



Robert Paterson, photo by Daniel Dottavio. Available in high resolution at www.christinajensenpr.com.

**Composer Robert Paterson's
Sonata for Bassoon and Piano (inspired by Thomas Edison)
Sextet (inspired by the life of a criminal on the run)**

**Performed by American Modern Ensemble
As part of AME's *Travelin' Music* at Merkin Concert Hall**

**Thursday, June 7, 2012 at 7:30pm
Merkin Concert Hall | 129 W. 67th Street | NYC
Tickets: \$10 in advance at www.kaufman-center.org or 212.501.3330
& \$25 day of show (starting at 4pm)**

**"spectacularly varied and colourful"
– *MUSO* on the music of Robert Paterson**

**Robert Paterson: www.robpaterson.com
American Modern Ensemble: www.americanmodernensemble.org**

New York, NY – Composer **Robert Paterson's** *Sonata for Bassoon and Piano* and his *Sextet* will be performed by the American Music Ensemble (the group founded by Paterson and his wife violinist Victoria Paterson) as part of *Travelin' Music* on Thursday, June 7 at 7:30pm at Merkin Concert Hall (129 W. 67th St., NYC). The concert explores travel-inspired music and also includes Steve Reich's *Different Trains*, John Adams' *Road Movies*, D.J. Sparr's *Woodlawn Drive*, Erik Friedlander's *Road Weary*, and Billy Strayhorn's *The A Train*.

Robert Paterson composed his *Sonata for Bassoon and Piano* in 2001 for a concert taking place at the Thomas Edison Inn in Port Huron, Michigan. The first movement, *Edison's Ears*, is inspired by a legendary story about the ear problems Edison suffered from throughout his childhood in Port Huron. The second movement, *Mina's Tapping*, draws its inspiration from Edison's wife, Mina Miller, who communicated with her deaf husband by tapping Morse Code on his hand. The final movement, *Invention Factory Eureka*, is inspired by Edison's revolutionary business model, the world's first "invention factory."

Of his 1999 *Sextet* for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, percussion, and piano, Paterson says, "This piece illustrates imaginary scenes depicting a day in the life of a criminal: running scared (from the police), traveling on the interstate, having nightmares while sleeping (probably in a rundown motel in the middle of nowhere off Old Route 66), looming shadows and hysterical visions, breaking out in cold sweat when someone supposedly comes looking and traveling again at 1:00 a.m. As you would expect, the unfortunate criminal is finally caught in the end."

AME musicians for this concert are: Sato Moughalian, flute; Ben Fingland, clarinet; Charles McCracken, bassoon; Nurit Pacht, violin; Victoria Paterson, violin; Orlando Wells, viola; Robert Burkhart, cello; Blair McMillen, piano; Toby Singer, piano; and Robert Paterson, conductor.

Robert Paterson's richly colorful, wildly eclectic and intensely rhythmic music is influenced by visual art, nature, machines, and more, and is inspired by everything from the changing seasons, crashing waves, and Dali's melting clocks to the life of New York Mets Baseball catcher Mike Piazza. Most recently, the Vermont Youth Orchestra and Chorus gave the world premiere of Paterson's *A New Eearth* on May 4 and 6, a piece inspired by environmentalist and writer Bill McKibben's book *Eearth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet*. McKibben narrated the performances; the piece includes text written by Paterson as well as excerpts from texts by Wendell Barry, James Joyce, Percy Bysshe Shelly and William Wordsworth.

Born in 1970, Paterson was raised in Buffalo, New York, the son of a sculptor and a painter. Percussion was his first love, and an enduring one. Paterson pioneered the development of a six-mallet marimba technique presenting the world's first all six-mallet marimba recital at the Eastman School of Music in 1993. He discovered a passion for composition early in life as well, writing his first piece at age thirteen.

Recent honors include winning the Cincinnati Camerata Composition Competition, the Copland Award, Louisville Orchestra Composition Competition, Brian Israel Prize, two ASCAP Young Composer Awards, and grants from Meet The Composer, the American Music Center, the American Composers Forum and ASCAP, as well as fellowships to Yaddo, the MacDowell Colony, the Aspen Music Festival, the Atlantic Center for the Arts, and a Music Alive residency with the Vermont Youth Orchestra Association, sponsored by Meet The Composer and the League of American Orchestras.

Recent and upcoming performances of Paterson's work include the European premiere and sixteen additional performances of *Dancing Games* by the Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire (France); the premiere of *Dark Mountains* for the Vermont Symphony Orchestra conducted by Jaime Laredo; two new choral works for the Chamber Choir of Europe; an orchestral opera in two acts with writer and librettist David Cote, based on the award-winning British novel *A Child Possessed* by R.C. Hutchinson; Wind Quintet by the Philharmonia Quintet (Poland); *Eternal Reflections*, commissioned for the San Francisco-based Volti choir; *Embracing the Wind* by the Aureole Trio and New York Harp Trio; the Louisville Orchestra world premiere of *Electric Lines*, winner of the orchestra's new music competition, and a work previously selected for the Minnesota Orchestra and American Composers Orchestra New Music Readings; *Enlightened City*, commissioned for the 100th anniversary of the IHS Orchestra; and the world premiere of *Crimson Earth* by the University of Connecticut Wind Ensemble.

Ensembles that have performed Paterson's music include the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, New York New Music Ensemble, Da Capo Chamber Players, California EAR Unit, Finger Lakes Chamber Ensemble, Ensemble Aleph (Paris), Naiades Ensemble (London), Ensemble Nouvelles Consonances (Belgium), the Kairos String Quartet, the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, the MANCA Festival presented by the Centre National de Création Musicale (CIRM) and the June in Buffalo new music festival. Paterson appears on recordings for Mode Records, Centaur Records, Capstone, and Riax. In 2011, *The Book of Goddesses*, which won Paterson the Composer of the Year Award from the Classical Recording Foundation, and *Star Crossing* were released by American Modern Records, the label of American Modern Ensemble.

Paterson has received degrees from Eastman (BM), Indiana University (MM), and Cornell University (DMA). He resides in New York City with his wife, Victoria, a violinist, and their young son Dylan.

About American Modern Ensemble: Hailed by *The New York Times* as having "a strong fan base" and being comprised of "performers of high-quality," and for its "exceptional energy and thoughtful programming" (*MusicWeb International*), American Modern Ensemble (AME) is a dynamic, creative force in the American new music scene. Founded in New York City in 2005, AME performs the widest possible repertoire written by North, South and Central American composers. Incorporating the traditional and the cutting edge, stretching from the bawdy to the brilliant, *The New York Times* says AME has "consistently demonstrated a flair for inventive programming." With a world-class ensemble made up of some of NYC's finest musicians, AME has performed and premiered hundreds of works by living, American composers in venues ranging from the Times Center to Lincoln Center. AME is committed to connecting audiences with composers: 90% of composers whose work has been programmed by AME have attended the concerts, including John Luther Adams, Chen Yi, John Harbison, Aaron Jay Kernis, Steven Mackey, Marc Mellits, Paul Moravec, Peter Schikele, Steve Stucky, Joan Tower and David Del Tredici. AME has been generously supported by grants from a variety of organizations, including the Copland Foundation, NYSCA, the Hegerdt Foundation, the Doctorow Foundation, New Music USA (formerly Meet The Composer and American Music Center), Wise Family Charitable Foundation, BMI, ASCAP, the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and various private foundations. For more information, visit www.americanmodernensemble.org.

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