



PRESENT MUSIC'S ANNUAL MUSICAL MEDITATION ON GRATITUDE
THANKSGIVING *concert melds tradition with the*
best of what's new and inspiring.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016 - 5PM
CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

A tradition for over ten years, Present Music's annual **THANKSGIVING** concert will include a world premiere by **Robert Honstein**, an ensemble of thirty-five flute players, and the **Bucks Native American Singing and Drumming Group**. Under the direction of Present Music's Artistic Director **Kevin Stalheim**, the concert also features collaborations with the **Hearing Voices Ensemble** and the **Arrowhead High School Choir**. The evening ends with a hymn sung by the audience and performers, followed by the time-honored Friendship Dance.

Other program highlights include **Henry Brant's** *Mass in Gregorian Chant, Fly Away I* by **Caroline Shaw**, solo works played on the St. John's Cathedral organ, and a mash up of **Charles Ives'** songs (concocted by Kevin Stalheim and originally played at the THANKSGIVING concert in 2012), which segue into *America the Beautiful*.

Commissioned by the Present Music Commission Club for its landmark 35th season, the world premiere of *Book of Hours* takes its inspiration from an artist book stitched on tissue paper by Laura Grey. Loosely following the structure of a medieval book of hours, the project reimagines the ancient prayer book as a large, hand-stitched, table-sized book. Several texts from various sources are collaged together, creating a narrative that references the structure of the original, while offering a contemporary perspective on the practice of daily devotion. "When looking inward we sometimes encounter a volatile and turbulent space: memories, worries, visions, and dreams clash with wide-ranging emotions of great intensity. *Book of Hours* enters this space," explained **Robert Honstein**.

Artistic Director **Kevin Stalheim** added, "I'm absolutely thrilled with the brand new piece of music, *Book of Hours* that we will premiere at our annual THANKSGIVING concert. Composer Robert Honstein has set texts from living poets, philosophers, Shakespeare, and the Catholic liturgy to some of the most gorgeous and deeply felt music that I have ever encountered."

EVENTS

- **Pre-Concert Talk with Composer Robert Honstein** | Sunday, November 20 at 4pm
Join us at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist prior to the concert to hear visiting composer Robert Honstein discuss his piece, *Book of Hours*. This event is free and open to the public.
- Present Music will be collecting food donations at the concert to benefit **Hunger Task Force**. Patrons who donate three non-perishable food items will receive a \$5 off ticket voucher for the April 29 concert at Milwaukee Public Museum.

TICKETS

Single tickets are available for \$15/\$25/\$35 (prices dictated by seating) + students are half-price. To purchase tickets go to presentmusic.org or call 414-271-0711. *This performance is not recommended for children under the age of 10.*

This concert is funded in part through a grant from the City of Milwaukee Arts Board and the Wisconsin Arts Board.