

UCSD Bass Ensemble
March 12, 2012, 8 pm
Conrad Prebys Concert Hall
Directed by Mark Dresser

Prelude of Light homage to Stefano Scodanibbio (1956-2012)	Yeung-ping Chen 2012
Vernaculous	Yvette Jackson 2012
Callous	Adam Goodwin 2012
Il neige a Pontault	Jiri Slavik 2010
mUTTERANCES arranged for Contrabass Quartet	Paul Hembree 2010
Reflections	Scott Worthington 2012
Phase Parisien (4)	Florent Ghys 2012
Alisei	Stefano Scodanibbio 1986

UCSD Bass Ensemble
Tyler Eaton
Adam Goodwin
Julie Perrot
Scott Worthington
Mark Dresser

This evening's concert is dedicated to the memory of the great late contrabassist and composer Stefano Scodanibbio born in Macerata, Italy June 18, 1956. He passed away on January 11, 2012 in Cuernavaca from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's; the same city and disease as another bass great, Charles Mingus. I was first introduced to Stefano in Rome in 1977 by composer Giacinto Scelsi who beamed, "This is Stefano Scodanibbio and he PLAYS my music!" The first time I heard Stefano in person was in 1989. He came to New York at "Experimental Intermedia" playing a beautiful recital of his own music. There were only four of us in the audience which included composer John Cage. Stefano's bass playing developed from the sonic direction first forged by his teacher, Fernando Grillo; the gracile sense of sound, the use of a cello bow, and his extraordinarily complex multiple arco and pizzicato harmonic ringings. Yet Stefano took it in a completely different direction and created a rich original vocabulary and a new solo music that inspired many others to compose to dedicate works for him including Nono, Scelsi, Bussotti, Donatoni, Estrada, Ferneyhough, Frith, Globokar, Sciarrino, and Xenakis. One crowning achievement was his extraordinary "The Voyage that Never Ends," a forty-five minute non-stop morphing solo polyphonic excursion in just intonation. Watching him play was extraordinary as the simplicity of what you saw belied the complexity of what was heard. He would excite the string from many different angles in perfect rhythm sounding harmonics that would ring and accumulate beyond the attack. In June 2004 Stefano premiered *Sequenza XIVb* by Luciano Berio in his own version for contrabass, from the original for cello. He had three long time duo collaborations with Rohan de Saram, Marcus Stockhausen, and Terry Riley. His untimely passing is tragic indeed. It is remarkable how much he achieved and we are all the richer for it.

This is the second year that we've invited members of the UCSD community outside of the bass class to compose for the ensemble. This year we are grateful for the contributions from Yeung-ping Chen, Yvette Jackson, and Paul Hembree. As well we've arrangements by the noted bassists Jiri Slavik from the Czech Republic and the French bassist Florent Ghys.

-- Mark Dresser

Vernaculus - Merriam Webster: "Latin -native, from verna -slave born in the master's house."

Alisei composed by Stefano Scodanibbio. Translates as "Trade Winds." We thought it fitting to perform this solo piece for 4 bassists in unison.