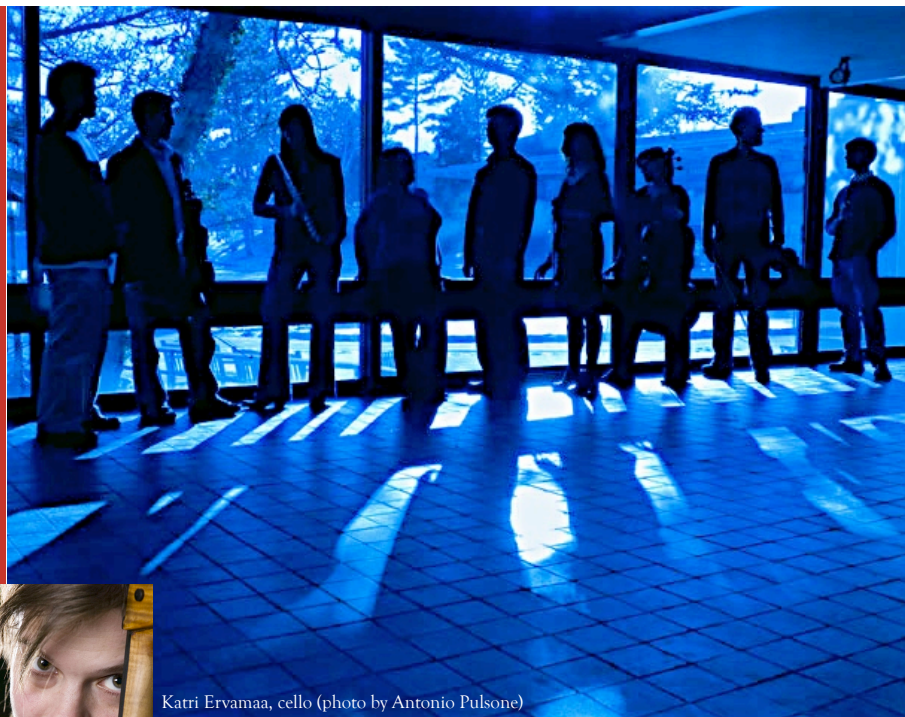


SUMMER 2007

BRAVE NEW WORKS

Brave New Works
at Williams College,
Williamstown, MA
Photos by
Antonio Pulsone



Katri Ervamaa, cello (photo by Antonio Pulsone)



Dear friends,

Here is our first newsletter, we hope you find it enjoyable and informative. We are very excited about our tenth season, and are preparing a celebration in 2008 for the tenth "Are You Brave? Festival". We could not do it without your continued support. Please let us know if we can be of any help to you. Sincerely,

Brave New Works

On the Road with Brave New Works

By Katri Ervamaa, cellist

Artists' Diary: January 2007

I had been looking forward to being in the Pacific Northwest again. Brave New Works did a residency at Lewis and Clark College and University of Puget Sound (UPS) back in 2002, and I had very fond memories of the people and the scenery, not to mention the enthusiastic students. Maria had done a lot of preparatory work to make sure things would go smoothly and had lined up many events at UPS; we were also featured on their fancy con-

cert series which is always a good thing for getting an audience. The only apprehension I had was that I had just discovered I was 6 weeks pregnant, and two days before takeoff had started to feel the wonderful effects of morning sickness. Of course, the 6-hour flight from Detroit to Tacoma does not include a meal anymore and so I had to make do with pretzels and chips...not a great culinary start to the trip. The flight was smooth otherwise albeit

the fact that the cello, who had traveled in the cargo came out on the conveyer belt on it's belly (which has about 100 fragile stickers and is curved unlike the top of the case. My question is, WHY do they have the oversize cargo area if they don't use it for clearly oversized luggage?). I met Sarah and Winston on the airport, we rented a car and drove to Tim and Maria's lovely house in Tacoma. As always, it was wonderful to see everybody at the house



Maria, Stephen, Winston and Tim rehearsing at U. of Puget Sound, (Photo by Chris Kim)

for pizza and reunion: there is a great energy and delight whenever we meet after being away from each other. Everybody was very happy to hear my news about another expected “braveling” (or two as it turns out). Sarah, Steve and I were staying at Tim and Maria’s, Winston had the guest suite on campus, Jen was at a B&B and Chris ended up at the UPS band director’s house. This arrangement seemed agreeable to everybody, although poor travel-wary Steve, who had come straight from a tour in Germany and traveled 20 hour straight, ended up on the sofa...

Wednesday was reserved mostly for rehearsing, which was good because we had to learn the fourth movement of the fiendishly difficult “Far Cry” by Andy Mead (not to mention re-learn the other three movements since we hadn’t played them since September). Jennifer told us that she, too, was pregnant, about two weeks ahead of me, and so we

had TWO members in the throes of morning sickness. At least we could share crackers, I thought. Wednesday night there were some instrumental master classes, which allowed me a few hours of practice on the Mead – a luxury, which is not always there in our tightly scheduled residencies. By Thursday we were fairly confident that we could survive the Mead and “bring it” in the other pieces which we had performed many times before. The string contingency of the group had a fun experience performing and recording some of the UPS student composers works. UPS doesn’t have a composition major but these three students were clearly very accomplished and talented.

By Friday morning my morning sickness had escalated to levels unknown. I made it to rehearsal at 10 am but had to be brought home a half-hour later.

Turns out that it wasn’t morning sickness after all, but a bad case of the famous noro-virus, which was rampant in the Northwest. By 2 pm my colleagues started making contingency plans, and designing a program that would be entirely devoid of cello. By that time I didn’t have anything left in my system and so I thought I could probably get through the concert, following Maria’s brave example from our previous concert when SHE had the noro virus.

So, at 5:30 pm we left for the concert hall, me with the cello, music, some water and my new best friend, the bucket. I did not participate in the pre-concert rehearsing but rather lay down in the green room. I got through the concert somehow, although I must confess that I can’t remember much of it. I thought I had fooled everybody, until the band director came to me and said “you don’t look too well” – he, too, had been



Stephen, Maria, Winston, Tim and Katri rehearsing at Western Washington University. (photo by Chris Kim)

suffering from the virus that week and had in some clairvoyant moment recognized the symptoms. It is possible that the bucket also gave me away...



Maria and Stephen rehearsing in Tacoma, WA
(Photo by Chris Kim)

Needless to say, I skipped all the post-concert hoopla and went straight to bed. The next morning we left bright and early for Bellingham, about 3 hours away, where we were scheduled to start at noon at the Western Washington University. I was happy that by that time I was able to tolerate some ginger ale and crackers, and leave the bucket back at Tim and Maria's... Bellingham is an incredibly beautiful city on the Puget Sound, and WWU probably has the best view in the place, on a hill overlooking the sound with mountains in distance. The weather was cooperating too, as it was the first day the sun had come out since our arrival. My spirits greatly lifted, I was happy to

have a few hours to rehearse and get back in the game. Unfortunately, we hadn't quite realized how many readings were in store for us that day – at 2 pm we got a list of 12 WWU student composers' pieces we were going to read and record that afternoon. For reading purposes especially, it's great to have a conductor handy: there's no way we would have been done on time without Chris. As it was, we ended up with an hour or so to check in at the hotel and rest a bit before it was time to return to the concert hall. The concert in my estimation went

well, although the attendance was fairly poor. I guess anything's better than playing with a bucket backstage.

All and all, it was a great trip even if it wasn't the most fun I've ever had with the group. My only hope is that the noro-virus is done with us and that the previ-

ously used term "bucket-holder" can go back to it's original use as "the person in charge of the project."
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NEXT SEASON AT A GLANCE

"Are You Brave? International":

Friday, October 5th, 7 pm
Windsor Art Museum,
Windsor, ON (Canada)

Saturday, October 6th,
Michigan State University,
East Lansing, MI

Sunday, October 7th, 2 pm
Kerrytown Concert House,
Ann Arbor, MI
CD Release PARTY!!!

Boston residency,
November 12-17, 2008:
Boston Conservatory

Upstate NY residency,
April 4-6, 2008:
Cornell University
Syracuse University
Eastman School of Music
Tenri Cultural Institute in
New York, NY
!:



BNW at Williams College (photo by Antonio Pulsone)

**Featured Guest Artist
(2007-2008 Season):
Norbert Lewandowski**



Norbert Lewandowski, cello
(Photo provided by NL)

Norbert Lewandowski is the maternity leave replacement for Katri Ervamaa this season. He was born in Milwaukee, WI and began cello studies at the age of 13. He holds a Master's degree in performance and literature from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY and is currently in his fifth season as Assistant Principal cellist of the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. Prior to his appointment in Charleston Norbert performed as a member of the Rochester and Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestras, the Minnesota Opera, and the chamber music festival in Taos, New Mexico. He has also been featured as a soloist on numerous occasions including recent performances with the New World Symphony, the South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra, and the National Repertory Orchestra. Norbert is a frequent guest performer on the faculty chamber music series at the University of South Carolina and also appears regularly with the new music ensemble Alarm Will Sound, which was formed during his studies at the Eastman School of Music. Norbert's hobbies include hiking in the Southwest, cooking, and golfing. Dur-

ing the summer months he resides in Boulder where he performs as a member of the Colorado Music Festival. Norbert's cello was made by Emil Hjorth in Copenhagen, 1890, and is on a generous loan from the Virtu Foundation of Charlottesville, VA.

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Kevin Schempf, clarinet
(Photo by Anthony Pulsone)

**Member Spotlight:
Kevin Schempf,
clarinet**

Kevin Schempf, the newest member of the Brave New Works Ensemble, is an Associate Professor of Clarinet at Bowling Green State University and active as a teacher, chamber player, soloist, and orchestral musician. After graduating from the Interlochen Arts Academy and the Eastman School of Music, he performed with the United States Coast Guard Band and toured with them throughout the United States and to St. Petersburg, Russia. A frequent soloist with the Band, he was featured on NPR broadcasts and on their 75th Anniver-

sary CD Recording. He was on the faculty at Connecticut College and performed with the New London Contemporary Ensemble. He has also taught at Wesleyan University where he played with the New World Consort, which gave regular concerts throughout Connecticut, in New York City and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Kevin played with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra for nine years, appearing as a concerto soloist on several occasions. He has also performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, the Chautauqua Orchestra, and the Toledo Symphony. Chamber music engagements include performing with the Ying Quartet, several concerts and a CD recording with the Society for New Music in Syracuse, NY, appearances at the Skaneateles Festival, with the Wall Street Chamber Players, Chamber Music Plus, and Venti da Camera. He has also performed throughout Europe and Japan, and most recently in Stockholm as a recitalist at the International Clarinet Conference in 2002. CD recordings include the premiere recording of Stephen Albert's "Wind Canticle" with the Bowling Green Philharmonia, and most recently Appalachian Spring with the Nashville Chamber Orchestra. Kevin is married with four children.

!:



Stephen Miahky, violin
(Photo by Anthony Pulsone)

Steve's Picks - Preview of the 2007- 2008 repertoire:

Mark-Anthony Turnage, *Slide Stride*: This is probably my favorite work of the 2007-2008 season. It is a very raucous piano quintet that features a lot of popular influences such as rock, pop, and jazz. It is quite challenging rhythmically as it's designed to keep the players and the listeners off-balance most of the time.

Steven Mackey, *Indigenous Instruments*: Mackey himself describes this piece as "folk music from an imaginary culture." The instruments are intentionally tuned to be clashing against themselves as well as the other instruments, which provides for a rather primal and raw sound. Energetic dance elements are involved throughout, but it doesn't take long for Mackey's own rock and blues influences kick in.

Christopher Rouse, *Compline*: This work is great to perform because it involves almost all of Brave New Works with the exception of Winston and Jennifer. It is a rarity to have a piece which requires so many of us. The church influence to which the title refers is clear from the beginning: the overlapping sounds of bells weave their way throughout the

work. This is a virtuosic work for all the players, most specifically for flute and clarinet.

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Premiere Recording Project:

Brave New Works receives support from the Aaron Copland Recording Fund for the recording of the Quintets by William Albright and William Bolcom. Our very first album is finally coming out this fall! It has been a long labor of love – we have had both Quintets in our repertoire for years and they have become performer and audience favorites. Neither has been recorded before, which to us signaled an opportunity not to be missed. The two compliment each other nicely – both are stylistically very diverse and have

a sort of "mad genius" about them. Bill Bolcom described the last movement of his piece as "karaoke from hell"...and Albright includes in his 30-minute work a crazy tango, twisted variations on Brahms and Mozart, three Night Music sections à la Bartók and, as the pinnacle of the work, a Klezmer variation on steroids (these are my own descriptions). Both works are also characterized by long, profound sections of music capable of transcendence. The official target date for the release is October, 2007. The album, Quintets: Albright - Bolcom will be released on AMP records based in Bowling Green, OH and available through many avenues, including amazon.com, iTunes, and our concerts. Funding for the project is coming from private donations to Brave New Works as well as the Aaron Copland Recording Fund in New York City. !:|

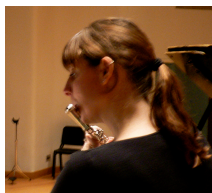


Katri, Tim, Stephen, Maria and Winston
(Photo by Anthony Pulsone)

Artist Highlights from 2006/2007:

In May 2006, **Jennifer Goltz** recorded Arnold Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* and *Brettli-lieder* with the Los Angeles-based ensemble Inauthentica. These works were the centerpiece of her Ph.D. dissertation (at U of M, of course), *The Roots of Pierrot Lunaire in Cabaret*; the recording represents a decade of interdisciplinary work developing the performance as a vocalist, music theorist, and for a year as a fellow at the U of M Institute for the Humanities. The CD is due out later this year on MSR Classics.

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Sarah Brady, flute
(Photo by Chris Kim)

2006 was the year that **Sarah Brady** turned thirty! It turned out better than expected as some of her season's highlights included: winning second place in the National Flute Association's Young Artist Competition, performing at Carnegie Hall with Juilliard pianist Oxana Yablonskaya and premiering three new pieces for flute and electronics at a faculty recital at the Boston Conservatory. Sarah has spent a busy year performing and recording as Principle Flute of the Boston Modern Orchestra Project and looks forward to performing Golijov's opera *Ainadamar* with Dawn Up-

shaw in November. Perhaps the most exciting news however, Sarah and her husband Andy just bought their first home in Boston...a small condo in the Irish section of Dorchester, walking distance to a few pub's including the Erie Pub a local favorite!

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Katri Ervamaa was also busy recording this year. Her band, E3Q, released "Songbook I" on Block M Records, the new University of Michigan label (www.blockmrecords.com). In June, she collaborated with Christian Matjias on a commission by Alvin Ailey Dance Company: the dance was premiered in New York City in December. In September, the Envoy Recordings released "Andrew Bishop's Hank Williams Project" and the group went on a small-scale CD release tour. She also performed in Finland at the Poison City Festival. She is proud to have performed, within one year, for both the ISCM (International Society of Contemporary Music, with Brave New Works) and the ISIM (International Society for Improvised Music, with E3Q).

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Amy Ley was a featured soloist with the Flint Symphony Orchestra performing the Mozart Concerto for Flute and Harp in March, 2007.

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Chris Kim, conductor
(Photo by Anthony Pulsone)

During the 2006-2007 season, **Chris Kim** continued his role as the Director of Orchestras at Cornell University. The Cornell Symphony undertook its first international tour to Berlin, Germany. The program featured Shostakovich *Symphony No. 1* and also the Brahms *Double Concerto* with Brave New Works' own Steve Miahky as soloist. Guest conducting activities kept Chris quite busy through the season. In December, Chris returned to Boston for a set of concerts with the Firebird Ensemble to conduct *Pas-sion of Scrooge* by Jon Deak. After multiple performances in the New England area, Chris took part in the recording of the piece for the upcoming CD. The Delta Festival ballet in New Orleans, LA invited Chris to conduct their 25th anniversary production of the Nutcracker, also the first one since Hurricane Katrina. Chris wrapped up the season collaborating with Roberto Diaz, violist and the dean of the Curtis Institute of Music on Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante* with the Cornell Chamber Orchestra. During the summer, Chris

attended the Bartók Festival in Szombathely, Hungary where he conducted György Ligeti's *Chamber Concerto* and Pierre Boulez' *Dérive*.
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Steve Miahky joined the faculty at Cornell University for the 2006-2007 academic year, serving as the primary instructor of violin as well as coaching chamber music. He also performed the Brahms *Double Concerto* on the



Stephen in Berlin
(Photo by Chris Kim)

Cornell campus as well as in Berlin, Germany on the Cornell Symphony Orchestra's winter tour. This year, Steve will be moving to New York City to perform with several ensembles and finish his doctorate at Rutgers University. With the Bryant Park Quartet, he will participate in the Perlman Chamber Music Program and will travel to Ohio and Kentucky for outreach tours. He will continue to perform with the IRIS Orchestra based in Memphis, TN. Look to hear Steve on an upcoming Naxos release featuring the chamber music of Jonathan Leshnoff.

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2006-07 was a busy season for **Maria Sampen** and **Tim Christie**. Their biggest achievement was the birth of their first child, Charlotte Maria on May 8, 2006. Charlotte is now a precocious 15-month old—

active, happy and curious. She keeps both her parents very busy and on the run! Maria was performing up until her due date and she and Tim gave a memorable performance of Stravinsky's *Soldier's Tale* in mid-April (Maria as the nine-month pregnant solo violinist and Tim as the narrator). In September 2006 Maria was given the excellence in



Maria Sampen, violin
(Photo by Anthony Pulsone)

teaching award from the University of Puget Sound. Her studio of violinists at Puget Sound has done quite well, winning competitions (including first, second and third prizes at the Washington American String Teachers' Association State Competition, concerto competitions at the University of Puget Sound, Federal Way Symphony Orchestra and the Marrowstone Music Festival), and earning places in top graduate programs around the county.

Maria and Tim's 2006-07 performance schedule included solo and chamber music appearances at the Bowling Green New Music and Art Festival in Ohio, the Methow Music Festival in Washington, the Second City Chamber Series in Tacoma, the Jacobsen Series at

the University of Puget Sound, the Old Town Recital Series in Tacoma, the Conductors Retreat at Medomak (Maine), the Icicle Creek Center in Leavenworth, WA, Chamber Music San Juan (WA) and the Annas Bay Festival in Union, WA. Maria and Tim shared the stage for a performance of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* in April 07 with the University of Puget Sound Orchestra (Maria played Spring and Summer, Tim Fall and Winter). They also performed the Bach Double Concerto together with chamber ensembles on five occasions in the Northwest. Tim continues to perform frequently with the Seattle



Tim Christie, viola
(Photo by Anthony Pulsone)

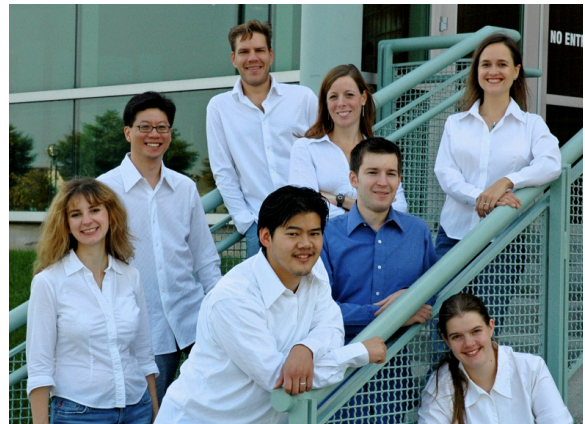
Symphony and Opera as well as the Pacific Northwest Ballet. Maria gave solo recitals at the University of Puget Sound, the University of Washington, and the Peninsula Series in Gig Harbor, WA. She also appeared as a concerto soloist with the Anderson Symphony Orchestra in Indiana (Bolcom Violin Conceto).

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**BRAVE NEW WORKS
THANKS OUR DONORS**

To our donors we would like to extend our deepest gratitude. It would not be possible for us to operate without your generosity. Thank you for your continued support!

William Bolcom and Joan Morris
Susan Bozell
David and Anne Chaffee
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Iain and Stephanida Christie
Michael Daugherty
Dale and Sandra Franz, James McIntosh
Dady and Martha Mehta
Gary and Hannele Waissi
Copland Fund for Recording



BNW members photo by Dale Franz

2007-2008 Season

October 2007 concerts in Ann Arbor and Windsor.

November 12-17 Boston Residency.

April 2-7 Mellon Corridor Residency at

Cornell University, Syracuse University, Eastman School of Music and a performance in New York City (venue TBA).

For more details visit our website;

www.bravenewworks.org

BRAVENEWWORKS
2721 Maplewood Ave
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

To: