Still, for solo piano
James Romig, composer
Ashlee Mack, piano

BIOGRAPHIES

James Romig composes music in response to an increasingly fragmented and accelerated world, creating highly self-referential works that evolve isomorphically and reveal themselves gradually. Endeavoring to reflect the intricacies of the natural world, his compositional paradigms exert influence on both small-scale iteration and large-scale design, obscuring boundaries between form and content. He acknowledges and celebrates focus and patience — elements crucial to his work's initial creation, its realization by performers, and its construal by audiences. Critics have described his music as "profoundly meditative, haunting" (The Wire), "a complex quilt of sound" (Moline Dispatch), and "rapturous, slow-moving beauty" (San Francisco Chronicle). *Still*, for solo piano, was recognized as one of two Finalists for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Music. His works have been performed in 49 states and 34 countries by such notables as Talujon, Harpverk, Iktus, JACK, Khasma, Helix, Chronophonie, Altered Sound, Suono Mobile, Cadillac Moon, Due East, Collide-O-Scope, flutist Harvey Sollberger, violinist Erik Carlson, pianists Ashlee Mack and Taka Kigawa, and the Quad City Symphony. Recordings of his music have been released by New World, Navona, Blue Griffin, and Perspectives of New Music. Guest-composer visits include Eastman, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Bowling Green, Illinois, Northwestern, and the American Academy in Rome. Artist residencies include Copland House, Centrum, Everglades, Grand Canyon, and Petrified Forest. He holds degrees from the University of Iowa (BM, MM) and Rutgers University (PhD), where he studied with Charles Wuorinen. Milton Babbitt provided additional mentoring and served on Romig's PhD dissertation committee. Since 2002, he has been on faculty at Western Illinois University, where he heads the composition area. His music is published exclusively by Parallax Music Press (ASCAP).

Pianist **Ashlee Mack** has given recitals in Germany, Italy, and across the United States. Specializing in contemporary music, she has premiered works by many notable composers including Christian Carey, Matthew Heap, David Maki, Robert Morris, Lawrence Moss, Paul Paccione, Bruce Quaglia, James Romig, Edward Taylor, and David Vayo. In 2012, she and Katherine Palumbo founded the Khasma Piano Duo, an ensemble dedicated to performing music from the 20th and 21st centuries. Their albums are available on CD Baby, Amazon, and iTunes. Other solo and chamber recordings by Mack can be heard on Navona Records, Parallax Music Press, Perspectives of New Music/Open Space, and New World Records, with upcoming releases on Innova and Parma. An avid hiker and nature enthusiast, she has been an artist-in-residence at Wupatki National Monument, Everglades National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, Petrified Forest National Park, and Centrum in Fort Worden State Park, WA. In 2017, she premiered James Romig's 55-minute piano solo, *Still*, and has since presented the work more than twenty times, including performances at the Clyfford Still Museum, the Milwaukee Art Museum, and Frank Lloyd Wright's historic Cedar Rock estate in Quasqueton, IA. Mack is Director of Piano Studies at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. For more information, please visit www.khasmapianoduo.com/ashlee-mack.