

# ***Resonant Nature***

## **a Sounds Modern pop-up event**

**Sunday, May 12, 2024, 10:00 am  
Pavilion #2, South Lakes Park, Denton**

### **Program**

*In a Large Open Space* (1994) by James Tenney (1934-2006)

*Recyclers* (2009) by Andrew May (b. 1968)

### **Musicians**

Sarah Ruth Alexander, voice, harmonium, recorders and whistles  
Stephen Lucas, recorders  
Hunter Long, paetzold recorder  
Anne Dearth Maker and Elizabeth McNutt, flutes  
Jung Choi, oboe  
Charlotte MacDonald, clarinet  
Jessica Stearns, alto saxophone  
Mia Detwiler and Andrew May, violin  
Mike Capone, viola  
Kourtney Newton and Colin Stokes, cello  
Aaron Gonzalez, double bass  
Miguel Espinel and Gregg Prickett, electric guitar  
Bobby Fajardo, Patrick Overturf, and Christopher Teal, percussion

### **Program Notes**

*In a Large Open Space* brings together the performance practice of Tenney's 1960's *Postal Pieces* – whose scores are verbal instructions for gradually evolving textures of sound in an instrumental ensemble – with his later studies of the “harmonic fusion” of multiple partials in the spectrum of a single note – in this case the first 32 partials of a low F-natural. Like an Aeolian harp, or the resonance of a canyon in the wind, harmonics emerge and fade, sometimes fusing to create the auditory illusion of the low tone that gives rise to all the other notes.

*Recyclers* is an open-form performance piece based on sounds of a Northern Mockingbird recorded in 2008 by Nathan Pieplow in Big Bend National Park, Texas (used with kind permission of Nathan Pieplow and the Macaulay Library at Cornell University). Mockingbirds are among the world's most inspired recyclers of sound and memory; they learn to imitate an enormous repertoire of other birds' songs (among other sounds) and incorporate them into their song. Humans, too, imitate and recycle the sounds we hear into our own songs and stories; technologies for recording and manipulating sound have made us even more avid recyclers. In this piece, both species' brands of mimicry coexist: recorded bird songs combine with human performers to create a hybrid landscape. *Recyclers* was written for the Nova Ensemble, directed by Elizabeth McNutt, in celebration of Earth Day 2009, for a first performance at the eARTh Festival at the University of North Texas; the six-channel version was premiered in the same year at the Fort Worth Museum of Modern Art.

### **Sounds Modern**

Directed by Elizabeth McNutt and Andrew May, Sounds Modern is the most up-to-the-minute and least predictable concert music series in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Sounds Modern has bridged the various experimental music and visual arts communities in our region since 2007. Our next event will be Thursday, May 23 at 6:30 pm in the Greater Denton Arts Council's Patterson-Appleton Arts Center, 400 East Hickory, Denton, TX, 76201; admission will be free and open to the public. Learn more and sign up for event announcements at [www.soundsmodern.org](http://www.soundsmodern.org), [www.facebook.com/SoundsModern](https://www.facebook.com/SoundsModern), on Twitter and Instagram @soundsmodern.

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