

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Wooden Cities presents *(Re)Constructions: Inaugural Muriel Wolf and Albert Steger
Endowment Concert***

Lukas Foss - *Paradigm* (1968)

Lejaren Hiller - *An Avalanche* (1968)

Allen Sapp - *And the Bombers Went Home* (1943)

Jeffrey Stadelman – *Koral*, Nos. 8* & 12* (2009)

Anton Wolf - *Sonatine*

Esin Gündüz - *Looking at / Towards / On Top of: Mount Agri [Ararat]*

Nathan Heidelberger - *Occasionally, music* (2013)*

Brendan Fitzgerald - *with/against* (2014)*

Zane Merritt - *Burning City* (2014)*

Michael McNeill - *Heptagram* (2014)*

**premiere performance*

February 7, 2014

7:30pm

Lippes Concert Hall in Slee Hall

University at Buffalo

free admission

“Brown Bag” Preview Concert

February 4, 2014

12:05pm

Lippes Concert Hall in Slee Hall

University at Buffalo

free admission

Wooden Cities presents the Inaugural Muriel Wolf and Albert Steger Endowment Concert at the University at Buffalo. The program consists entirely of works by Buffalo composers, including recently composed pieces and reconstructions of pieces from Buffalo's rich history of new music.

The endowment was established through the UB Music Library by the late Muriel Wolf, who taught at UB from 1965 to 1993 and was vital in the Buffalo opera community, and her husband, the late Albert Steger, longtime bassist and orchestra librarian in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. The purpose of their endowment is to fund performances of works by Buffalo-area composers. Wooden Cities is the first ensemble to be awarded sponsorship from the endowment.

Wooden Cities has its origins in a performance of John Zorn's game piece *Cobra*, and its repertoire varies from traditionally notated works to graphic scores to improvised music. This program puts the ensemble's genre-crossing skills on display, as performers present aleatoric, semi-improvised works, an absurdist theater piece, a game piece, and traditionally notated scores that range widely in form. Six pieces on the program are world premieres, including four new pieces composed by Wooden Cities members specifically for this concert. Lejaren Hiller's theatrical *An Avalanche* for pitchman, prima donna, player piano, percussionist, and pre-recorded playback has been reconstructed for the occasion, the original player piano rolls having been tracked down, re-punched, and re-recorded.

The concert program connects multiple generations of composers with strong ties to Buffalo, and in most cases the University at Buffalo. Lukas Foss and Allen Sapp co-founded and co-directed the Center of the Creative and Performing Arts at UB from 1964 until 1968, when Sapp resigned and Lejaren Hiller took his place. In fact, the Foss and Hiller works on this program, *Paradigm* and *An Avalanche*, were performed on the same concert at UB (technically, the concert took place at Albright-Knox Art Gallery as one of the Evenings for New Music concerts) for their Buffalo premieres in 1968, the year of Hiller's arrival in Buffalo. The flutist and composer Anton Wolf taught at Buffalo State College and was the first husband of Muriel Wolf. After Anton died and Muriel married Albert Steger, Steger worked with Muriel to maintain and organize Anton's scores, which are now preserved in the library's collection. Jeffrey Stadelman is part of the newer generation of faculty at UB, and Wooden Cities members Esin Gündüz, Nathan Heidelberger, and Zane Merritt are currently PhD candidates in composition at the university. Director, percussionist, and composer Brendan Fitzgerald is an alumnus of the music department, and pianist and composer Michael McNeill is an active part of the Buffalo music scene.

The Wooden Cities ensemble aims to increase the performance and awareness of contemporary classical music in the Western New York through unique, educational presentations. The ensemble is committed to seeking new works by young composers while presenting essential, yet underrepresented, composers of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Wooden Cities has presented events at many of Western New York's most important arts venues, including at St. Joseph's University Parish, The Vault, Pausa Art House, and Griffis Sculpture Park. The group has held residencies at the University at Buffalo for undergraduate composition seminars, and has recently become teaching artists with Young Audiences of Western New York. Specific educational performances include a lecture/performance to SUNY at Buffalo students in the fall of 2012 and an educational program on graphic notation at the Dr. Lydia T. Wright School of Excellence entitled "Sights as Sound: Making Meaning from Symbols" in the spring of 2013. The ensemble was featured on 91.3 WBNY in August 2012 and May 2013.

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For more information, or to schedule an interview with Esin Gündüz or Brendan Fitzgerald, please call (716) 222-2735 or email info@woodencities.org.