

For Immediate Release:

On **Saturday, September 27, 2014, 8pm**
at the DiMenna Center for the Arts
the New York and San Francisco-based concert series
PERMUTATIONS

presents a program of new and recent works from composers
Robert Honstein and Ravi Kittappa
performed by **Concert Black and TIGUE**

ON HONSTEIN'S WORK:

"Quietly poignant...luminous..."

– Stephen Brookes, THE WASHINGTON POST

ON KITTAPPA'S WORK:

*"an enticing work...four minutes of pulse and counterpoint moving
extremely quickly like flies on a pond surface, one ripple starting as
the last died off."*

– Kurt Gottschalk, NEW MUSIC BOX

From top, Concert Black, TIGUE



On Saturday, September 27, 2014 at 8pm, the bicoastal performance and fundraising series **Permutations** presents a concert of new and recent works performed by the artists for whom the works were written: composer **Robert Honstein's** *RE: You* and *An Index of Possibility*, performed, respectively, by **Concert Black** and **TIGUE**, as well as the world premiere of **Ravi Kittappa's** *Shelter*, performed by the two ensembles together.

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RE: You (2011)

by Robert Honstein, performed by and written for Concert Black
I. Better find those little blue pills if you plan on giving her more than lip service
II. Halfway?
III. I am hidden my dear for you!!!!!!

An Index of Possibility (2013)

by Robert Honstein, performed by and written for TIGUE
I. Repose
II. Flicker
III. Flow
IV. Repose
V. Burst
VI. Repose

Shelter (world premiere)

by Ravi Kittappa, performed by and written for Concert Black and TIGUE

Ravi Kittappa's *Shelter* explores the intersection of composed and improvised music, and of chamber and rock music – specifically the first 41 seconds of The Rolling Stones recording of "Gimme Shelter" (from the album *Let it Bleed*).

Kittappa explains, "*Shelter is different than most pieces. It is an open form piece that requires the performers to be able to improvise collectively while working within the given boundaries and trajectories of the piece. After meeting and talking to the ensembles during last year's Color Field Festival, I decided to write the piece for the combined forces of TIGUE and Concert Black. Together these ensembles are a perfect fit for the piece as they are all improvisers, composers, and interpreters.*"

RE: You was commissioned by Concert Black from Robert Honstein in 2011, and was recently released on a New Focus Recordings album of the same name. [RE: You](#) was hailed by Frank Oteri for New Music Box for its idiomatic integration of indie-rock vernacular with contemporary chamber music. “The initial phrases of the opening track, with their gangly electric guitar and foregrounded percussion, also suggest an alternative pop album, as do the openings of just about every other track. But the vocals never come. Instead, the instrumental textures get manipulated in ways that are more reminiscent of contemporary chamber music. So while this is music that is clearly informed by indie rock songs, it is ultimately something else entirely.”

The percussion work, [An Index of Possibility](#) explores the potential and unnoticed or unheard sounds of everyday objects. Commissioned from TIGUE, Smoke and Mirrors, and Sonore Percussion in 2013, the work uses basic percussion instruments in conjunction with found objects, homemade constructions, and inexpensive toys.

Each of the featured works is firmly rooted in the composers’ personal and collaborative relationships with these ensembles. Concert Black and TIGUE are a natural pairing; both are Brooklyn-based, both epitomize the borough’s artistic do-it-yourself aesthetic. Each group is a non-standard chamber music ensemble: Concert Black is a trio of percussion, bass and flute, and TIGUE is a percussion trio. Each ensemble holds at its core a desire to play an active role in creating and performing a new repertoire of chamber music in the 21st century.

Taken as a whole, this concert offers a snapshot of the living tradition of chamber music, with diverse inspirations and the essential role of collaboration center stage. Proceeds from the performance will help fund an upcoming series of collaborations between Concert Black and TIGUE, including a 2015 San Francisco Permutations concert, and a proposed joint album of works by Robert Honstein.

Permutations is a performance and fundraising series based in New York City and the San Francisco Bay Area. Founded and curated by pianist Karl Larson and composer Ravi Kittappa, Permutations brings emerging composers, performers, and audiences from around the world together to collaborate and develop new music opportunities.

Performers are selected for the quality of their work and the merits of their fundraising project. Every project selected receives 100% of the show’s proceeds. Since our inaugural concert in the summer of 2012, Permutations has presented 15 concerts and helped fund 18 projects.

Concert Black is a Brooklyn-based trio that draws upon its members’ diverse musical backgrounds for their song writing, improvisation, and commissioning of today’s emerging composers. The group has fashioned an individual sound through surprising instrumental combinations: layered loops and bass harmonics are interwoven with flute melodies, punctuated by drums, and tied together with ethereal three-part vocals. Concert Black is the new music ensemble-in-residence at the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival and has been featured on concert series and music festivals throughout the country, including Contagious Sounds, Music With a View, Ear Heart Music, Berkshire Fringe, Color Field Festival, and Wild Shore Festival for New Music. In addition to their classical training, flutist **Domenica Fossati** is a veteran of the NYC Afrobeat and Indie Rock scenes (Underground System, The City and Horses), bassist/turndablist **Lisa Dowling** is an active hip hop DJ and singer/songwriter (Lil Miss Dolemite, kills to kisses), and percussionist **Owen Weaver** performs as an electro-acoustic soloist and rock drummer (MATA Interval Series, Glenn Branca Ensemble).

With inspiration by artistic contemporaries, **TIGUE** works through a lens of percussive elements to generate music that represents their affinity for both pop and the avant-garde. TIGUE has presented shows of originally and commissioned music around the country including the International Beethoven Festival (Chicago), the Color Field Festival (Madison) and the Rite of Summer and Frieze Art Festivals (NYC). Hailing from Ohio, they currently reside in Brooklyn, where they perform frequently and have been seen at such venues as The Kitchen, (le) Poisson Rouge, the Knitting Factory, and New Amsterdam Presents, among others. They have been guests on local series including Vicky’ Chow’s Contagious Sounds, concerto soloists with Contemporaneous on P.S. 142’s Neighborhood Classics, and will be featured on So Percussion’s new studio series this fall. Recently, TIGUE has embarked on a number of fresh endeavors including a collaboration and extensive U.S. tour with Kid Millions (John Colpitts). Additionally, TIGUE collaborates annually with Make Music New York bringing a 10-week hand drumming program to select inmates at New York City’s Rikers Island Correctional Facility. Featured in both The New York Times and Rolling Stone, the program culminates each year in a concert for fellow inmates and Rikers population.

Celebrated for his “roiling, insistent orchestral figuration” (New York Times) and “glittery, percussive pieces” (Toronto Globe and Mail), composer **Robert Honstein** (b. 1980) is a composer of orchestral, chamber, and vocal music, whose works have been performed by

ensembles such as the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, the New York Youth Symphony, the Woodstock Chamber Orchestra, Ensemble ACJW, Ensemble Dal Niente, the Mivos quartet, the Del Sol Quartet, and the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, among others. He has received an Aaron Copland Award, multiple ASCAP awards and honors from SCI, Carnegie Hall, and New Music USA.

Robert co-produces Fast Forward Austin, an annual marathon new music concert in Austin, TX and is a founding member of the composer collective Sleeping Giant. Upcoming projects include commissions from cellist Ashley Bathgate, a consortium of pianists for a solo piano work, and a new work for Eighth Blackbird as part of a collaborative project with Sleeping Giant. He is also composer-in-residence, along with his Sleeping Giant colleagues, with the Albany Symphony Orchestra, as part of a Music Alive grant from New Music USA and the League of American Orchestras. He studied composition at the Yale School of Music with Martin Bresnick, Chris Theofanidis, and David Lang.

Ravi Kittappa is a composer currently living in Oakland, CA. The Janacek Philharmonia's recent premiere of his work, *exordium*, was described as "an enticing work of pulse and counterpoint" (New Music Box). Ravi has been commissioned and premiered by Color Field Ensemble, Ensemble Dal Niente, ECO Ensemble, Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, percussionist Owen Weaver, and Talea Ensemble among others. He has been honored to be selected as a participant at international festivals like Ostrava Days, Bowling Green New Music Festival, MATA Festival, and the Bang on a Can Summer Institute. In Spring 2012, Ravi founded the Harlem-based new music and arts fundraising series, *Permutations*, which he co-curates with pianist, Karl Larson. Ravi studied philosophy at The Johns Hopkins University and music at Columbia University. He is currently a Ph.D fellow in music composition at University of California, Berkeley.

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RE: You (2013) by Robert Honstein, performed by Concert Black

An Index of Possibility (2013) by Robert Honstein, performed by TIGUE

Shelter (2014) by Ravi Kittappa (world premiere), performed by Concert Black and TIGUE

8pm, Saturday, September 27, 2014

Tickets available at the door, \$15, \$10 for students. Cash only.

The DiMenna Center, Norman S. Benzaquen Hall

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permutations.org

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