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## Brave new sounds

### A pioneering group of young musicians brings its innovative music to Rochester

Stuart Low  
Staff writer

(April 15, 2007) — Seven crusaders from the Big Apple hope to convert Rochester audiences to the cause of new music.

Counter)induction, a group of seven young musicians and composers, will spread its ultramodern gospel Friday to the Canandaigua Lake Chamber Music Festival. And as part of the Encounters with New Music program, a collaborative project with Strong — National Museum of Play, the group will proselytize further with two regional community concerts on Saturday (see box).

The events feature world premieres of works by East Coast composers Kyle Bartlett and Douglas Boyce, both members of counter)induction who will be on hand to talk about their new pieces.

The title of Bartlett's piano quartet, *Teratography*, translates as "Writing About Monstrosities," which gives you some idea of its offbeat flavor. So should the two British rock songs that the Philadelphia composer quotes in her work: The Who's *Pinball Wizard* and King Crimson's *FraKctured*.

"We want to bring a variety of music by living composers to audiences who have mostly never experienced it before," says Edward Klorman, executive director of the Canandaigua festival. "The performances are really off the beaten path and explore some experimental and unusual repertoire."

The remainder of the program is also offbeat, showing today's composers interacting with music by classical giants.

Boyce, a composer based in Washington, D.C., contributes an etude for clarinet and cello inspired by Debussy's *Etudes* for piano. You'll hear two of Debussy's atmospheric studies before Boyce's piece gets its world premiere.

"Doug writes his chamber music with ideas taken from game theory," says counter)induction violist Jessica Meyer of New York City. "His etude has a preordained order, but you decide when to depart from it to improvise. That means you have to react in a quick, reflexive way to the people you play with."

In other pairings, German master Alfred Schnittke "completes" Mahler's unfinished *Piano Quartet*, which will be heard first. And Romanian composer Gyorgy Kurtag writes a pithy trio called *Hommage a Robert Schumann*, for the German Romantic master whose free-ranging *Fantasiestucke* for clarinet and piano will also be performed.

If you think such an ambitious program demands the energy of youth, you're right on target. All the musicians are in their 20s and 30s and have backgrounds ranging from rock to classical and cutting-edge contemporary.

Rochester, of course, has long enjoyed a reputation for being hospitable to new music. At the Eastman School of Music alone, Musica Nova and Ossia regularly present the latest experiments by composers from around the world.

But this is counter)induction's first pilgrimage to Rochester, and Klorman holds out high hopes.

"This should be an exciting event," he says. "It's totally unlike anything we've done before."



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The group counter)induction brings its offbeat music to three different local venues Friday and Saturday.

Day in Photos

#### If you go

**What:** counter)induction in "Homages and Overwrites," a program of new works and the pieces that inspired them. Pairings include Douglas Boyce and Claude Debussy, Alfred Schnittke and Gustav Mahler, Gyorgy Kurtag and Robert Schumann, as well the world premiere of Kyle Bartlett's *Teratography*.

**Where:** Canandaigua Baptist Church, 5026 North Road.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Friday.  
**Admission:** \$25 (\$15 for students).  
**Call:** (800) 838-3006 or go to [www.lakechambermusic.org](http://www.lakechambermusic.org).

**Other concerts:** Featured selections in a 45-minute family concert at 11 a.m. Saturday at Strong — National Museum of Play, 1 Manhattan Square; free with museum admission of \$9 (\$8 for seniors, \$7 for children ages 2 to 17). Featured selections in a free, hour-long, interactive program for general audiences at 7 p.m. Saturday at Newark Senior High School, 625 Peirson Ave., Newark, Wayne County.

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