

## Review: Gryphon Trio

The audience sat transfixed as the final chord of Chan Ka Nin's ...and the masks evoke... faded into the ether and a pair of unearthly eyes stared back from the projection screen.

...and the masks evoke... was one of the highlights of the Gryphon Trio's concert of on September 22. It contrasted the ethereal beauty of cello and piano harmonics with raw power of tribal rhythms, while the crisp, dramatic images of aboriginal masks faded in and out on an austere, black screen.

Almost all the works were based on extra-musical ideas, from the Kwakiut masks of ...and the masks evoke... to natural inspiration in Lunar Reflections, the tragedy of the Ukrainian Holodomor in Lamento to poetry which provided inspiration for Owl Song and Memory, Distance and No Time for Dances.

The composers were from Canada and the Ukraine, including a composition by Calgary's William Jordan. Each piece was unique and the program flowed seamlessly. The trio's casual banter between pieces was informative and served to create an intimate atmosphere in the cavernous hall.

The Lamento, based on the tragedy of the Ukrainian Holodomor serves as a requiem in honour of the victims. It begins with sustained, powerful chords in the strings that recall suffering and anguish but ends at peace, almost hymn-like.

Roman, the trio's cellist, described ...Fugitive Visions of Mozart... as looking at a piece of warped glass with Mozart's music flowing through it like light, refracted in strange and incredible ways. The music is quirky, just like Mozart himself. It is reminiscent of a music box, starting up, winding down, and starting up again.

The final piece on the program, Lunar Reflections by former Calgarian Heather Schmidt, was a superb closing number. Each movement depicted a different kind of moon and had its own unique character. Often the melodies were reminiscent of folk dances. The piece ended clamorous and triumphant, their "heavy metal movement" said their pianist Jamie.

The concert was well-received by the audience who had nothing but good things to say about the trio, who joined the audience in the lobby after the concert.

New Works Calgary looks forward to bringing you Corey Hamm, November 11, 2008, 8pm at the Rosza Centre.

- Review and photo by Lindsey Wallis

