

MEDIA ALERT: GVSU New Music Ensemble to perform on campus.
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NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE TO PERFORM AT GVSU

November 16, 8PM • Large Dance Studio, 1600 Performing Arts Center • Free Admission

Join us on November 16 as the acclaimed GVSU New Music Ensemble presents an evening of classic contemporary music with Grammy nominated pianist Andrew Russo. In honor of what would have been Olivier Messiaen's 100th birthday, three of the French composer's works will be performed--*Oiseaux Exotiques*, a prelude for solo piano, and a movement from his *Quartet for the End of Time*, which will also be choreographed by new GVSU dance faculty member Shawn Bible. In addition, the world premiere of J. Anthony Allen's composition *Pierrot Variations* will be performed. This work, a remix for chamber ensemble and electronics of Arnold Schoenberg's seminal work *Pierrot Lunaire*, was commissioned by the New Music Ensemble and GVSU Alumni Association in honor of Allen receiving the 2008 GVSU Young Alumnus Award. Rounding out the program will be contemporary arrangements of classic works by Radiohead, Velvet Underground, Steppenwolf, and James Blunt. These arrangements were recently released to rave reviews on Russo's CD *Mix Tape*.

GVSU New Music Ensemble

Founded in 2006 by its director Bill Ryan, the New Music Ensemble at Grand Valley State University has quickly risen to the national stage. The ensemble's 2007 recording of Steve Reich's *Music for 18 Musicians* was called the "Story of the year in classical music" by WNYC's John Shafer. The CD has received glowing critical reviews worldwide and was named on numerous "Best Recordings of 2007" lists including those by the New York Times, New York Magazine, and L.A. Weekly. And, in a rarity for new music ensembles, it even spent eleven weeks on Billboard's top classical crossover chart. The ensemble has been featured on NPR's *Weekend Edition*, performed at the World Financial Center in New York at the Bang On a Can marathon, and most recently at the College Music Society national conference in Atlanta. In April 2009 members of the ensemble will perform at Carnegie Hall with Kronos Quartet and others, in a 25th anniversary performance of Terry Riley's work *In C*.

Andrew Russo

Pianist Andrew Russo is a musical interpreter of uncommon vitality. A Grammy-nominated recording artist, Russo has made a name for himself through his work with many of today's leading composers in the United States and Europe. His career has unfolded around the globe, with appearances in New York, Paris, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Rome, Leipzig, Munich, Brussels and London. Trained classically at The Juilliard School and the Hochschule fur Musik und Theater Mendelssohn in Leipzig, Mr. Russo pursued further specialized training in Paris with Frederic Chiu. It was during those years that Russo began developing relationships with many important American and European composers, began working with electro-acoustic music and explored an ongoing interest for the hybrid world of live musical performance and theater.

In the 2001 Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Russo created a special and historical moment by performing George Crumb's *A Little Suite For Christmas, A.D. 1979*, making him the first person to ever perform on the inside of the piano in this major quadrennial event. The attraction that this performance spurred led to the development of the 2002 George Crumb Celebration Festival at the Angel Orensanz Performing Arts Center on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Serving as artistic director and pianist for this event, Mr. Russo worked closely with the composer to develop a retrospective structure closely mirroring the trajectory of Mr. Crumb's inimitable career. With the composer on hand and performances by many of today's leading

young contemporary music artists, the festival was a rousing success. In a rave review of the entire weekend, Shirley Fleming wrote of "Mr. Russo's totally absorbing solo performances of Volumes I and II of Makrokosmos" (Musical America). A prolific recording artist, Mr. Russo's series of American composer portraits for London's Black Box Records includes releases of John Corigliano's piano and chamber works – 2006 Grammy Nomination – Best Chamber Music Performance, Pick of the Month in BBC Magazine – and Steve Reich's Piano Phase – Benchmark performance in BBC Magazine 'A musically assured performance that sees off the Nonesuch recording quite decisively'). As a recitalist, Mr. Russo's programs frequently feature premieres. In the last 2 years alone, Russo has given the US premieres of works by Holland's Jacob ter Veldhuis and Gerard Beljon, the French premiere of George Crumb's Eine Kleine Mitternachtmusik, and world premieres of works written for Russo by American composers Derek Bermel and Marc Mellits and British composer James Aitchison. In December 2004, Mr. Russo presented the New York premiere of Philippe Manoury's monumental Pluton for piano and live electronics with the composer's collaboration.

J. Anthony Allen

J. Anthony Allen is an acoustic and electronic music composer and performer. He has held teaching appointments at the Peabody Conservatory of Music (at Johns Hopkins University), the University of Minnesota School of Music, the University of Minnesota Department of English, the Minnesota School of Business, and in the Netherlands, where he recently worked as visiting faculty at the University of Amsterdam. He has worked with many forms of interactive media including audio, video, installation and dance, and performs extensively both as a guitarist and on wearable sensor controllers which he designed and built.

Allen's compositions have been performed throughout the U.S. and in countries including Denmark, France, Hungary, and the Czech Republic; and by such renowned groups as the Minnesota Orchestra, the Academy of Conductors Orchestra (Aspen), and the Peabody Conservatory Orchestra. Later this fall, the internationally acclaimed GVSU New Music Ensemble will be performing one of Allen's pieces commissioned exclusively for the group. In 2004, Allen co-founded the Salon3136 Concert Series which hosts concerts and other events with the intention of dismantling the exclusivity of concert music. Additionally, Allen has served as the director of programming and principal producer for the Spark Festival of Electronic Music and Arts at the University of Minnesota for the last five years, on several committees at the American Composers Forum, and on the Technology Committee for the University of Minnesota School of Music. In 2008, Allen worked with Northern Lights on producing multiple events under the epithet "The Unconvention," which garnered national and international media attention.

Since earning a bachelor's degree in music from GVSU in 2001, Allen has earned four additional degrees. He graduated from the Peabody Conservatory of Music with double master's degrees in composition and electronic music. He recently finished his doctoral dissertation at the University of Minnesota earning an art minor along the way. He has also studied at the Centre de Creation Musicale Iannis Xenakis (CCMIX) in Paris, France, as well as the Aspen Music Festival and School.

Shawn Bible

Nationally acclaimed dancer and choreographer, Shawn T. Bible, will be joining the faculty of Grand Valley State University Fall 2008. Prior to accepting this position, he served on the faculty of Texas Tech University. Mr. Bible has danced professionally with I~Move, People Dancing, and Ann Arbor Dance Works. Very active as a choreographer throughout the United States, he is also the artistic director of the modern dance company, stbdance which is the recipient of the Maggie Allessee New Choreography Award.

Shawn Bible received a B.A. degree in Social Science and Dance from Michigan State University and a M.F.A. degree in Dance Choreography and Performance from the University of Michigan. His research interests into the integration of Modern Dance and film/video technology has resulted in many outstanding productions, including his video dance Dominique which won a Rackham Scors Film Festival Award in 2005.