



NEW YORK • WASHINGTON DC

American Modern Ensemble performs *Moon Music* with special guest Claremont Trio

Thursday, December 3, 2015, at 7:00pm at National Sawdust (80 N 6th St, Brooklyn, NY)

Humankind has always held a certain fascination with the moon. For centuries astronomers have gazed upon it from afar. Astronauts have walked on its delicate surface. Writers and poets have sought inspiration from its barren, foreboding mountains and valleys. And, many composers have drawn upon the moon for musical enlightenment.

Known for its presentation of cutting-edge American music and innovative thematic programming, [American Modern Ensemble](#) (AME) presents *Moon Music*, an evening of contemporary music celebrating all things lunar. The Moon Music program includes:

Claude Baker	<i>Tableaux Funèbres</i>	Judith Shatin	<i>Spring Tides</i>
Daniel Strong Godfrey	<i>Luna Rugosa</i>	George Tsontakis	<i>Eclipse</i>
Robert Paterson	<i>Moon Trio</i>		

AME announces a new partnership with Brooklyn's brand-new [National Sawdust](#), with their first appearance at this venue on **Thursday, December 3, 2015, at 7pm**. All of the pieces will be performed by American Modern Ensemble, with the exception of *Moon Trio*, which will be performed by special guests the [Claremont Trio](#) (Emily Bruskin, violin; Julia Bruskin, cello; Andrea Lamb, piano).

Tickets may be purchased [here](#) or by calling 646.779.8455.

All five composers will be in attendance at the performance and will be able to speak to audience members after the concert.

Moon Music marks the debut of violinist Esther Noh. Additional AME musicians performing on the program include Victoria Paterson, violin; Jessica Meyer, viola; Dave Eggar, cello; Sato Moughalian, flute; Benjamin Fingland, clarinet, and Blair McMillen, piano.

About the Program

Daniel Strong Godfrey's *Luna Rugosa* suggests a particularly subtle nature painting in sound, evoking the effects of light on wind-ruffled water and the gentle melancholy of twilight.

Robert Paterson's *Moon Trio*, commissioned by Claremont Trio and receiving its New York Premiere, is the sister piece for another Paterson trio, *Sun Trio*. *Moon Trio* consists of four movements: *Moonbeams*,

Blue Moon, Lunatic Asylum, and Moon Trip.

Spring Tides, by **Judith Shatin**, and scored for interactive electronics and ensemble, was inspired by the pull of the moon and sun on the flow of the tides, highest when the moon and sun are directly lined up with the earth.

A 1995 lunar eclipse, observed by composer **George Tsontakis**, inspired both a short story as well as the title of *Eclipse*, a quartet for clarinet, violin, cello and piano.

Claude Baker's *Tableaux Funèbres* provides musical commentary on four haiku texts of rather dark imagery. The music of *Tableaux Funèbres* seeks not only to reflect the moods suggested by the poetry, but also to amplify the implied meanings present in each haiku...and even to create additional associations. This is accomplished in part by the allusion to and quotation of passages from well-known vocal works that echo the spirit and content of the haiku selected.

About American Modern Ensemble

[American Modern Ensemble](#) spotlights American music via lively thematic programming, performing a wide repertoire by living composers. AME's commitment to American music creates definitive performances of the highest caliber for the widest possible audience base. AME presents live concerts, makes recordings, and presents world premieres. AME always includes on-stage chats with composers, and conducts an annual competition for composers of *ALL* ages. Winners receive a performance with a recording, videography, and cash awards. Made up of NYC's finest, AME is "simply first-rate" (*The New York Times*). Sold out crowds at Merkin Hall, the Rubin Museum and SubCulture are a winning testament to its' ten-year track record, as one of the top leaders in outstanding programming. AME does educational and outreach concerts at universities such as the CUNY Graduate Center, Princeton University, James Madison University, Adelphi, and more. Recent collaborations include the Cutting Edge New Music Festival, Prototype Opera Festival, American Opera Projects, the Dance Theater of Harlem, and the Mazzini Dance Collective (Paul Taylor lead dancer/choreographer).

AME presents thematic programs using a robust combination of instrumentalists, vocalists, and conductors. This season features six singers, 18 instrumentalists and over 25 composers, and announces a brand new partnership with National Sawdust in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

About Claremont Trio

The [Claremont Trio](#) was formed in 1999 at the Juilliard School. Twin sisters Emily Bruskin, violin, and Julia Bruskin, cello and pianist Andrea Lam are all based in NYC near their namesake: Claremont Avenue. During the 2015-16 season, the trio returns to Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum to present a four-concert series featuring Brahms' Piano Trios alongside new works by Judd Greenstein, Robert Paterson, Donald Crockett and Lembit Beecher. In addition, the Trio will record a newly commissioned trio written for them by Robert Paterson and will be visiting artists-in-residence at Columbia University.

###