**Still, for solo piano**

James Romig, composer

Ashlee Mack, piano

**BIOGRAPHIES**

**James Romig** (b.1971) 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), "unhurried, pointillistic" (Baltimore Sun), and "the musical equivalent of fractal geometry" (Classical New Jersey). 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).

**Ashlee Mack** has given recitals in Germany, Italy, and across the United States. Specializing in contemporary music, she has performed solo and chamber music with organizations such as the Society for Chromatic Art, Vox Novus, New Music Forum, Iowa Composers Forum, New Music Festival at Western Illinois University, Bowling Green New Music Festival, Aspen Composers Conference at the Aspen Institute, PASIC, and SCI. Mack is co-founder of the Khasma Piano Duo, and their albums *Switchback* and *Time Seems to Pass* are available on CD Baby, Amazon, and iTunes. Other recordings include works by Robert Morris and Christian Carey, both featured on the *Milton Babbitt: a composers' memorial* CD set published by *Perspectives of New Music/Open Space*, and James Romig's *Transparencies* on the *Mosaic: Society of Composers* album. An avid hiker and nature enthusiast, she has been an artist-in-residence at Wupatki National Monument, Everglades National Park, Grand Canyon National Park, and Centrum at Fort Worden State Park, WA. In collaboration with composer and husband, James Romig, Mack presented the world premiere of his 60-minute solo piano piece, *Still*, at the Clyfford Still Museum in Denver in 2017, and New World Records will release the full-length recording in 2018. She will also premiere Romig's new work for piano and orchestra, commissioned by the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Symphony, in 2019. Mack is currently Director of Piano Studies at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois.