



Photo by Carlin Ma available in high-res at www.jensenartists.com/lisa-bielawa

Mezzo-Soprano Laurie Rubin and Chamber Music Hawaii perform Composer Lisa Bielawa's *Hurry*

Monday, February 17, 2020 at 7:30pm
Paliku Theatre | 45-720 Keaahala Road | Kaneohe, HI

Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7:30pm
Doris Duke Theatre | 900 S Beretania Street | Honolulu, HI

Tickets (\$30 General Admission; Free for Students at the door with a valid ID) and more information at www.chambermusichawaii.org

“[Lisa Bielawa has a] prodigious gift for mingling persuasive melodicism with organic experimentation” – *Time Out New York*

Lisa Bielawa: www.lisabelawa.net

Honolulu and Kaneohe, HI – On **Monday, February 17** and **Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7:30pm**, composer **Lisa Bielawa**'s composition *Hurry* (2004) is presented by **Chamber Music Hawaii** on a program entitled *Poetry in Music*, featuring mezzo-soprano **Laurie Rubin**. Rubin, whose voice has been described by the *LA Times* as “darkly complex and mysteriously soulful,” joins Tresemble, a combined ensemble of mixed instrumentation drawing from all three of Chamber Music Hawaii's resident ensembles.

Scored for soprano, flute, clarinet, violin, cello and piano, *Hurry* was commissioned by Carnegie Hall for the Harbison/Upshaw Workshop and premiered October 10, 2004 Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, New York. The text is from the poem *Hurry, My Verses* by Boris Pasternak, translated from Russian by J. M. Cohen. Bielawa notes, “I hoped to re-create, in musical time, the experience I had reading the poem. The collaborative openness of the performers in the premiere performance guided me; their individual gifts prompted me to hear six urgent songs at once instead of just one.”

Bielawa recently composed an orchestral song cycle for mezzo-soprano Laurie Rubin, which together with a violin concerto and cello concerto, form a trilogy inspired by the American voices she discovered during her 2018 fellowship at the American Antiquarian Society. The song cycle for Rubin, *Centuries in the Hours*, takes its text from a collection of diaries by American women of the 18th-20th centuries whose life circumstances rendered them historically invisible. It was premiered by ROCO (River Oaks Chamber Orchestra) in September 2019.

The Chamber Music Hawaii performances are **Monday, February 17, 2020 at 7:30pm** at Paliku Theatre (45-720 Keaahala Road | Kaneohe, HI) and **Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7:30pm** at Doris Duke Theatre (900 S Beretania Street | Honolulu, HI). Additional works on the programs include **Chausson's *Chanson perpétuelle, Op. 37***; **Schubert's *The Shepherd on the Rock, D. 965***; and **Copland's *As it Fell Upon a Day***. Tickets and more information at www.chambermusichawaii.org/events/poetry-in-music.

About Lisa Bielawa: Composer, producer, and vocalist Lisa Bielawa is a Rome Prize winner in Musical Composition and takes inspiration for her work from literary sources and close artistic collaborations. Her music has been described as “ruminative, pointillistic and harmonically slightly tart,” by *The New York Times*. She is the recipient of the 2017 Music Award from the American Academy of Arts & Letters and was named a William Randolph Hearst Visiting Artist Fellow at the American Antiquarian Society for 2018.

Bielawa consistently executes work that incorporates community-making as part of her artistic vision. She has created music for public spaces in Lower Manhattan, the banks of the Tiber River in Rome, on the sites of former airfields in Berlin in San

Francisco, and to mark the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. In 1997 Bielawa co-founded the MATA Festival, which celebrates the work of young composers, and for five years she was the artistic director of the San Francisco Girls Chorus.

She received a 2018 Los Angeles Area Emmy nomination for her unprecedented, made-for-TV-and-online opera *Vireo: The Spiritual Biography of a Witch's Accuser*, created with librettist Erik Ehn and director Charles Otte. *Vireo* was filmed in twelve parts in locations across the country and features over 350 musicians. *The Los Angeles Times* called *Vireo* an opera, "unlike any you have seen before, in content and in form." *Vireo* was produced as part of Bielawa's artist residency at Grand Central Art Center in Santa Ana, California and in partnership with KCETLink and Single Cel. In February 2019, *Vireo* was released as a two CD + DVD box set on Orange Mountain Music and it is coming to the stage in 2020 as *VIREO LIVE*, a hybrid film-opera 90-minute experience.

Bielawa's recent and current work includes a commission from the Cathedral Choral Society that marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment; and *Voters' Broadcast*, a series of 20-minute public-space musical performances, designed to stimulate voter registration, political awareness, and community fellowship. Her latest work for public spaces, *Mauer Broadcast*, was a series of pop-up choral performances for the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, hosted by Kulturprojekte Berlin in November 2019. She will have her second curatorial residency as a performer/composer at John Zorn's venue The Stone in March 2020.

Her work has been premiered at the NY PHIL BIENNIAL, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, SHIFT Festival, Town Hall Seattle, and Naumburg Orchestral Concerts Summer Series, among others. Orchestras that have championed her music include the The Knights, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, American Composers Orchestra, and the Orlando Philharmonic. Premieres of her work have been commissioned and presented by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Rider, Seattle Chamber Music Society, American Guild of Organists, and more. She is recorded on the Tzadik, TROY, Innova, BMOP/ sound, Supertrain Records, Cedille, Orange Mountain Music and Sono Luminus labels. For more information, please visit www.lisabielawa.net.

About Laurie Rubin: Mezzo-soprano Laurie Rubin has received high praise from *The New York Times* chief classical music critic Anthony Tommasini, who wrote that she possesses "compelling artistry," "communicative power," and that her voice displays "earthy, rich, and poignant qualities."

On October 23, 2012, Seven Stories Press published Rubin's memoir, *Do You Dream in Color? Insights From a Girl Without Sight*. Recounting her experiences from childhood through the rise of her career as an opera singer, Rubin shows how her determination to continually surpass and redefine others' expectations, has enabled her to defy the naysayers who told her that she would never experience romance, have a real job, live independently, much less ski, design jewelry or fulfill her ambition to sing on stage.

Rubin has performed a number of operatic roles, including the role of the voice/witch in Lisa Bielawa's award-winning, episodic TV Opera *Vireo: The Spiritual Biography of a Witch's Accuser*, broadcast on KCET's Art Bound program. Laurie made her Ravinia debut in concert with Frederica Von Stade in September 2015, and will return in 2019 in a solo recital. She was also the title role in Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, Mrs. Noye in Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, under the baton of Dr. Samuel Wong, the lead role of Karen in Gordon Beferman's *The Rat Land* at New York City Opera's VOX Festival, Penelope in Monteverdi's *The Return of Ulysses* at the Greenwich Music Festival and Elle in Poulenc's *The Human Voice* at the Greenwich Music Festival and the Ohana Arts Festival. Rubin has also performed concerts of new music with The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. She has collaborated with and premiered works by composers John Harbison, Gabriela Lena Frank, Keeril Makan, Bruce Adolphe, Noam Sivan and Gordon Beferman.

A co-founder and co-artistic director of Musique a la Mode Chamber Music Ensemble, which has a concert series in Manhattan's East Village, Rubin is also one of the founding members of the baroque ensemble Callisto Ascending which has performed concerts at Lincoln Center. In addition, she is the co-founder and associate artistic director of Ohana Arts, a performing arts festival and school in Honolulu, Hawaii.

About Chamber Music Hawaii: Founded in 1982, Chamber Music Hawaii (CMH) is Hawaii's oldest organization supporting local, professional chamber musicians. Its mission has always been a unique one: to present spectacular performances of music that is familiar and beloved, as well as introduce new repertoire for local audiences to discover and enjoy. CMH's three resident ensembles have collaborated and presented diverse programming with Hawaii Opera Theatre, Onium Ballet Project, and Norway's well-known Bergen Wind Quintet. Each season, CMH's education and outreach programs serve more than 2,500 students and educators in the state, reaching audiences on all six of Hawaii's islands.