

Still, for solo piano

James Romig, composer

Ashlee Mack, piano

BIOGRAPHIES

James Romig endeavors to create music that reflects the intricate complexity of the natural world, where fundamental structures exert influence on both small-scale iteration and large-scale design, obscuring boundaries between form and content. His work has been described as "a complex quilt of sound" (Moline Dispatch), "the musical equivalent of fractal geometry" (Classical New Jersey), and "rapturous... sparse, slow-moving beauty" (San Francisco Chronicle). Early collegiate study in percussion performance led to an interest in minimalism, while doctoral study in composition with Charles Wuorinen and Milton Babbitt engendered a passion for serial structure and rigorous formal design. His music is further inspired by abstract expressionist painting, post-modern literature, doom/drone metal, and progressive rock. Notable performers of his work include the JACK Quartet, Talujon, Chronophonie, Collide-O-Scope, Due East, Duo Contour, Helix, Khasma Duo, New Muse Duo, Zodiac Trio, Duo Harpverk, Suono Mobile, the Quad City Symphony, pianists Ashlee Mack and Taka Kigawa, flutists John McMurtery and Harvey Sollberger, and many others. His music has been performed in 49 states and 33 countries, and his compositions for percussion have received hundreds of performances around the world. Recordings of his music have been released by New World, Navona, Blue Griffin, and Perspectives of New Music/Open Space. Guest-composer visits include Eastman, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Bowling Green, Minnesota, Tennessee, Colorado, Illinois, Northwestern, and the American Academy in Rome. Artist residencies include Copland House, Centrum, and National Parks (Everglades, Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest). He holds degrees from the University of Iowa (BM, MM) and Rutgers University (PhD), and has been on faculty at Western Illinois University since 2002. 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.