****

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  August 8, 2024  More info: alarmwillsound.com | PRESS CONTACT  Michael Clayville, 717.831.8461  michaelclayville@alarmwillsound.com |

|  |
| --- |
| **Alarm Will Sound Brings Retrospective of Mizzou International Composers Festival to New York’s Time:Spans Festival**  **Music of Baker, Balter, Norman, Komschlies, Tovar-Henao, Sheehan**  **The Dimenna Center for Classical Music**  **Mary Flagler Cary Concert Hall**  **August 22, 2024**    Alarm Will Sound with Artistic director/conductor Alan Pierson performs at the 2023 Mizzou International Composers Festival. Photo by Sophia Bianco. |

Contemporary music ensemble [**Alarm Will Sound**](http://alarmwillsoiund.com) will perform music written for and premiered at the University of Missouri’s annual [**Mizzou International Composers Festival (MICF)**](https://newmusic.missouri.edu/micf) as part of New York’s [**Times:Spans Festival**](https://timespans.org/concert/alarm-will-sound-baker-balter-norman-komschlies-tovar-henao-sheehan/) at **7:30 p.m. on August 22, 2024**, at the **DiMenna Center for Classical Music’s Mary Flagler Cary Hall**. The program will include music by [**Claude Baker**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDNdwr3IxJw)**, Marcos Balter, Andrew Norman,** [**Chelsea Komschlies**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYsttcu8hUQ)**, Felipe Tovar-Henao, and Kelley Sheehan**.

Alan Pierson, Alarm Will Sound’s Artistic Director and conductor says, “For the past 15 years, the Mizzou International Composers Festival has been a remarkable gathering of composers, performers, and audiences that has greatly enriched the Alarm Will Sound community. We have had the privilege of premiering over a hundred new works, some of which have since been performed globally. We are delighted to share some of our favorite pieces from the MICF at the Time:Spans Festival this summer.”

The MICF, which this year celebrated its 15th annual festival, is a key incubator of new classical repertoire taking place each July in Columbia, Missouri. Each year of the festival features two Distinguished Guest Composers and Ensemble-in-Residence Alarm Will Sound and includes public concerts, presentations, workshops, and more. Eight Resident Composers are selected through an application process to compose new works that will be premiered at the festival by Alarm Will Sound. The Resident Composers rehearse closely with the ensemble, give public presentations on their work, and receive private lessons with the Guest Composers.

“The Mizzou International Composers Festival gives Alarm Will Sound the opportunity to premiere eight works by Resident Composers each year,” says Stefan Freund, Artistic Director of MICF and Alarm Will Sound member. “AWS works closely with the composers during the week of the festival to give highly informed and expressive interpretations of their works. The festival also enables Alarm Will Sound to work with Distinguished Guest Composers, sometimes performing their pre-existing works, but also commissioning renowned composers such as Marcos Balter, David Little, and Amy Beth Kirsten to create new works.”

Past Distinguished Guest Composers at the festival include Tania León, George Lewis, Mary Kouyoumdjian, Hans Abrahamsen, Meredith Monk, Andrew Norman, and Georg Friedrich Haas. Resident composers from the festival have gone on to create works for major ensembles around the world and continue to collaborate with Alarm Will Sound. For instance, [**Mary Kouyoumdjian’s *Paper Pianos***](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhJzeMxSV-w), an excerpt of which received its premiere at the 2016 MICF, has been developed into an evening-length music-documentary and was a finalist for the 2024 Pulitzer Prize in Music. Alarm Will Sound premiered *Paper Pianos* at EMPAC in 2023. Additionally, Alarm Will Sound performed *Vinyl* by Charlie Peck, a 2017 resident composer, on a 2018 multi-city tour of China, and collaborated with filmmakers Max Freeman and Margaret Singer to create a video for *Zoetrope* by Charlie Piper, a 2012 resident composer.

The Mizzou International Composers Festival is sponsored by the generosity of the Sinquefield Charitable Foundation.

**Program Information**

Thursday, August 22, 2024, at 7:30 pm

The DiMenna Center for Classical Music

Mary Flagler Cary Hall

<https://timespans.org/concert/alarm-will-sound-baker-balter-norman-komschlies-tovar-henao-sheehan/>

*Try*, Andrew Norman (2015 MICF Guest Composer)

*Carmen Infernarum Machinarum Fugax*, Claude Baker (2023 MICF Featured Composer)

*Hexactinellida*, Chelsea Komschlies (2022 MICF Resident Composer)

*Enjambres*, Felipe Tovar-Henao (2022 MICF Resident Composer)

*splitting to collapse*, Kelley Sheehan (2023 MICF Resident Composer)

*Code-Switching*, Marcos Balter (2023 MICF MICF Guest Composer)

All of the pieces performed were written for and premiered at the MICF except for Norman’s *Try*, which has been performed at the MICF twice (including this past year).

**Alarm Will Sound’s Mission**

Alarm Will Sound commissions, performs and records contemporary classical music for large ensemble, with the goal of creating exciting performing-arts experiences for broad and diverse audiences. We aim to engage these audiences through innovative productions that represent and widen the variety of classical music being made today, and to do so in ways that may incorporate staging, action, movement and visual media. Indeed, today’s composers, performers and audiences increasingly create and seek out musical events that make connections among many disciplines, genres and media and that thereby innovate the classical-music tradition. With the goal of cultivating a diverse and sophisticated audience, the ensemble brings intelligence and a sense of adventure to the rich variety of musical expression in the contemporary world.

**About the Artists**

**Alarm Will Sound** is a 20-member band committed to innovative performances and recordings of today’s music, which has established a reputation for performing demanding music with energetic virtuosity. With classical skill and unlimited curiosity, Alarm Will Sound takes on music from a wide variety of styles. “Stylistically omnivorous and physically versatile” (*The Log Journal*), their repertoire comes from around the world, and ranges from the arch-modernist to the pop-influenced. Since its inception, Alarm Will Sound has been associated with composers at the forefront of contemporary music. The group itself includes many composer-performers, which allows for an unusual degree of insight into the creation and performance of new work. Alarm Will Sound is the resident ensemble at the Mizzou International Composers Festival. Held each July at the University of Missouri in Columbia, the festival features eight world premieres by early-career composers. In 2013-14, Alarm Will Sound served as artists-in-residence at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Alarm Will Sound may be heard on 18 recordings, including For George Lewis | Autoshchediasms, their most recent release featuring music of Tyshawn Sorey, and the premiere recording of Steve Reich’s Radio Rewrite. Acoustica, their genre-bending, critically-acclaimed album, features live-performance arrangements of music by electronica guru Aphex Twin. For more information visit [www.alarmwillsound.com](http://www.alarmwillsound.com).

**Alan Pierson** has been praised as "a dynamic conductor and musical visionary" by *The New York Times*, a "conductor of monstrous skill" by Newsday, "gifted and electrifying" by the *Boston Globe*, and "one of the most exciting figures in new music today" by *Fanfare*. In addition to his work as artistic director of Alarm Will Sound, he has served as Artistic Director of the Brooklyn Philharmonic, and guest conducted the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, L.A. Opera, Nationaltheater Mannheim, the London Sinfonietta, the Steve Reich Ensemble, the Orchestra of St. Luke's, the New World Symphony, and the Silk Road Project, among others. He is co-director of the Northwestern University Contemporary Music Ensemble, and has been a visiting faculty conductor at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, the Eastman School of Music, and at the Banff Centre for the Arts and Creativity. Passionate about using storytelling to bring listeners inside of contemporary music, he has led the creation of innovative musical experiences, like Alarm Will Sound's *1969* and Soundbites video series, and the Brooklyn Philharmonic's *Brooklyn Village* project. Mr. Pierson has collaborated with major composers and performers, including Yo Yo Ma, Steve Reich, Dawn Upshaw, Osvaldo Golijov, John Adams, John Luther Adams, Augusta Read Thomas, David Lang, Michael Gordon, La Monte Young, and choreographers Mark Morris, Christopher Wheeldon, Akram Khan, and Elliot Feld.  Mr. Pierson received bachelor degrees in physics and music from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a doctorate in conducting from the Eastman School of Music. He has recorded for Nonesuch Records, Cantaloupe Music, Sony Classical, Oehms Classics, and Sweetspot DVD.

Interviews with AWS Executive Director Gavin Chuck and Artistic Director and Conductor Alan Pierson are available.

###