.fiu.edu. For additional concert and master class information, and to join our concert mailing list, visit the FIU School of Music website at music.fiu.edu/performances.

March 6th at 7:30pm: Concert # 9 NODUS Ensemble - Works from Spain and South Florida
Spanish Cultural Center, Free Admission

March 20th at 7:30pm: Concert # 10 Violinist Mari Kimura – Works for Violin and Electronics
College of Architecture + The Arts | Miami Beach Urban Studios, Free Admission

March 25th at 7:30pm: Concert # 11 Alumni Composers Concert featuring NODUS Ensemble
College of Architecture + The Arts | Miami Beach Urban Studios, Free Admission

April 9th at 7:30pm: Concert # 12 NODUS Ensemble and the Amernet String Quartet
New Music for String Quartet and Chamber Ensemble
College of Architecture + The Arts | Miami Beach Urban Studios, Free Admission

April 17th at 7:30pm: Concert # 13 Virtuoso flutist Robert Dick
College of Architecture + The Arts | Miami Beach Urban Studios, Free Admission

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