



**AMERICAN
SCHOOL FOR
THE
DEAF**

ALL ways able.



Cuatro Puntos

Dedicated to global cooperation and peace
through the teaching, writing, and
performance of music worldwide

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

7:00pm

American School for the Deaf, Ward Gymnasium
139 North Main St., West Hartford, CT

FREE ADMISSION

The musical ensemble Cuatro Puntos is dedicated to global cooperation and peace through the teaching, writing, and performance of music worldwide. Having recently returned from a European tour where they launched an album of music recorded in collaboration with a music school in Afghanistan, they are embarking on a new journey to build musical bridges between communities. This time, they are focusing on two communities in their home state of Connecticut: the hearing and Deaf.

Connecticut is the birthplace of American Sign Language (ASL). 200 years ago, in 1817, Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet brought sign language from France and started the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, where ASL was developed and spread across the country. This year Cuatro Puntos is partnering with the American School for the Deaf to help celebrate their bicentennial, and to celebrate specifically how music is both enjoyed and made by the deaf community in our state, and how this has been true throughout history.

Members of Cuatro Puntos, alongside guest musicians, ASL signers, and a group of deaf student performers from the American School for the Deaf will present a diverse program titled "Celebrating Deaf Musical Culture from Beethoven to the Present." On the program will be two newly commissioned pieces. The first is from Cuatro Puntos' composer-in-residence Sadie Harrison titled "Squish!". "Squish!" is based on an ASL deaf story about King Kong, which has a surprising twist at the end. The story will be told by ASL storyteller Danielle Holdridge, with musical accompaniment by string quartet. The second is by local Connecticut composer David Macbride, titled "Silent Hands." The piece is for string quartet, baritone voice, bass clarinet, percussion, and ASL storyteller. It explores the range of sound that can be heard and felt by those who are Deaf and hard of hearing. In addition to these new works, percussionist David Feng will initiate a dialogue where hearing members of the audience will get to experience music in a way similar to how a deaf person would experience it.

Deaf student performers from the American School for the Deaf will join in the performance, and share with the audience about their experiences with music.

Please join violinists Aaron Packard and Annie Trépanier, violists Kevin Bishop and Steve Larson, cellist Allan Ballinger, baritone Ryan Burns, percussionist David Feng, clarinetist Curt Blood, ASL storyteller Danielle Holdridge, and students from the American School for the Deaf for this special event.

All spoken parts of the program will be translated into ASL by a certified interpreter, and we welcome the deaf and hearing alike to join us.

This program is made possible thanks to the generosity of the Greater Hartford Arts Council and the Connecticut Office of the Arts.