



# **OPEN BOOK**

## **Album Release Concert**

When the Earth Stands Still  
*Don Macdonald*

Roses  
*Augusta Read Thomas*

Women in Love  
*Matthew Harris*

- I. Summer Villanelle
- II. Two Cures for Love
- III. Loss
- IV. Bloody Men
- V. Valentine
- VI. Leaving

I live in pain  
*David Lang*

Even When He Is Silent  
*Kim André Arnesen*

Feelings are Feelings\*  
*Carl Kennedy*

We Are\*  
*Katherine Pukinskis*

I Am Waiting\*  
*Rob Redei*

\*indicates La Caccina commission

# WE ARE AN OPEN BOOK

Our minds are noisy places. Between to-do lists, daily schedules, frustrations, ambitions, hopes, dreams, and the little snippets of songs that get stuck in our head and *just won't leave*, it's a wonder we have any room for the thoughts that actually help us get through our days. In fact, according to Barry Gordon of John Hopkins School of Medicine, we are only aware of a tiny fraction of the thinking that goes on in our brains every second. Most thoughts go by without our even noticing their presence.

Then there are the thoughts we wish we hadn't noticed. These are the thoughts that we would never say aloud, the ones that are too complicated, too personal, too embarrassing, too ugly to be let out into the world. Perhaps we are afraid that these thoughts express who we really are, and it's not a pretty picture. Perhaps we believe that we are alone in these thoughts, that no one else would ever think such things. Whatever the reason, we keep them to ourselves.

These are the thoughts you'll hear on tonight's program. With "Open Book," we reject the idea that any thought is too isolating to be shared aloud. These texts come from unexpected places – from blog posts about the dating scene in New York City and plays about trying to navigate your own feelings during a breakup. They come from the words scratched into the wall of a concentration camp during World War II and from the poetry of a refreshingly frank English poet. They come from the words we want to say but can't, as in Augusta Read Thomas's "Roses," and the words we wish had never been said at all, as in "We Are" by Kate Pukinskis.

The music on this program served as a catalyst for us throughout the 2016/17 season. Energized by this powerful repertoire, we applied for a grant from Chicago DCASE to turn this concert into our second album. We have always been proud of our efforts to champion the works of living composers, and our album "Open Book" enables us to get these pieces into the hands of as many people as possible. This music is dynamic, powerful, rich, and bold, and we're grateful to DCASE for the opportunity to create a lasting interpretation of Open Book, and to use it again as a launching point for our exciting 2017/18 season.

To stifle the unsingable songs is to deny a large part of our existence. Tonight, we bring those things that are most honest about our experience to the front of the stage. We hope that, as you listen to this music and read the texts, you will hear something of your own existence in our songs, and feel encouraged to reach out, to share your own unspeakable thoughts, and to feel connected to those around you in new ways.

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