

# Oregon ArtsWatch

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OREGON ARTS AND CULTURE

BY BRETT CAMPBELL · NOVEMBER 18, 2011 ·

Several concerts of new music have already brightened the fall music scene. [Third Angle's](#) agile performance of songs from New York composer Eve Beglarian's *Mississippi Project* persuaded me that the composer, who also performed, is one of this country's most compelling active composers.

Cascadia Composers' third concert of the still young season offered several local gems. My favorite was Jackie T. Gabel's *Comet Crash 9*, an electroacoustic setting of a Gerard Manley Hopkins poem that reflected that phenomenon as colorfully as Agnieszka Laska's video accompaniment. Bonnie Miksch's *Like Water, Like Sound, Like Breath* effectively conveyed the varied moods and emotional turbulence related to the loss of parents and the birth of children in the same period. Gary Noland's admirably concise *Trio* for flute, viola and cello swerved from late romantic angst to bucolic tango in a deliciously loopy staggering dance, that ultimately reminded me a bit of Ravel's deconstruction of classic waltzes, *La Valse*. Tomas Svoboda's *Lamentation* for string quartet echoed Webern in its spare use of silence and sound. Wind quintets by Ted Clifford and Liz Nedela both showed real promise and engaging moments. In maybe the finest performance of the night, Eugene singer Nancy Wood sang rapturously in Jeff Winslow's Yeats setting, *When You Are Old*. It's nice to hear lyrics delivered clearly without being burdened by archaic or inappropriate opera or art song styles. Thanks to its perky percussion parts, played by Florian Conzetti, Greg Steinke's sparkling *Expressions III*, inspired by Klimt paintings, contributed the night's most exciting moments, and percussion also enlivened David Bernstein's *Quadralogues II*.

What really stood out about this concert was the level of performance quality, the highest I've heard at CC concerts. When you have performers like Third Angle pianist Susan Smith, Colorado Quartet co-founder Diane Chaplin on cello, former Turtle Island String Quartet violist Danny Seidenberg, Oregon Symphony flutist Alicia DiDonato Paulsen and other excellent musicians giving their superb skills to this homegrown music, it adds immensely to the audience experience. Now, when are other musicians and presenters going to show up and scout some of this listener-friendly Northwest music for use on local stages?