



# Advance Program Notes

*The Miners' Hymns*

Saturday, February 8, 2014, 8 PM

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.

Forma presents

## *The Miners' Hymns*

Film by **Bill Morrison**  
Music by **Jóhann Jóhannsson**  
Produced by **Forma**  
Conducted by **Ryan McAdams**

Featuring **American Contemporary Music Ensemble:**

**Caroline Shaw**, violin

**Laura Lutzke**, violin

**Caleb Burhans**, viola

**Clarice Jensen**, artistic director and cello

## *Program Notes*

Selection of work by Jóhann Jóhannsson (30 minutes)

*Pause*

*The Miners' Hymns* (50 minutes)

Commissioned by BRASS: Durham International Festival 2010. Supported by Durham County Council, Arts Council England, British Film Institute, One North East, Northern Film + Media, and the UK Film Council's Digital Film Archive Fund supported by the National Lottery UK.

Exclusive U.S. representation for *The Miners' Hymns*: **Bernstein Artists, Inc.**

# Biographies

## Bill Morrison

Film Director

“One of the most adventurous American filmmakers” - *Variety*, November 2011

Over the past 20 years Bill Morrison has built a filmography of more than 30 projects that have been presented worldwide. Morrison has created films to accompany live performances of music by composers, including John Adams, Gavin Bryars, Bill Frisell, and Steve Reich. *Decasia*, his 2002 feature-length collaboration with composer Michael Gordon, was described by J. Hoberman in the *Village Voice* as “the most widely acclaimed American avant-garde film of the fin-de-siècle.”

Morrison’s films are in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, The Nederlands Filmmuseum, and The Library of Congress. He is a Guggenheim fellow and has received the Alpert Award for the Arts, an NEA Creativity Grant, a Creative Capital grant, and a fellowship from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts. His work with Ridge Theater has been recognized with two Bessie awards and an Obie Award.

In 2011, Morrison’s feature film *Spark of Being* won the LA Film Critics’ Award in the Independent/Experimental category, and in February 2012, WNYC radio dedicated its New Sounds Live festival at the World Financial Center, New York, to a monograph program of Morrison’s film collaborations with composers. [www.billmorrison.com](http://www.billmorrison.com)

## Jóhann Jóhannsson

Composer

Jóhann Jóhannsson is an Icelandic composer. He has been dubbed “Iceland’s foremost genre-crossing multi-instrumentalist” by the *Irish Times*. Jóhannsson’s background is in avant rock and electronic music, but his work for theatre encouraged him to experiment with combining these elements with classical orchestration. He created a unique blend of chamber music and electronics on his influential album *Englabörn* in 2002 and has since released solo albums on the Touch and 4AD labels.

Writing music for plays, dance, and theatrical performances led to work on film soundtracks. Jóhannsson has scored more than a dozen movies, his most recent collaboration being with director Denis Villeneuve on *Prisoner* starring Hugh Jackman and Jake Gyllenhaal. His music has also found a home in art house films across the globe, from Lou Ye’s *Mystery* (CN 2011) to Janos Szasz’s recent prize-winning drama, *Le Grand Cahier* (HU 2013).

Jóhannsson is currently developing a new collaboration with Bill Morrison, *IBM 1401 – A User’s Manual*, inspired by his father’s early experiments in electronic composition. [www.johannjohannsson.com](http://www.johannjohannsson.com)

# *Biographies, continued*

## **Ryan McAdams**

Conductor

Ryan McAdams is establishing himself as one of the most exciting and versatile conductors of his generation. Recent and upcoming performances include re-engagements with the Israel Philharmonic, Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI in Turin, Opera national de Lorraine, Opera Theater of St. Louis, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Indianapolis Symphony, and debuts with Academy of St. Martin in the Fields with Julian Rachlin and Mischa Maisky, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Westchester Philharmonic, Vancouver Symphony, Louisville Orchestra, New York City Opera, Geneva Chamber Orchestra, London Contemporary Orchestra, New Jersey Symphony, and Elliott Carter's 103rd Birthday Concert with Fred Sherry and Nicholas Phan at the 92nd Y, named by Anthony Tommasini as one of 2011's Best Classical Music Events.

A Fulbright scholar, he served as Apprentice Conductor of the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, and was the first-ever recipient of the Sir Georg Solti Emerging Conductor Award and the Aspen-Glimmerglass Prize for Opera Conducting. [www.ryan-mcadams.com](http://www.ryan-mcadams.com).

## **American Contemporary Music Ensemble (ACME)**

Led by cellist and Artistic Director Clarice Jensen, the American Contemporary Music Ensemble (ACME) is dedicated to the outstanding performance of masterworks from the 20th and 21st centuries, primarily the work of American composers. The ensemble presents cutting-edge music by living composers alongside the classics of the contemporary. ACME's dedication to new music extends across genres, and has earned them a reputation among both classical and rock crowds. NPR calls them "contemporary new music dynamos," and *The New York Times* describes ACME's performances as "vital," "brilliant," and "electrifying." *Time Out New York* reports, "Jensen has earned a sterling reputation for her fresh, inclusive mix of minimalists, maximalists, eclectics and newcomers."

ACME has performed at leading venues across the country including (Le) Poisson Rouge, Carnegie Hall, BAM, Joyce Theater, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Whitney Museum, Guggenheim Museum, Columbia University's Miller Theatre, Stanford Live, Flynn Center, Montclair's Peak Performances, and All Tomorrow's Parties in the UK, among others. ACME can be heard on the New World Records and New Amsterdam Records labels.

ACME's instrumentation is flexible, and includes some of New York's most sought-after, engaging musicians. Core ACME members include violinists Caleb Burhans, Ben Russell, Caroline Shaw (winner of the 2013 Pulitzer Prize in Music), and Laura Lutzke; violists Nadia Sirota and Caitlin Lynch; cellist Clarice Jensen; flutists Alex Sopp and Andrew Rehrig; pianist Timo Andres; and percussionist Chris Thompson. [www.acmemusic.org](http://www.acmemusic.org)

# *Biographies, continued*

## **Brass Musicians**

### **David Ball**

David Ball is currently the director of bands and professor of brass studies at Concord University in Athens, W.Va. Ball received a doctor of musical arts from the University of Minnesota, a master of music from the Royal Northern College of Music: University of Manchester, and a bachelor of arts from Virginia Tech.

### **Dayl Burnett**

As a professional musician, Dayl Burnett has performed for nearly 20 years with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and Opera Roanoke. Burnett has performed with the Florida Grand Opera and has worked with musicians and entertainers, such as Andrea Bocelli, Johnny Mathis, Arturo Sandoval, and Bruce Hornsby. In addition, he has played with the internationally acclaimed Empire Brass Quintet. As an educator, Burnett has taught at Radford University, Virginia Tech, the College of William and Mary, Ferrum College, Christopher Newport University, Arkansas Tech, and Roanoke College.

### **Jason Crafton**

Jason Crafton is assistant professor of trumpet at Virginia Tech. Prior to this appointment, Crafton held positions at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, North Central Texas College, the University of Northern Colorado, and in various Dallas-Fort Worth area public schools. As a performer he has appeared professionally with a wide variety of ensembles, including the Roanoke Symphony, Opera Roanoke, Ash Lawn Opera (VA), Shenandoah Symphony, Shenandoah Valley Bach Festival, Des Moines Metropolitan Opera, Cheyenne Symphony, Wyoming Symphony, Mannheim Steamroller, Bigfork Summer Playhouse, Dallas Wind Symphony, and Dallas Opera.

### **Jay Crone**

Jay Crone is a professor of music in the School of Performing Arts at Virginia Tech and is principal trombone with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra.

### **Wallace Easter**

In 1981 Wallace Easter joined the faculty of the Music Department at Virginia Tech and the Roanoke Symphony as principal horn. Easter's academic duties at Virginia Tech include teaching the horn studio, the University Horn Ensemble, and music theory. He has been a featured soloist with many orchestras in the mid-Atlantic region and has also performed in recital and at professional conferences and music festivals in the United States, Europe, and Africa. He is frequently asked to give master class presentations at music schools and festivals. He has also been principal horn of the Wintergreen Summer Music Festival for the past 13 years.

# *Biographies, continued*

## **Brass Musicians**

### **Wallace Easter III**

Born in Virginia, Wallace Easter III began a career in horn playing inspired by his father. He attended Oberlin College and Conservatory of Music in Ohio where he received a bachelor of music in horn performance and a bachelor of arts in physics. He furthered his musical training at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and earned a master of music while there. Wallace has played with many professional orchestras and ensembles, including the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, Haffner Sinfonietta, Back Bay Brass, and more.

### **Steve Hedrick**

Steve Hedrick (trumpet) received a master of music from the University of South Carolina and bachelor of arts in music with a performance certificate from Elon University. Hedrick is a member of the Shenandoah Symphony Orchestra and has performed with the South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra, Columbia Lyric Opera, Charleston (S.C.) Symphony Orchestra, Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, Opera Roanoke, and Lynchburg Symphony Orchestra. He was a band director for 11 years and has recently published two volumes of the *Band Fundamentals Book*.

### **Jeff Kresge**

Jeff Kresge performs with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and Opera on the James and as principal trumpet for both University-Shenandoah Symphony Orchestra and Roanoke Chamber Brass, as well as freelancing as a soloist. He is the trumpet instructor at Radford and Hollins Universities and instructor of brass and conductor of the symphony orchestra for the Virginia Governor's School summer program.

### **John McGinness**

John McGinness is the bass trombonist of the Delaware Symphony Orchestra, the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, and the Ash Lawn Opera Festival, and is a freelance trombone performer based in the greater Baltimore/Washington (D.C.) area. In addition, McGinness serves as a faculty member at Towson University and Washington Adventist University and teaches privately in Fairfax County, Va. McGinness has performed with the National Symphony Orchestra, the Kennedy Center Orchestra, the Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra, and the orchestras of Dallas, Fort Worth, Louisville, and numerous regional orchestras.

### **Jay Meachum**

Trumpeter, arranger, and clinician, Jay Meachum, originally from Lexington, N.C., has been teaching on the college level since 1997. Meachum is currently on faculty at Catawba College in Salisbury, N.C., and at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He has performed and toured with many artists, such as Quincy Jones, Clark Terry, Arturo Sandoval, Freddie Cole, Wynonna Judd, and many more. He has performed with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra as principal trumpet and as featured soloist on their 2002 version of *Bravo! Big Band Pops Series*, as well as their 2004 *Tribute to Maestro Bill Conti*.

# *Biographies, continued*

## **Brass Musicians**

### **Michael Minor**

Michael Minor is currently a junior at Virginia Tech studying music technology and tuba performance. He has studied under W. David Porter (Tennessee Technological University, University of New Mexico) and Andrew G. Minor (George Mason), and currently studies under William J. Crone (California State University at Fresno, Yale University, University of Southern California). In his time at Virginia Tech, Minor has been a member of the New River Valley Symphony, Virginia Tech Symphonic Wind Ensemble, the Marching Virginians, the Virginia Tech Faculty Ensemble, the Virginia Tech Brass Choir, the VTubas Low Brass Ensemble, and more.

### **Rodney Overstreet**

Rodney Overstreet has been a member of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra for 25 years. Overstreet has worked as the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra's marketing director since 2006, and he serves on Roanoke Symphony Orchestra committees responsible for the organization's artistic advisory and strategic planning. He is also a freelance web developer and recently completed a new website for actress Dawn Wells, known as Mary Ann from '60s TV series *Gilligan's Island*.

### **Rob Sanderl**

Rob Sanderl is a native of upstate New York. He received a bachelor's degree in music education with a performer's certificate from the Crane School of Music, and a master of music and doctor of musical arts in performance from the Eastman School of Music, along with the coveted performer's certificate. Sanderl is an active performer, teacher, composer, and clinician. He has performed with the Woodstock Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestra of Northern New York, Alarm Will Sound, the Society for New Music, the Madison Scouts, and the contemporary big band Jazz Contingent.

### **Judith Saxton**

Judith Saxton, trumpet artist/faculty and brass and percussion chair at University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA), enjoys a multi-faceted career as an international soloist and chamber and orchestral musician. Saxton is principal trumpet for Southeast Chamber Brass, UNCSA brass quintet, Shenandoah Valley Bach and Virginia's Blue Ridge festivals, and N.Y. Women's Ensemble, and she serves on Eastern Music Festival (EMF) faculty. A former principal trumpet of the Hong Kong Philharmonic, she was guest principal for St. Louis Symphony and an extra with Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

# *Biographies, continued*

## **Brass Musicians**

### **Peyden Shelton**

A native of Roanoke, Va., Peyden Shelton is currently in his second year of study at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. There, Sheldon serves as the principal of the Eastman Wind Ensemble and the Eastman Philharmonia. He also serves as a trumpet instructor for the University of Rochester. Before attending Eastman, Shelton received a master's of music from the Frost School of Music in Miami, Fla., where he was the principal trumpet of the Henry Mancini Orchestra and substitute musician for the New World Symphony under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas. He is currently featured on Pharrell Williams' upcoming album, *I Am One*.

### **Joshua Wirt**

Joshua Wirt, a native of Christiansburg, Va., has maintained an active professional career over the past 20 years on the tuba, euphonium, and bass trombone. After completing his bachelor's degree in tuba performance from Virginia Tech, Wirt went on to earn a post-graduate diploma from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, U.K., before returning to Southwest Virginia. Since moving to Chicago in 2009 to pursue a master's degree at DePaul University with Floyd Cooley, Wirt has been an associate member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago (2010-2013), where he performed with the orchestra and the Civic Orchestra Brass Quintet.

### **Al Wojtera**

Al Wojtera is chair of the Music Department at Radford University (RU). He has served as the director of percussion studies; directs the Radford University Percussion Ensemble; teaches studio percussion, percussion methods, and jazz history; and hosts the Radford University Percussion Symposium. Wojtera is an active percussionist in solo recitals, small chamber ensembles, the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, Opera Roanoke, the Wintergreen Festival Orchestra, regional jazz ensembles and touring show productions, and has served as conductor for Radford University productions of the *Nutcracker*.

### **Ian Zook**

Ian Zook is an active orchestral and solo performer, appearing in concerts throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Zook joined the faculty of James Madison University in 2009 and performs frequently with the Madison Brass and Montpelier Winds, both faculty ensembles in-residence at James Madison University. His orchestral experience is extensive and has included positions with the Princeton and Haddonfield Symphony Orchestras, as well as numerous performances as a substitute musician with the Philadelphia Orchestra; the Pennsylvania Ballet; and the Harrisburg, Richmond, Roanoke, Delaware, and Vermont Symphony Orchestras.

# *Biographies, continued*

## **Forma Arts**

Founded by curator David Metcalfe in 2002 in north-east England, Forma has since grown to become one of Europe's foremost creative commissioning and producing agencies, working with artists and other practitioners to develop large-scale experimental and technologically pioneering exhibitions, performances, films, and public artworks.

Recent work includes Gavin Bryars' *The Sinking of the Titanic* (2012), in which Morrison and Laurie Olinder's archival film projection was accompanied by the composer's ensemble and Philip Jeck; Lynette Wallworth's *Coral: ReKindling Venus* that had simultaneous screenings in planetariums all over the world around 2012's Transit of Venus; and Jane and Louise Wilson's *Atomgrad* (2012-13) that took audiences on a disturbing journey into Chernobyl's radioactive past.

Forma has developed and presented works with leading U.K. and international organizations, including the V&A, ENO and the Young Vic, Barbican and the Royal Observatory Greenwich in London, and outside the capital at Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester; Durham Cathedral; Brighton Festival and the north-east's AV Festival. It has also worked with many international partners, including The Armory, Tribeca Film Festival, and the American Museum of Natural History; Sundance Film Festival; Reina Sofia Madrid; Perth International Arts Festival; and the Centre Pompidou, Paris; among many other galleries, museums, and festivals. [www.forma.org.uk](http://www.forma.org.uk)

## **Bernstein Artists**

Bernstein Artists is dedicated to the development, advancement, and touring of artists seeking to extend the boundaries of their given genres. The roster embraces a broad spectrum of arts, from new music to contemporary music theater, early music, spoken word, world music, and jazz.

Recent touring projects have included Phil Kline's *Out Cold*, featuring Theo Bleckmann and the American Contemporary Music Ensemble presented as part of the BAM Next Wave Festival; the band Abraham Inc., featuring David Krakauer, Fred Wesley, and SoCalled; and the Paul Drescher Ensemble's production of *Schick Machine*, featuring Steven Schick.