

RED HEN PRESS: POETRY THROUGH VOICE

SUN / DEC 10 / 4:00 PM / THE EDYE

Kate Gale, *Managing Editor, Red Hen Press*

Mark E. Cull, *Publisher, Red Hen Press*

Hila Plitmann, *vocalist*

Eric Whitacre, *composer*

Dana Gioia, *poet/writer*

Douglas Manuel, *poet/writer*

Elise Paschen, *poet/writer*

Mark Abel, *composer*

Julia Adolphe, *composer*

Philip White, *composer*



From left to right: Elise Paschen, Dana Gioia, Doug Manuel, Eric Whitacre and Hila Plitmann

Tonight's program will be announced from the stage.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

BIOS

HILA PLITMANN, *vocalist*, is a GRAMMY® Award-winning soprano and a glittering jewel on the international music scene, known worldwide for her astonishing musicianship, light and beautiful voice and the ability to perform challenging new works. She regularly premieres works by today's leading composers while maintaining a vibrant and extraordinarily diverse professional life in film music, musical theatre and songwriting. In constant demand as a singer of new and contemporary music, Hila has been involved in a great many world premieres, including: *Paul Revere's Ride* with the Atlanta Symphony, *Esa-Pekka Salonen's Wing on Wing* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under the baton of the composer; *Mr. Tambourine Man* with the Minnesota Orchestra; *Two Awakenings and a Double Lullaby*, a song cycle written for her by Pulitzer Prize winner Aaron Jay Kernis and many, many more. Born and raised in Jerusalem, Hila received both her Bachelor's and Master's of Music degrees, with high honors, from the Juilliard School of Music, and has been awarded the coveted Sony ES Prize for her outstanding contribution to the vocal arts. She currently lives in London with her husband, composer Eric Whitacre, and their son.

ERIC WHITACRE, *composer*, is a GRAMMY® Award-winning composer and conductor and one of the most popular musicians of our time. His concert music has been performed throughout the world by millions of amateur and professional musicians alike, while his ground-breaking Virtual Choirs have united singers from over 110 different countries. A graduate of the prestigious Juilliard School of

Music, Eric was recently appointed Artist in Residence with the Los Angeles Master Chorale having completed a five-year term as Composer in Residence at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University, UK. A sought after guest conductor, Eric has conducted choral and instrumental concerts around the globe, including sold-out concerts with the London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Minnesota Orchestra. In addition to several collaborations with legendary Hollywood composer Hans Zimmer, he has worked with British pop icons Laura Mvula, Imogen Heap and Annie Lennox.

DANA GIOIA, *poet/writer*, is an internationally acclaimed and award-winning poet. Former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, Gioia is a native Californian of Italian and Mexican descent. He received a B.A. and M.B.A. from Stanford University and an M.A. in Comparative Literature from Harvard University. Gioia currently serves as the Poet Laureate of California. Gioia has published five full-length collections of poetry, most recently *99 Poems: New & Selected*. His poetry collection, *Interrogations at Noon*, won the 2002 American Book Award. An influential critic as well, Gioia's 1991 volume *Can Poetry Matter?*, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle award, is credited with helping to revive the role of poetry in American public culture. In 2014 he won the Aiken-Taylor Award for lifetime achievement in American poetry.

DOUGLAS MANUEL, *poet/writer*, was born in Anderson, Indiana. He received a B.A. in Creative Writing from Arizona State University and an M.F.A. from Butler University, where he was the

Managing Editor of *Booth: A Journal*. He is currently a Middleton and Dornslife Fellow at the University of Southern California, where he is pursuing a Ph.D. in Literature and Creative Writing. He was a recipient of the Chris McCarthy Scholarship for the Napa Valley Writers' Conference and has been the Poetry Editor for Gold Line Press as well as was one of the Managing Editors of Ricochet Editions. His poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Rhino*, *North American Review*, *The Chattahoochee Review*, *New Orleans Review*, *Crab Creek Review*, *Many Mountains Moving* and elsewhere. His debut poetry collection, *Testify* (Red Hen Press, 2017) is now available for purchase.

ELISE PASCHEN, *poet/writer*, is the author of *The Nightlife*, *Bestiary*, *Infidelities* (winner of the Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize) and *Houses: Coasts*. As an undergraduate at Harvard, she received the Garrison Medal for poetry. She holds M.Phil. and D.Phil. degrees from Oxford University. Her poems have been published in *The New Yorker* and *Poetry*, among other magazines, and in numerous anthologies. She is the editor of *The New York Times* best-selling anthology, *Poetry Speaks to Children*, and co-editor of *Poetry Speaks and Poetry in Motion*, among other anthologies. She is a member of the Osage Nation. Former Executive Director of the Poetry Society of America, she is a co-founder of Poetry in Motion, a nationwide program which places poetry posters in subway cars and buses. Paschen teaches in the M.F.A. Writing Program at the School of the Art Institute and lives in Chicago with her husband and their two children.

The personal and artistic trek of **MARK ABEL** (b. 1948) is that of a restless

Baby Boomer who was entranced by classical music and modern jazz at a young age. Deeply affected by the tumult of the 1960s, Abel dropped out of college at 20. He spent a dozen years on the treadmill of New York City's rock-and-roll scene before rediscovering classical and changing his musical direction during a long period of working as a journalist in San Francisco. A maverick figure, Abel has over time developed an unusual, sturdily constructed hybrid of classical, rock and jazz, constantly working toward new and more refined expressions of that synthesis.

The Palm Trees Are Restless is a collaboration with Los Angeles poet Kate Gale, known for her vivid and sometimes startling imagery. The cycle, marked by a strong sense of line and skillful use of tension and release, straddles the divide between lush and edgy.

Gramophone wrote of Hila Plitmann's recording for Delos: "Plitmann manages every leap and switch of emotional gears with fearless commitment." Opera News called *Palm Trees* "an empathetic musical illumination of Gale's personal, expressive poetry."

Those Who Loved Medusa, receiving its premiere tonight, is also a Gale setting. Her stark and powerful recasting of the Medusa story, closely matched by Abel's multi-hued palette of musical textures, seems to resonate uncannily with the spate of contemporary news stories exposing the persistence of sexual harassment. The piece's journey also dovetails with this Abel credo: "I'm trying to write interesting music, but it must express emotion. Without that, it doesn't mean much to me."

JULIA ADOLPHE'S music has been described as "alive with invention" (Alex Ross, *The New Yorker*), "colorful, mercurial, deftly orchestrated" (Anthony Tommasini, *The New York Times*) displaying "a remarkable gift for sustaining a compelling musical narrative" (Thomas May, *Musical America*). Adolphe's works are performed across the U.S. and abroad by renowned orchestras and ensembles such as the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony, James Conlon and the Cincinnati May Festival Chorus, soprano Hila Plitmann, pianist Gloria Cheng and the Bravo! Vail Music Festival, among others. Current commissions include an orchestral work for the Los Angeles Philharmonic's centennial season, choral works for the Brooklyn Youth Chorus and Peninsula Women's Chorus and a comic opera entitled *A Barrel of Laughs, A Vale of Tears*, based on the novel by Jules Feiffer with a libretto by Stephanie Fleischmann. Adolphe's 2017 orchestral work, *White Stone*, premiered by the New York Philharmonic, follows on the heels of the New York Philharmonic's 2016 premiere of *Unearth, Release*, Adolphe's viola concerto composed for Cynthia Phelps and *Dark Sand, Sifting Light*, featured during the 2014 New York Philharmonic Biennial. Adolphe has received numerous awards including a 2017 ASCAP Young Composer Award, 2016 Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Award, a 2016 OPERA America Discovery Grant and a 2015 Charles Ives Scholarship from the Academy of Arts and Letters. A native New Yorker living in Los Angeles, Adolphe pursues a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the USC Thornton School of Music.
www.JuliaAdolphe.com

PHILIP WHITE composes music for film, television, interactive media and the concert stage. He most recently composed the score to Tyler Perry's *Boo 2! A Madea Halloween* for Lionsgate. His other major film credits include additional music for *Smurfs: The Lost Village*, *Baywatch*, *The War With Grandpa*, *Kevin Hart: What Now?*, *Identity Thief*, *HOP*, *Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore*, *Disaster Movie*, the French thriller *La Horde* and the Smurfs holiday specials *A Christmas Carol* and *The Legend of Smurfy Hollow*. He also produced the scores to *Ride Along*, *Alvin and the Chipmunks*, *Marmaduke*, *Adam* and *Thanks for Sharing*.

Philip's major television credits include additional music for *Lost in Space* (Netflix), *Ray Donovan* (Showtime), *Agent Carter* (ABC), *Supernatural* (CW), *Revolution* (NBC), *Bates Motel* (AMC) and *Dallas* (TNT), as well as music for the video games *Space Miner Wars* (Venan), *James Bond: Quantum of Solace* (Activision), *Starhawk* (Sony) and *The Sims 3: Pets Expansion Pack* (EA). He also produced the scores to *The Simpsons Game*, *The Godfather 2*, *Red Alert 3*, *SimsAnimals: Africa* (EA) and *Warkhawk* (Sony).

Born and raised in Madrid, Spain, Philip began studying music by way of classical and Flamenco guitar. He graduated with dual degrees in Drama and Composition from Tufts University and the New England Conservatory of Music, and later received his graduate degree from the USC Scoring for Motion Pictures and Television program. The Sundance Institute named him a fellow in the 2012 Feature Film Composers Lab. Most recently, he participated in the Nautilus Music Theater program. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Maia Jasper White, and their son, Galen (who just arrived on March 1st!).