



1/2 Page Version: Approx. 200 word count

Mission

C4: The Choral Composer/Conductor Collective exists to enrich artists and audiences alike through passionate advocacy of new choral works: to perform pieces written within the last 25 years; to premiere in concert and commission new choral works; and to mentor emerging singers, composers, and conductors of today's choral music.

History

C4 was founded in November 2005 by a small cadre of veterans of New York City's choral scene who sought a chance to explore new directions for themselves and for choral music in a collaborative, artist-friendly environment.

C4 has presented nearly 30 concert sets, and has been presented by (Le) Poisson Rouge, Galapagos Arts Space, and by Saint Peter's Church Classical Music Series.

In 2011-12 and again in 2014-15, C4 conducted its Composer Commissioning competitions awarding a combined \$5,300 in prizes.

C4 released its first professionally produced album, *Volume 1: Uncaged* in 2013 and look forward to the next, *Volume 2: Cornerstones* this spring.

C4 has collaborated with individual instrumentalists and with Fireworks Ensemble, MATA, Contemporaneous, film-maker David Finklestein, and Ensemble Dance.

In the 2013-14 season, C4 branched out with its first-ever educational outreach program at Tufts University in Boston and continued educational activities at the Lucy Moses School.



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History

C4 was founded in November 2005 by a small cadre of veterans of New York City's choral scene who sought a chance to explore new directions for themselves and for choral music in a collaborative, artist-friendly environment. Following an initial round of auditions in January, preparations began for C4's first full-length concert, presented to a sold out house at the Norwegian Seamen's Church on June 9, 2006. The concert featured four world premieres and was selected as Time Out New York's "Don't Miss!" classical pick of the night.

In 2011-12 and again in 2014-15, C4 conducted Composer Commissioning Competitions, attracting over 500 submissions. The resulting concerts included premiere performances of newly commissioned works by the prize winning composers who received monetary awards totaling \$5,300 and travel stipends to attend.

In addition to self-presenting, C4 has been presented by (Le) Poisson Rouge, Saint Peter's Church Classical Music Series and Galapagos Arts Space.

C4 released its first professionally produced album, *Volume 1: Uncaged* in 2013 and look forward to the next, *Volume 2: Cornerstones* this spring.

C4 collaborations include performances with percussionists, string players, a sound artist, and dancers. C4 performed the original score for the David Finklestein film, 'Two Fauns.' In June 2012, C4 collaborated with Fireworks Ensemble in a concert featuring world-premiere pieces with composers from both groups. We also worked with MATA and Contemporaneous in a joint presentation.

In the fall of 2013, C4 branched out with its first-ever educational outreach program at Tufts University in Boston. C4 took part in a student composition reading/masterclass session, worked with the University Concert Choir, and was presented in a full evening concert. C4 continued education work at the Lucy Moses School, reading works of students in the ComposerCraft program.



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Mission

C4: The Choral Composer/Conductor Collective exists to enrich artists and audiences alike through passionate advocacy of new choral works: to perform pieces written within the last 25 years; to premiere in concert and commission new choral works; and to mentor emerging singers, composers, and conductors of today's choral music.

C4 presents a wide array of choral works both by veterans and by emerging composers—C4 members and others. C4's adventurous programming fills an important niche in the cultural life of New York, and the ensemble has proven its commitment to presenting high caliber music in a welcoming atmosphere.

History

In the fall of 2005, vocalist/composer Ian David Moss brought together a group of veterans of the New York choral scene and came up with a new model that favored a more democratic way of running an ensemble. The new approach would break with the standard, autocratic Artistic Director/Conductor model in order to explore new directions for the creation and performance of choral music in a collaborative environment.

In January 2006, preparations began for C4: Choral Composer/Conductor Collective. On June 9 of that year, C4 performed its first full-length concert to a sold-out house. Since that inaugural performance, C4 has produced 22 more concerts — 38 total performances — at a wide variety of venues in New York, presenting works by more than 100 composers and including over 100 premieres.

In 2011-12 and again in 2014-15, C4 conducted Composer Commissioning Competitions. The resulting concerts included premiere performances of the commissioned works by the prize winning composers. The competitions attracted over 500 submissions and were adjudicated by experts Eric Banks, James Bassi, Aaron Jay Kernis, Clara Longstreth, and Steven Stuckey. C4 members then worked with the finalists as they composed their new works. In the final steps, the panel named the First and Second place and Honorable Mention prizes totaling \$5,300. C4 plans to continue the competition triennially.

In addition to self-presenting, C4 has been presented by (Le) Poisson Rouge, Saint Peter's Church Classical Music Series and Galapagos Arts Space.

C4 released its first professionally produced album, *Volume 1: Uncaged* in 2013. The album received great notices, and was WQXR's Q2 Album of the week. The group looks forward to our next release, *Volume 2: Cornerstones* this spring.

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C4 has collaborated with outside performers, creating paid opportunities for percussionists, string players, a sound artist, and - currently - with dancers. The May 2010 concert saw C4's first use of electronic elements ranging from electronic accompaniments, to streaming on-screen imagery, to live sound manipulation of the voices. C4 also worked in film, performing the original score for the David Finklestein film, 'Two Fauns.' In June 2012, C4 realized its long-held goal of collaborating with another ensemble in "Sparks Fly: C4 in Concert with Fireworks Ensemble." This event featured the premiere of the full-length 'Requiem' by Fireworks' leader Brian Coughlin, as well as three new works by C4 composers. In 2013, C4 collaborated for the first time with dance, working with Ensemble Dance under the direction of Pilar Castro Kiltz.

In the fall of 2013, C4 branched out with its first-ever educational outreach program at Tufts University in Boston. C4 took part in a student composition reading/masterclass session, worked with the University Concert Choir, and was presented in a full evening concert. C4 continued education work at the Lucy Moses School, reading works of students in the ComposerCraft program.

Suggested Press Questions

- 1) When/Why/How was C4 formed?
- 2) What does it mean to be a collective?
- 3) Why no single artistic director? No administrative head?
- 4) Why limit yourselves to music of the last 25 years?
- 5) What sorts of collaborations have you done with other artists?
- 6) Any Recordings?
- 7) How does C4 contribute to musical life in NYC, to the world of New Music?
- 8) How has the group changed since it was founded?
- 9) Who makes up of the group/what backgrounds do your members have?
- 10) What's does the future hold for C4?