

HOUSTON CHRONICLE



Apollo Chamber Players plan 20 new works

by Steven Brown (7/4/14)

A new work by Grammy-winning composer Libby Larsen will launch a project the Apollo Chamber Players have dubbed 20X2020, featuring 20 commissioned works during the next several seasons.

Larsen's new work, inspired by Czech composer Antonin Dvorak's fascination with African-American spirituals, will debut in Apollo's season-opening concert Sept. 21. A January program will introduce the second new piece: a fusion of Western and Japanese styles by Marty Regan, a Texas A&M University faculty member. Regan wrote a Japanese-themed chamber opera, "The Memory Stone," premiered in 2013 by Houston Grand Opera.

Works that illustrate links between classical and world music are Apollo's speciality. The group's third commission, inspired by Roma music and other eastern European styles, will emerge from a contest Apollo launched through its website and social media. More than 100 composers worldwide have applied, Apollo artistic director Matthew Detrick said.

The group's 2014-15 season will also embrace composers from Ludwig van Beethoven to Toru Takemitsu. Apollo will divide the concerts between Rice University's Alice Pratt Brown Hall and Christ the King Lutheran Church, 2353 Rice.

The schedule:

Sept. 21: "Bohemian Inception, American Inspiration," works by Libby Larsen, H.T. Burleigh, Florence Beatrice Price and Antonin Dvorak

Jan. 11-13: "East and West Transcended," works by Marty Regan, Toru Takemitsu, Max Bruch, Claude Debussy and Kosaku Yamada

March 22-24: "Mexican Kaleidoscope," works by Carlos Chávez, Silvestre Revueltas, Igor Stravinsky, Manuel Ponce, Antonio Vivaldi and Manuel de Zumaya

May 1: "Hungarian Folk Lyricism," Apollo arrangements of folk music, works by Dana Wilson, Ludwig van Beethoven, Béla Bartók, and a contest winner to be announced

Details: 832-496-9943, apollochamberplayers.org