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NETWORK FOR NEW MUSIC 2009-2010 CONCERT SEASON
25th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

presents

**DIALOGUES WITH DARWIN:
THE POETRY PROJECT**

MUSIC AND POETRY INSPIRED BY
THE DIALOGUES WITH DARWIN EXHIBITION
AT THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY (APS) MUSEUM

*NNM Commission/World Premiere of “Darwiniana,”
a multimedia work by Philadelphia composer Maurice Wright*

*World premieres of music by five young Philadelphia composers
setting original poetry by three Philadelphia poets*

*Featuring the Network for New Music Ensemble with
guest Randall Scarlata, baritone*

February 19, 2010 ~ 8:00 PM

(wine reception and museum tour at 6:30 pm)

February 21, 2010 ~ 2:00 PM

(followed by wine reception and museum tour)

Benjamin Franklin Hall, 427 Chestnut St., Philadelphia

(Receptions/guided tour at 104 S. 5th St.)

TICKETS:

In advance: available online at www.networkfornewmusic.org, or by phone at 215.848.7647. General admission, \$20; Seniors, \$15; Students with ID, \$10

All tickets \$5 more at the door

*“There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally
breathed into a few forms or into one; ... from so simple a beginning endless forms most
beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved.”*

– Charles Darwin (Origin of Species, 1859, 1st edition)

PHILADELPHIA - **Network for New Music**, the award-winning chamber ensemble dedicated to commissioning and performing works by living composers, continues its 25th Anniversary concert season with **DIALOGUES WITH DARWIN: THE POETRY PROJECT**, a program featuring music and poetry inspired by the *Dialogues with Darwin* exhibition on view at the American Philosophical Society (APS) Museum in Philadelphia. The APS Museum has the largest collection of Darwin manuscripts outside of Cambridge, England, and their exhibition was designed to promote a very personal and direct dialogue between the 19th-century scientist and 21st-century visitors, who are encouraged to respond to Darwin's writings and artifacts.

Network for New Music commissioned Philadelphia composer **Maurice Wright** to write a major multimedia piece inspired by the "exploration, reflection and mutation" that he finds so fascinating in Darwin's writings. Wright's lyrical and witty work often synthesizes his diverse interests in music, technology and film, and this commission is no exception: *Darwiniana* is a 25-minute piece for eight musicians, audio playback, and video projection, including original "visual music compositions" and 47 still images drawn from Darwin's publications.

Network for New Music's Poetry Project has also led to the creation of new music and poetry directly inspired by the *Dialogues with Darwin* exhibition. Visitors to the APS Museum were invited to write an original poem inspired by any aspect of the *Dialogues with Darwin* exhibition, and the poems submitted were then made available to a group of young Philadelphia composers, who had also visited the exhibition. Each composer set a poem of their choice, and five of the resulting works will receive their world-premiere performances on these concerts.

Both concerts will offer a reception with a brief private guided tour of the *Dialogues with Darwin* exhibition (free to concert ticket-holders). Both concerts will also be preceded by a Network "Aperitif:" on Friday, a half-hour of music performed by student musicians, and on Sunday, a live reading of poems submitted for the *Dialogues with Darwin* Poetry Project.

CONCERT:

WHEN: Friday, Feb. 19, 8 PM; pre-concert reception/tour at 6:30 PM

Sunday, Feb. 21, 2 PM; post-concert reception/tour at 4 PM

WHERE: Benjamin Franklin Hall, American Philosophical Society, 427 Chestnut St., Philadelphia
(Receptions/guided tour at 104 S. 5th St.)

PROGRAM: *Darwiniana* by **Maurice Wright**; new works by **David Carpenter, Andrew Litts, Ian Munro, Daniel Nelson, and Daniel Shapiro**, with original poetry by **Beth Feldman Brandt, Jose Cedillos, and Cort Day**

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**For downloadable press releases and photos, please visit the
Network for New Music website:**

www.networkfornewmusic.org

click on "News & Press," and then "Materials and Downloads."

BIOGRAPHIES

NETWORK FOR NEW MUSIC has a nearly twenty-five year history of adventurous and innovative programming and virtuoso performances, and this season is no exception. Artistic Director **Linda Reichert** draws in the very best composers from across the nation and the world, and programs their work with that of the best and most interesting Philadelphia composers. As performed by the brilliant Network for New Music Ensemble (many of whom are also members of The Philadelphia Orchestra), the result is an invigorating and exceptional take on the best of contemporary music, and a window into the future's standard repertoire. Network's creative programming and spectacular musicianship has attracted world-class guest artists and composers such as Leon Fleisher, Peter Serkin, William Bolcom, Christoph Eschenbach, and many others; and Network often collaborate with artists from the worlds of dance, video, poetry and theater. Through residencies, workshops, and outreach concerts, the ensemble nurtures the gifts and enthusiasm of students who write and play the music of the next generation.

The **APS MUSEUM** explores the intersections of history, art, and science, and it presents the treasures of the American Philosophical Society—the nation's oldest learned society—in ways that are welcoming, intriguing, and educational. Exhibitions are accompanied by a robust slate of innovative public programs and educational outreach ranging from lectures and panel discussions to interactive web-based projects. The Museum also commissions contemporary visual and performing artists to create new works that interpret the historical exhibition materials and provide a contemporary view of the APS treasures. The current exhibition, *Dialogues with Darwin*, traces the history of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution through natural selection for more than a century, beginning prior to the 1830s, when Darwin jotted down his first thoughts about evolution, and continuing into the 1940s, when his theory was accepted as the basis for all life sciences.

Born in 1949, **Maurice Wright** attended Duke University and Columbia University, where he explored diverse interests that included music composition, computer science and film. He has been commissioned by outstanding ensembles and soloists across the United States, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Emerson String Quartet, the American Brass Quintet, and the Berkshire Music Festival at Tanglewood. The American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Fromm Music Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts have recognized and supported his work.

Described by the New Grove Dictionary as "extremely prolific", Wright's work is a synthesis of his diverse interests: vocal and instrumental music (new and old); technology and acoustics; and drama and film. Critics note elements of lyricism and wit in Wright's work: "Maurice Wright composed half of the concert's six pieces with a level of wit and invention that makes you wonder why the music isn't better known (Philadelphia Inquirer)"; "modern and fresh and completely natural...a genuinely successful piece of new music. More from Mr. Wright, please. Much more!" (New York Concert Reviews.)

Wright was introduced to the craft and technology of film when he met Director Gene Searchinger in 1976 and contributed an electronic score for an unusual film about recycled aluminum, "Metallic Tales: The Social Life of a Non-Ferrous Metal," which received a Golden Eagle Award. Over the next two decades Wright continued to work with Searchinger, most recently contributing music and special sound for the three-program series about linguistics, "The Human Language," broadcast in the United States and Japan. His interests in image were incorporated into two electronic operas: *The Trojan Conflict* (1989), and *Dr. Franklin*, an opera about Benjamin Franklin, produced in Philadelphia in 1990 as part of the Electrical Matter Festival. Since then he has experimented with visualization of musical sound and with digital animation, making his first professional presentation as an animator in March, 1996. Shortly thereafter he was commissioned by the Network for New Music to create a work for computer animation and computer sound. The resulting work, "Taylor Series," was described in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as "visionary" and "lyric." Wright is Laura H. Carnell Professor of Music Composition at Temple University's Boyer College Of Music and Dance, where he co-founded the Interactive Arts and Technology Laboratory and the Presser Center for Creative Music Technology.