

ANTHONY de MARE

Solo Concert Offerings: 2007-2008

UNITIES: Music of Pride and Celebration

Anthony de Mare, piano

Originally presented by The New York Public Library of the Performing Arts in June, 2006, **UNITIES: Music of Pride and Celebration** explores diverse social, political and intimate perspectives that have inspired gay musicians and writers across the generations. Enthusiastically received by *The New York Times*, the program includes works by gay American composers **Lou Harrison**, **Leonard Bernstein** and **Fred Hersch** in addition to a brand new work by the young Philadelphia composer **Joseph Hallman** entitled *Aphorisms* (written especially for this program) featuring texts by Garcia Lorca, and a short polyrhythmic tribute entitled "I wish Ligeti was my boyfriend ...". Included also is a work by Canadian composer **Rodney Sharman** entitled *The Garden*, a gay parable of love and sex with original text by playwright Peter Eliot Weiss. Works by two important American heterosexual composers who continue to support civil rights for everyone are featured as well -- **Jerome Kitzke's** moving *Sunflower Sutra* (based on Allen Ginsberg's poem), and excerpts from **Frederic Rzewski's** timeless political masterpiece *The People United Will Never Be Defeated*.

"The pianist Anthony de Mare specializes in new music, often with a theatrical twist, and he likes building his concerts around themes that make them into something more akin to a show than to a recital ... Mr. de Mare gave a spicy performance of "Cool" from Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story* (1957), as well as eloquent readings of Lou Harrison's gently exotic "Largo Ostinato" (1937) and Fred Hersch's "Little Midnight Nocturne" (2002)." -*Allan Kozinn, The New York Times*

"... a performance which conceals its skill, its virtuosity and its brilliance in service of a very genuine dedication to an expressive task ... the overall impact was original, genuine and refreshing." -*The Sydney Morning Herald*

PROGRAM:

The People United Will Never Be Defeated (1975)

(excerpts)

Largo Ostinato (1937)

Aphorisms (2006) *

- i. fabulita
- ii. speaking in tongues
- iii. "I wish Ligeti was my boyfriend..."
- iv. "in the middle of difficulty lies opportunity"
- v. despedida

The Garden (2001) *

Little Midnight Nocturne (2002)

Cool (1957)

Sunflower Sutra (1999) *

Frederic Rzewski

Lou Harrison

Joseph Hallman

(text: F. Garcia Lorca)

Rodney Sharman

(text: Peter Eliot Weiss)

Fred Hersch

Leonard Bernstein

Jerome Kitzke

(text: Allen Ginsberg)

* - written for Anthony de Mare

QUOTE from JEROME KITZKE - from the post-concert panel discussion after Anthony de Mare's June 22, 2006 performance of *UNITIES: Music of Pride and Celebration* at Lincoln Center:

"Tony doesn't just play the piano as he does and speak as he does ... if you go to a lot of his concerts, you become aware of how he programs his events ... that in itself is a real art form and he is a real master of that. Whether the pieces are gay, straight or whatever tonight, the way Tony chose them and ordered them was masterful."