

**Bowerbird, the University of Pennsylvania Department of Music,  
and the Annenberg Center present  
Zeitgeist: George Crumb at 90, October 10-12**

(Philadelphia – September 24, 2019) — [Bowerbird](#), the [University of Pennsylvania Department of Music](#), and the [Annenberg Center](#) present **Zeitgeist: George Crumb at 90**, a three-concert festival celebrating more than seventy years of music by Grammy® and Pulitzer Prize®-winning composer George Crumb, **October 10-12**. All concerts will take place at the Annenberg Center on the University of Pennsylvania campus. Visit [AnnenbergCenter.org](#) for tickets.

George Crumb is one of the most frequently performed composers today. His music often juxtaposes contrasting musical styles, ranging from the western art-music tradition, to hymns and folk, to non-Western music. Many of his works include programmatic, symbolic, mystical and theatrical elements, which are often reflected in his beautiful and meticulously notated scores. Crumb received fellowships from the Rockefeller Foundation, Koussevitzky Foundation, National Institute of Arts and Letters and the Guggenheim Foundation. He retired from the University of Pennsylvania in 1997 as the Walter H. Annenberg Professor Emeritus in the Humanities after more than 30 years of teaching. He was awarded an honorary doctor of music degree from Penn in May 2009.

**[Out of Darkness](#) (Thursday, October 10, 8 PM)** will feature the [Arcana New Music Ensemble](#) performing a collection of Crumb's most evocative music. The program features the haunting setting *Apparition*, with texts drawn from Walt Whitman's "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd." and all four books of *Madrigals* with text by Spanish poet Federico García Lorca.

**[Kosmos](#) (Friday, October 11, 8 PM)** will feature pianists [Margaret Leng Tan](#) and [Adam Tandler](#) performing two major works for solo amplified piano, the zodiac-inspired *Makrokosmos I* and the more recent *Metamorphoses*. These works celebrate George Crumb's unfettered imagination as he requires the pianist to be a virtuoso at the keyboard while playing inside the piano and vocalizing as well. This performance includes a conversation between George Crumb and James Primosch, composer and Penn Music Department faculty member.

**[Black Angels](#) (Saturday, October 12, 8 PM)** features the [Daedalus Quartet](#) and friends performing Crumb's Vietnam War-haunted *Black Angels* for amplified string quartet, "a work of frightening intensity, where Jimi Hendrix and Pierrot Lunaire shake hands with the devil." A selection of Crumb's early music rounds out the picture of this essential American artist's lengthy career.

Support for Zeitgeist: George Crumb at 90 has been provided by the Musical Fund Society of Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

#### **About Bowerbird**

Bowerbird's mission is to expand public understanding of experimental music, moving away from simplistic tropes such as "cutting edge" or "contemporary," and instead striving to engage with experimentalism as a timeless and

recurrent artistic practice. Bowerbird was founded in 2006 and has presented over 600 events at venues across Philadelphia including several large multi event festivals dedicated to single composers. These have included Morton Feldman (2010), John Cage (2012), and most recently Julius Eastman – 2017 in Philadelphia and 2018 in New York City. Visit [bowerbird.org](http://bowerbird.org).

### **About the University of Pennsylvania Department of Music**

The Music Department at the University of Pennsylvania offers undergraduates the opportunity to major or minor in music, affording students across the university access to first-rate faculty and providing performance opportunities in a wide range of ensembles. Graduate programs in composition, musicology, ethnomusicology, and music theory have produced leading scholars and award-winning artists, including two Pulitzer Prize-winning composers. A defining feature of the department is the high degree of interaction between faculty, graduates, undergraduates, and performance directors. The department also fosters fruitful relationships with the wider community, and is defined, too, by a strong sense of civic engagement at the local and global level.

### **About the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts**

The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts serves as a major cultural destination and crossroads connecting Penn and the greater Philadelphia region through innovative human expression in theatre, music, dance, and film, serving an annual audience of over 60,000. The Annenberg Center also serves as a key resource for the arts at Penn, connecting master artists with Penn students in support of and as an enhancement to the arts curriculum. Student performing arts groups are also key users of the Annenberg Center's multiple performance and rehearsal spaces, while also staffing many operational roles throughout the academic year. In reflection of Penn's core values as a world-respected academic institution, the Annenberg Center emphasizes artistic and intellectual excellence, diversity, and rigor in its presentations; prioritizes broad inclusiveness in the artists, audiences, and groups it serves; manages outstanding performance, conference, and meeting facilities; and stresses comprehensive event planning, production support, and customer service. The Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a major provider of performing arts access for school children and actively engages a broad range of primary, secondary, and post-secondary student audiences and inclusive constituencies from the campus, community, and greater Philadelphia region. Visit [AnnenbergCenter.org](http://AnnenbergCenter.org).

**Annenberg Center Presents full 2019-20 chronological calendar is available [online](#).**

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## **CALENDAR LISTING**

### **Zeitgeist: George Crumb at 90**

#### **Out of Darkness**

Arcana New Music Ensemble

Thursday, October 10, 8 PM

A collection of George Crumb's most evocative music performed by Philadelphia's Arcana New Music Ensemble. The program features the haunting setting *Apparition*, with texts drawn from Walt Whitman's "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd." and all four books of *Madrigals* with text by Spanish poet Federico García Lorca.

#### Program

*Dream Sequence (Images II)* (1976)

*Mundus Canis (A Dog's World)* (1998)

*Apparition* (1979)

*Eleven Echoes of Autumn (Echoes I)* (1965)

*Madrigals, Book I – IV* (1965, 1969)

Co-presented by Bowerbird, the University of Pennsylvania Department of Music and Annenberg Center Presents.

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**Zeitgeist: George Crumb at 90**

**Kosmos**

Featuring Margaret Leng Tan & Adam Tendler

Friday, October 11, 8 PM—*This performance includes a conversation between George Crumb and James Primosch, composer and Music Department faculty member.*

Two major works for solo amplified piano, the zodiac-inspired *Makrokosmos I* and the more recent *Metamorphoses*, celebrate George Crumb's unfettered imagination as he requires the pianist to be a virtuoso at the keyboard while playing inside the piano and vocalizing as well.

Program

*Makrokosmos, Book I* (1972)

*Metamorphoses, Book I* (2015 – 2017)

Co-presented by Bowerbird, the University of Pennsylvania Department of Music and Annenberg Center Presents.

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**Zeitgeist: George Crumb at 90**

**Black Angels**

Featuring Daedalus Quartet & Friends

Saturday, October 12, 8 PM

The Daedalus Quartet performs Crumb's Vietnam War-haunted *Black Angels* for amplified string quartet, "a work of frightening intensity, where Jimi Hendrix and Pierrot Lunaire shake hands with the devil." A selection of Crumb's early music rounds out the picture of this essential American artist's lengthy career.

Program

*Sonata for Solo Violoncello* (1955)

*Four Nocturnes* (1964)

*Three Early Songs* (1947)

*A Little Suite For Christmas, 1979, A. D.* (1980)

*Black Angels* (1970)

Co-presented by Bowerbird, the University of Pennsylvania Department of Music and Annenberg Center Presents.

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