WEDNESDAYS@7
MUSIC BY
Thomas Meadowcroft
PLAYED BY
Anthony Burr
May 3, 2017 - 7 p.m.
Conrad Prebys Concert Hall
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Music by

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Played by Anthony Burr and friends

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Medieval Rococo

Anthony Burr, clarinet
Rachel Beetz, alto flute
Benjamin Rempel, percussion
Todd Moellenberg, keyboard

The Middle Section

Anthony Burr, pedal steel guitar
Thomas Meadowcroft, electronics

The Great Knot

Fiona Digney, percussion
Dustin Donahue, percussion
Benjamin Rempel, percussion
Medieval Rococo

The title, ‘Medieval Rococo’ is an oxymoron for our time: how is it possible to generate an abundance of wealth, ornamentation and redundancy on the back of an impoverished idea? The terms ‘medieval’ and ‘rococo’ are not used to reference periods of European Art History, but are used in the populist sense of the words. ‘Medieval’ denotes music crude and backward, ‘rococo’ denotes music garish and arty.

The Great Knot

The Great Knot (2011), commissioned by Speak Percussion, is a poetic response to the migratory patterns of the bird, the great knot.

This species breeds in Siberia in the Summer but heads to Australia and Southern Asia during the Northern Winter. (The great knot is also sometimes vagrant in Europe, although whether this is by accident or providence, one cannot be sure.) What is also for us a long haul flight, the bird makes the journey with only one stopover.

The great knot is now considered vulnerable as a species due to a combination of factors, including the reclamation of the birds’ stopover grounds between Siberia and the South Seas (namely, mud flats in South Korea). Furthermore, given its strange ‘international’ status, that is its territory is not fixed to a specific nation state, the bird is more difficult to protect. In this manner, Great Knots are birds without passports, so to speak, and are without anywhere to land.

The flight path of the great knot is used as a model for music composition, namely “how to get from A to B”.

Production Credits

Department of Music
Rand Steiger, Chair
Barbara L. Jackson, MSO
Linda Higgins, Fiscal Manager
Elizabeth Cuevas, Fiscal Assistant
Jessica C. Flores, Production Manager
Andrew Munsey, Recording Engineer
Daniel McFarland, Jonathan Yergler, Recording Assistants

David Espiritu, Theater Production Specialist
Stage and Front of House crew:
Nhuxuan Ho, Kimberly Vazquez, Ester Gherzi, Daniel Barbarita, Cory Banh, Grand Hovander and Pablo Kim

Meghan Roos, Promotions Manager
Jennifer Bewerse, Promotions Design
Jordan Morton, Program Associate

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