

2012

# The [Untitled] Festival

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**THE [ UNTITLED ] DALLAS MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL**

CONTEMPORARY CULTURE. CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT. CONTEMPORARY CITY.

**Submitted to Bigi Deas at SMU on January 27, 2012**

**STUDENT AND FACULTY PARTICIPANTS**

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AND

**HEDY LAW, FACULTY COOPERATOR**

Assistant Professor of Music History

## **PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION**

As the city of Dallas has experienced exponential growth in recent decades, so has its cultural scene. With the opening of the AT&T Performing Arts Center in 2009, the city is now host to one of the nation's foremost arts districts, including within its boundaries institutions such as the Nasher Sculpture Center, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Meyerson Symphony Center, and the nearly completed Dallas City Performance Hall, set to open in 2012. An increasing investment into arts education programs is also evident, with organizations such as Big Thought being tasked to engage local public school students from a wide array of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. Despite these advances, however, the regional cultural scene is in a state of transition as younger generations of audiences demand new art and music. Meaningful cultural capital and experience is not derived from the building of major infrastructure or from the importation of talent from other parts of the country, but rather from fostering the development of creative talent and exchange within the city and from providing egalitarian access to quality works of performing and visual art. Both of these aspects of the arts scene in Dallas deserve prioritization, because both creation and accessibility are essential for sustainable, qualitative cultural expansion.

*The [Untitled] Dallas Music and Arts Festival* is a proposed interdisciplinary cultural festival that will take place over the course of the month of October 2012 – coinciding with the Dallas Arts District's *Art in October* – and will entail nine distinct events, including three interdisciplinary performances, two lectures, two panel discussions, and an interactive educational seminar for local public school students, all offered free of charge and open to the greater public. While the music of composers such as Philip Glass, Huang Ruo, Wynton Marsalis, Lera Auerbach, Arvo Pärt, Bright Sheng, and John Luther Adams will be featured in performances, original submissions of works by composers residing in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area will be encouraged, with the anticipated premieres of several compositions taking place over the course of the festival. Original choreography and visual art will also be created in

order to complement the musical aspect of every performance. Organizations identified as potential community partners include The Dallas Opera, Bridge the Gap Chamber Players, The Dallas Contemporary, SYZYGY at Meadows, and Voices of Change, and potential venues for events include The McKinney Avenue Contemporary, The People's Last Stand at Mockingbird Station, Hamon Hall at the AT&T Performing Arts Center, and here at Southern Methodist University.

The title for the festival – *The[Untitled]DallasMusicandArtsFestival* – represents the challenge for artists and audiences to create a personal context for the works presented, as well as to circumvent notions of formality surrounding the experience of cultural engagement. This festival will provide an alternative cultural experience than what is most frequently offered in Dallas. Rather than present works from within the traditions of previous generations, the festival seeks to highlight works created by living performers, composers, choreographers, and visual artists, each with his or her own understanding of contemporary American culture. And while organizational partnerships will be sought, many of the potential featured artists and performers will be students, alumni, and faculty of the Meadows School of the Arts, enabling unprecedented interaction among those within the Southern Methodist University community and the public. Following the festival, event details will be aggregated in an effort to assess critical and public reception of the presented works and discussions, as well to project the potential sustainability of similarly structured events in the future. In an era of substantial growth and development in North Texas, *The[Untitled]DallasMusicandArtsFestival* will both seek to meet the needs of and to set a new standard in Dallas for the accessibility and creation of contemporary art and music.

## **PROGRAM OUTLINE**

### **THE FESTIVAL WILL INCLUDE THREE PERFORMANCES:**

#### [UNTITLED PERFORMANCE #1]: PERFORMANCE IN THE POSTMODERN ERA

This performance will present works of theater, dance, and spoken work in conjunction with compositions of living composers, including at least one currently residing in the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

#### [UNTITLED PERFORMANCE #2]: ELECTRO-ACOUSTICAL MUSIC AND DIGITAL MEDIA

This performance will combine musical works that blend both acoustic traditions and electronic sounds with multimedia works including film and photography.

#### [UNTITLED PERFORMANCE #3]: A JAZZ RETROSPECTIVE

This performance will feature newer works of vocal and instrumental Jazz interspersed with works from the Blues, Swing, Latin Jazz, and other eras in order to develop an historical context for the creation of compositions today.

### **COMPLIMENTING THE PERFORMANCE SERIES, THE FESTIVAL WILL INCLUDE TWO PRE-CONCERT LECTURES AND AN EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR:**

#### CURRENT TRENDS IN JAZZ AND PARTICIPATION

This lecture will delve into the health and vitality of one of America's greatest contributions to the performing arts – Jazz – and will discuss ways in which younger generations are being introduced to the genre.

#### MUSIC IN THE DIGITAL AGE

This discussion will seek to explore the dynamic among the performing arts and technology, and will also investigate the creative process of combining works of music and dance with the development of digital media.

#### EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR: THE FUTURE OF CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

This event will provide an interactive performance-lecture on contemporary art and music for high school and college students considering careers in the cultural sector.

**FINALLY, THE FESTIVAL WILL HOST TWO PANEL DISCUSSIONS:**

THE ROLE OF THE ARTIST IN 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY DALLAS

A panel comprised of performers and artists will explore the process by which works of art and music are commissioned, created, and distributed throughout the community, and how their work has been received in an age of rapidly changing tastes and preferences.

ARTS AND CITY DEVELOPMENT

A panel comprised of regional artists, composers, nonprofit administrators, and city officials will discuss the implications of the performing and visual arts beyond the cultural sector, including educational reform, community engagement, and city development.

## **PROPOSED TIMELINE**

### **FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2012**

Initial contact will be made with area arts organizations to both announce the Festival and to assess the potential for community support

### **APRIL AND MAY 2012**

A preliminary schedule for the Festival will be drafted

Musical repertoire will be announced

Dancers, choreographers, composers and visual artists will be engaged, and initial personnel will be selected

### **JUNE AND JULY 2012**

Festival dates and venues will be confirmed

Musicians will be selected, and repertoire will be acquired and distributed

Discussion panels will be confirmed, as will the topics and speakers for all pre-performance lectures

### **AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2012**

Rehearsals will begin, and all technical aspects of the Festival will be designed

Promotion for all events will begin, and regional media organizations will be engaged

Program books will be created and produced

### **OCTOBER AND BEYOND 2012**

The Festival – including performances, lectures, and panel discussions – will take place at various venues throughout Dallas

A final report detailing the events, media coverage, and public reception will be created, and an analysis of the potential sustainability for future festivals will be presented



**PROJECTED BUDGET**

**PROGRAM EXPENSES**

Music Rental, Purchase, and Performance Rights Acquisition	\$1,000
Venue Rental and Event Production	\$1,500
0 Audiovisual Equipment Rental	\$750

**MANAGEMENT EXPENSES**

Website Hosting and Design	\$250
250 Program Book: Design and Production	\$750
Promotional Materials: Design and Production	\$250
Transportation and Rehearsal Meals for Performers and Staff	\$500

**TOTAL EXPENSES AND RESPONSIBLE PARTY**

Total \$5,000

[ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE]: James Ryan Jillson