

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

the upstart Austin-based new music festival and series

**FAST FORWARD AUSTIN**

makes its first **New York City** appearance

on pianist VICKY CHOW's new music series

**CONTAGIOUS SOUNDS**

featuring performances by

the BEL CUORE SAX QUARTET and

percussionist OWEN WEAVER

with special guests VICKY CHOW and CONCERT BLACK

**7pm THURSDAY February 23, 2012**

**THE GERSHWIN HOTEL**



Fast Forward Austin founders Ian Dicke, Robert Honstein and Steven Snowden

"A festival with a mission..." -- Luke Quinton, AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN, April 6, 2011

"The festival's marathon concert tapped into what is so great about the Austin vibe: A community of people who are artistically curious, non-doctrinaire, and unpretentious."

-- Dan Visconti, NEWMUSICBOX.org, April 14, 2011

**On Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 7pm** the acclaimed Texan contemporary music and arts festival, FAST FORWARD AUSTIN, presents its first New York City production as part of pianist VICKY CHOW's adventuresome CONTAGIOUS SOUNDS SERIES.

This program, featuring Austin-based ensemble BEL CUORE SAX QUARTET and longtime former Austin resident, percussionist OWEN WEAVER, offers a snapshot of the dynamic Austin new music scene, with music of a leading figure of the native scene – GRAHAM REYNOLDS – alongside compositions by emerging University of Texas, Austin-trained composers (and FFA co-founders) IAN DICKE, STEVEN SNOWDEN, and ROBERT HONSTEIN, among others.

With special guests pianist VICKY CHOW and CONCERT BLACK, this appearance represents a first step in Fast Forward Austin's mission to build greater connections between new music in Austin and the larger national scene.

FAST FORWARD AUSTIN in NEW YORK CITY

**Bel Cuore Sax Quartet**

*Waterloo Dance Hall* Robert Honstein

*Short Stories* Jennifer Higdon

*Speed Studies* Steven Snowden

*Life and Afterlife* Nick Sibicky

**Owen Weaver**

*Pixelated:* Daniel Wohl with special guest Vicky Chow, piano

*A Watched Pot* Steven Snowden

*Blades and Boards* Graham Reynolds

*Eight Oh Eight* Ian Dicke

*RE: You* Robert Honstein with special guests Concert Black

Austin, known internationally for its brimming music scene – including local strands of country, folk, jazz, blues and rock – is less renowned as a home for new classical music. Fast Forward Austin, founded in 2010 by The University of Texas at Austin-trained composers IAN DICKE, ROBERT HONSTEIN and STEVEN SNOWDEN and kicked off with a critically acclaimed eight-hour marathon of new music presented at Space 12 (this year's marathon will be at ND 501, and will feature Vicky Chow, Owen Weaver and the Bel Cuore Sax Quartet, among others) seeks to cultivate Austin's native new music scene by presenting Austin-based musicians and composers in a way that fully embodies the laid-back, free-wheeling Austin arts spirit.

In addition to its work promoting home-grown new music, FAST FORWARD AUSTIN aims to gain a voice in the larger national scene by engaging Austin artists with communities of musicians beyond its city limits. This New York City appearance is an early step towards achieving that goal. Later this season FFA also appears at the SXSW MUSIC, FILM and INTERACTIVE FESTIVAL, as part of London-based composer Gabriel Prokofiev's NONCLASSICAL showcase. Although based in Austin, SXSW is truly international in scope and attendance, its presentations reaching a global artistic community.

"We've always wanted Fast Forward to be about more than just the annual festival. It's also about connecting the Austin scene to a larger, nation-wide conversation. Our show at the Gershwin is a first step in that direction. At the Gershwin, Austin musicians will share their stuff with New Yorkers and New Yorkers will get a little window into what's going on in Texas," co-founding Fast Forward Austin composer ROBERT HONSTEIN explains.

Fellow FFA co-founding composer, IAN DICKE, elaborates "The Contagious Sounds show, like the festival, will have each artist presenting a set featuring very recent pieces by many different composers. Both the upcoming Gershwin show and our SXSW presentation will highlight something core to Fast Forward's mission: to promote brilliant performances by Austin-based musicians of extremely contemporary music that taps into a wide range of genres and influences."

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Founded in 2010 by composers Ian Dicke, Robert Honstein and Steven Snowden, **Fast Forward Austin** is a contemporary music and arts festival, culminating in an annual 8-hour long marathon event dedicated to presenting new and innovative music to the Austin community. Featuring some of Austin's most talented musicians, Fast Forward Austin offers an eclectic mix of cutting-edge, genre-bending music that fearlessly straddles the borders of pop, classical, and experimental music.

This year's festival will showcase a wide range of performers, including Vicky Chow, pianist for the nationally acclaimed Bang-on-a-Can All Stars, Austin's own Bel Cuore Saxophone Quartet, Precipice, a freshly-minted new music band out of Waco, the Baylor Percussion Group, under the direction of renowned percussionist Todd Meehan, Austin based choreographer and performance artist, Ellen Bartel, Canadian cellist Leanne Zacharias, and New York based percussionist Owen Weaver.

In keeping with our mission to connect forward looking artists with the community, Fast Forward will partner with the Austin chapter of El Sistema, an innovative music education program modeled on the internationally-praised Venezuelan system. El Sistema students will perform at the festival and Fast Forward artists will collaborate with El Sistema programs in the weeks leading up to the festival. A portion of the Fast Forward's proceeds will be donated to El Sistema.

Finally, this season Fast Forward Austin expands its reach, participating in the SXSW Music, Film and Interactive Festival as part of Gabriel Prokofiev's NONCLASSICAL showcase. Fast Forward artists, including the Bel Cuore Sax Quartet, Line Upon Line percussion, and percussionist Owen Weaver, will perform on the showcase offering programs of exclusively 21st century works. Fast Forward Austin will also appear in New York City as part of Vicky Chow's Contagious Sounds Series at the Gershwin Hotel.

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

**Fast Forward Austin in New York City**

**February 23, 2012 for the Contagious Sounds Series at The Gershwin Hotel**

BEL CUORE SAX QUARTET: Rami El-Farrak, soprano sax • Sunil Gadgil, alto sax

Spencer Nielsen, tenor sax • Michael Hertel, bari sax

OWEN WEAVER, Percussionist

with special guests VICKY CHOW, Piano, and

CONCERT BLACK: Owen Weaver, Percussionist, Lisa Dowling, Bass, Domenica Fossati, Flute

[www.CONTAGIOUSOUNDS.net](http://www.CONTAGIOUSOUNDS.net)

The Gershwin Hotel | 7 East 27th Street | New York, NY 10016

Presented by the Contagious Sounds Series

[info@contagiousounds.net](mailto:info@contagiousounds.net)

\$15 general/\$10 students for both sets, \$10 general/\$7 students for one set only. Tickets at the door. No advance sales.

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