

## RED LIGHT NEW MUSIC

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

RED LIGHT NEW MUSIC and  
 THE ITALIAN ACADEMY at Columbia University  
 present

the fully staged world-premiere production of  
 CHRISTOPHER CERRONE'S

**INVISIBLE CITIES**

a musical exploration  
 of ITALO CALVINO'S evocative surrealist novel

**May 13 & 14, 2011**

in the Teatro of the Italian Academy  
 on the Columbia University campus in New York City.

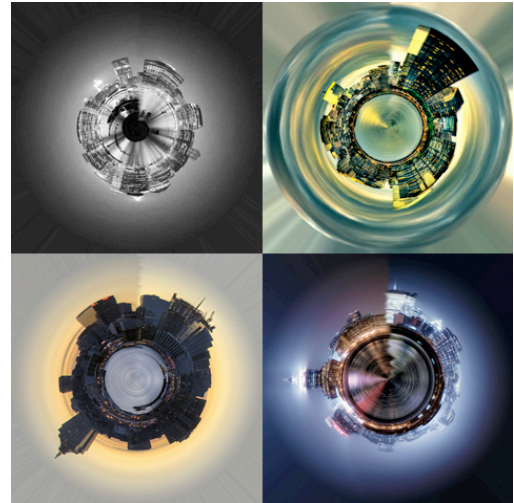


Image: Ray Ho

*"Perhaps the most satisfying piece on the program was Christopher Cerrone's opera-in-progress, Invisible Cities, a series of arresting musical moments exploring Italo Calvino's novel. The harmonies were consistently rich and the music thoughtfully illuminated the text."*

– Daniel Stephen Johnson for the New Haven Advocate, Dec. 3, 2009

**February 2, 2011: RED LIGHT NEW MUSIC** is pleased to announce **the world-premiere, fully staged production** of Brooklyn-based, Yale School of Music-educated composer **CHRISTOPHER CERRONE'S** opera, **INVISIBLE CITIES**. These performances, on **May 13 and 14, 2011**, are the first staged operatic adaptation of **ITALO CALVINO'S** groundbreaking novel. *Invisible Cities* is produced in collaboration with **THE ITALIAN ACADEMY at COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**.

**Christopher Cerrone**, a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music and the Yale School of Music, winner of a 2011 Charles Ives Scholarship, presented by the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the 2010 Boston Metro Opera Concert Award and a 2010 Morton Gould Young Composer Award, among other notable prizes, was strongly drawn to Calvino's novel by its exploration of the ideas of self, time, environment and longing, through the richly imagined relationship of **Kublai Khan** and **Marco Polo**:

*"Calvino's Invisible Cities first appealed to me because of its visceral language and its unique structure, half novel, half short story collection. I was deeply inspired by the idea of creating a work inspired by these vivid and varied snapshots of cities, life and longing."*

Scored for idiosyncratic chamber orchestra with traditional classical instruments and electronics, four amplified solo vocalists and choir (variously singing operatically and with straight tone,) staged with projected video art and dramatically set with a libretto adapted directly from the novel's text, Cerrone's *Invisible Cities* is as reflective of Calvino's original work as it is of our own vivid, richly-informed, hypersaturated world.

The resulting music, with its strong visual and literary elements, and avant-garde, baroque opera, electronic and minimalist influences, is by turns spare and lush, and exceptionally beautiful.

The *Invisible Cities* production team includes director LOUISA PROSKE, music director TED HEARNE, video artist LAURA GREY, costume designer MARK NAGLE and dramaturgy by CHRISTIANA LITTLE.

The cast includes JOSHUA COPELAND as Kublai Khan, JAMES BENJAMIN RODGERS as Marco Polo, MELLISSA HUGHES and RACHEL CALLOWAY, and the EKMELES vocal ensemble led by JEFFERY GAVETT.

The performing ensemble, RED LIGHT NEW MUSIC, is a critically acclaimed New York-based composers collective/concert series/new music band, of which Cerrone is an artistic director (with SCOTT WOLLSCHLEGER, LIAM ROBINSON and VINCENT RAIKHEL,) and co-founder.

THE ITALIAN ACADEMY FOR ADVANCED STUDIES is dedicated to advanced research in areas relating to Italian culture, science and society, as well as to enhancing cultural relations between the Republic of Italy and the artistic, political, and academic communities of New York City and the United States. *Invisible Cities* is the second collaborative production between Red Light New Music and The Italian Academy; in 2007 they co-produced a concert of works by Italian and Italian-American composers.

Rick Whitaker, the Italian Academy's longtime Music and Theater Director, has said: "*The Italian Academy's intimate, elegant Teatro seems an ideal space for Chris Cerrone's sophisticated musical adaptation of Calvino's now classic text. It will no doubt make for a memorable evening of theatrical, exciting contemporary music.*"

*Invisible Cities* is a dynamic and compelling portrait of modern life, a musical work born of the vibrant American new music scene, produced and performed by young musicians and presenters unbound by strict genre, informed by many traditions.

## **INVISIBLE CITIES**

**8PM Friday MAY 13 and Saturday MAY 14, 2011**

**In the TEATRO of THE ITALIAN ACADEMY**

**1161 AMSTERDAM AVENUE, just south of 118<sup>th</sup> Street, NEW YORK CITY**

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**Christopher Cerrone** (b. 1984, Huntington, NY) is a Brooklyn-based composer of orchestral, chamber, vocal, and electronic music. A founding member and co-artistic director of the "enterprising ensemble" Red Light New Music (New York Times), and one of the "five talented guys" (The New Yorker) of the Sleeping Giant composers collective, Cerrone's opera, *Invisible Cities*, "a series of arresting musical moments ... the most satisfying piece on the program" (The New Haven Advocate), was performed in May 2009 by New York City Opera as part of its annual VOX Contemporary American Opera Lab (Cerrone is the youngest composer to receive this honor). That same season, *Invisible Cities* was performed at the Virginia Arts Festival under the direction of Rhoda Levine, where Cerrone was a fellow at the John Duffy Composers Institute. In June 2009, *Invisible Cities* was also performed at the first annual Yale Institute for Music Theatre, directed by Robin Guarino. *Invisible Cities* receives its Boston premiere in a concert production by Boston Metro Opera in the 2011/12 season.

Other current projects include a New York Youth Symphony-commissioned violin concerto, *Still Life*, to be performed on March 13, 2011 by Hahn-Bin with the NYYS at Carnegie Hall; a new one-act opera for American Lyric Theatre (where Cerrone is currently a composer-in-residence), to be premiered at New York City's Symphony Space; and a new trombone quartet for the New York-based ensemble Guidonian Hand.

Cerrone's concert works have been performed in the US, Europe, and Asia, by the Orchestre National de Lorraine (Metz, France), Flexible Music (New York), the New Music Institute at the Hochschule für Musik, Berlin, the Yale Philharmonia, the Manhattan Composers' Orchestra (New York), the New Music Collective (Charleston, SC,) the Grenzenlos Ensemble (New York/Berlin/Melbourne/Shanghai), the Zwo Concert series (Berlin), and throughout New York City, Europe and at the Kennedy Center with Red Light New Music.

Cerrone has won awards and grants including ASCAP's 2010 Morton Gould Young Composer Award, a CAP Grant (2009) and CAP Recording Grant (2010) from the American Music Center, and the Yale School of Music's Ezra Laderman Prize.

Cerrone is currently pursuing his doctorate at the Yale School of Music, where he studies with David Lang, Christopher Theofanidis, Martin Bresnick, Ezra Laderman, and Ingram Marshall. He has worked with composers including Pierre Boulez, Salvatore Sciarrino, Charles Wuorinen, Mark Adamo, Richard Danielpour, and Julia Wolfe, and received his undergraduate degree in 2007 from the Manhattan School of Music, where he studied with Nils Vigeland and Reiko Fueing. An active performer and lecturer, Christopher Cerrone has appeared as a guest musician with Alarm Will Sound, TACTUS, and the Manhattan School Percussion Ensemble. He has taught music theory at the Manhattan School of Music, lectured on contemporary music at Columbia University and the Berlin University of the Arts, and has taught electronic music and composition at Yale College.

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**Follow this link for a full Invisible Cities press kit:**

<http://www.redlightnewmusic.org/cerrone/invisiblecities/presskit.html>

[www.invisiblecitiesopera.com](http://www.invisiblecitiesopera.com) -- *listening samples available here*

[www.christophercerrone.com](http://www.christophercerrone.com)

[www.italianacademy.columbia.edu](http://www.italianacademy.columbia.edu)

[www.redlightnewmusic.org](http://www.redlightnewmusic.org)

[www.ekmeles.com](http://www.ekmeles.com)

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