

A MESSAGE FROM ACO'S LEADERSHIP

RE: APRIL 2ND CARNEGIE HALL CONCERT

March 16, 2020

Dear ACO community,

Today, Carnegie Hall extended its public closure through **Sunday, May 10, 2020** in an effort to reduce the spread of the new coronavirus (COVID-19). This includes American Composer Orchestra's (ACO) April 2 concert which was to feature the world premiere of Mark Adamo's new work *Last Year: Concerto for Solo Violoncello with Harp, Piano, String Orchestra and percussion* featuring cellist Jeffrey Zeigler and Nina C. Young's *Out of whose womb came the ice* featuring baritone David Tinervia and video by Luke DuBois.

While we are unable to present this concert as originally planned, the works will be rescheduled at the very soonest opportunity.

Audience members who purchased tickets for American Composers Orchestra's April 2 concert and are seeking refunds should visit www.carnegiehall.org/Coronavirus-Information for updates and information about Carnegie Hall's policies.

In an effort to support its musicians and the music community which is suffering from the loss of activity and work, ACO's board leadership has asked to designate their donations to supporting the orchestra musicians who were scheduled to perform this concert. In consultation with the composers and solo performers involved with this concert, ACO has found options that are mutually agreeable and financially supportive of each of them.

These are turbulent times for arts organizations. Usually, in times of crisis and need, we are able to provide our art to console, heal, gather and reflect. This particular crisis is preventing us from doing that, and it is frustrating not to be able to share the music we all need so much right now. We remain fervent in our belief in music, the arts, and creativity.

Towards that end, we will be providing videos of our recent Underwood New Music Readings (which were closed to the public at the request of our venue). We thank ACO's musicians for their approval of this action. The videos will be available for seven days soon, and if you would like to be notified when they are available, please go to our website and sign up for our email list if you are not already on it.

Our EarShot Readings for emerging composers in partnership with the Houston Symphony scheduled for May 5-7 have also been postponed, and we are working with Houston to reschedule them.

ACO Education is striving to work with our clients to continue to serve the children of New York City to the fullest extent possible. All of our *Compose Yourself!* classes have already transitioned to a distance learning model. Over the coming week we expect our *Sonic Spark Lab* pilot program at Harlem School of the Arts to also move to a distance learning model. We are in touch with the principals and directors of our in-school and after-school partners to do what we can to see that our programs are part of the planning as the public schools work out their own approaches to distance learning.

Please stay safe, continue to support the people and the organizations that you love, and keep in touch with us as we will with you.

Yours in gratitude and music,

Derek Bermel, Artistic Director

George Manahan, Music Director

Eugene Moye, Orchestra Committee Chair

Frederick Wertheim, Board Chair

Ed Yim, President