

MICHAEL COMPITELLO, PERCUSSIONIST

Director of Percussion Studies, Cornell University
103 Westmount Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850 • (410) 961-2028
michael.compitello@gmail.com • www.michaelcompitello.com

17 September 2014
For Immediate Release

Cello/percussion duo **New Morse Code** (percussionist Michael Compitello, and cellist Hannah Collins) and composer **Christopher Stark** have been awarded a 2014 Classical Commissioning Grant from Chamber Music America to support the creation of a new piece for cello, percussion, and electronics to be premiered in 2015-2016. An independent panel of prominent musicians and composers selected the grantees for the highly selective awards.

Christopher's piece, *The Language of Landscapes*, will leverage the unexpected and unique sonic terrain of cello and percussion to transform real and imagined landscapes into compelling musical spaces, tracing a musical journey starting from Michael's desert southwest home, traveling through the deciduous hills of upstate New York (Hannah's home), and finally reaching towards the endless sky of Christopher's northern Rockies. Christopher and New Morse Code will spend the next year developing the piece together, generating and refining musical material in a series of residencies, gathering field-recordings and objects from the representative regions, and developing a set of custom-built live electronics.

Chamber Music America, the national network of chamber music professionals, was founded in 1977 to develop and strengthen an evolving chamber music community. With a membership of over 6,000, including musicians, ensembles, presenters, artists' managers, educators, music businesses, and advocates of ensemble music, CMA welcomes and represents a wide range of musical styles and traditions. In addition to its grant programs, CMA provides its members with consulting services, access to instrument and other insurances, conferences, seminars and several publications, including Chamber Music magazine.

Through its grant programs, Chamber Music America provides key support for the creation, performance, and presentation of chamber works, as well as support community engagement and audience-building initiatives. A list of grantees and program descriptions follows. In total, CMA has awarded over \$730,000 in support of small ensembles and presenters of chamber music this year.

For more information visit:

newmorsecode.com
christopher-stark.com

Original press release available at:

<http://www.chamber-music.org/about/press-room/article/09-08-2014/chamber-music-america-announces-650000-grants-ensembles-and-pres>