

For immediate release: November 23, 2016
Contact: Federico Garcia-De Castro
412.427.6717 — alia.musica.pittsburgh@gmail.com
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Chicago vocal quartet Quince opens 2016-17 Pittsburgh residency on December 10

Renowned quartet Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble will offer the first of three Pittsburgh performances on Saturday December 10, 2016, at Frick Fine Arts Auditorium in Oakland. The evening features chamber oratorio *The Passion of the Wilt-Mold Mothers*, commissioned by Quince in 2015 from Pittsburgh-based composer Curtis Rumrill, and based on texts by Rumrill's long-time collaborating librettist Webberly Ebberly Finnich.

Quince, made up of singers Carrie Henneman Shaw, Amanda DeBoer, Liz Pearse, and Kayleigh Butcher, is in residency at Alia Musica Pittsburgh for the 2016-17 Season. In further residency events, the quartet presents their touring repertory with music by David Lang and Kaija Saariaho, and later joins the Alia Musica ensemble in a production of Luciano Berio's landmark cantata *Laborintus II*, for narrator, solo female voices, choir of speakers, mixed ensemble, and electronics.

"This is a collaboration built around major, ambitious works, by 20th century masters and living composers," says Alia Musica Artistic Director Federico Garcia-De Castro, "and one that is organic to both organizations. Quince and Alia Musica share a commitment both to continuous discovery through new compositions, and to the tradition of modern music." The residency is supported in part by funding from the Aaron Copland Fund for New Music, Pittsburgh's The Opportunity Fund, and The Heinz Endowments, and follows Alia Musica's successful collaboration with California composer Ken Ueno in 2015-16.

December 10 (Saturday), 7:30pm

Frick Fine Arts Auditorium

Quince premieres Curtis Rumrill's *The Passion of the Wilt-Mold Mothers*

\$15 general admission // \$12 students/seniors

Tickets and full information available at

www.aliamusicapittsburgh.org/quince-concert-i

A story of apocalypse, suffering, starvation, motherhood, and ultimately salvation, *The Passion of the Wilt-Mold Mothers* is the tale of a mother and her children, animals of indeterminate species. At the opening of the piece a blight of mold comes that wipes out her their only source of food for the winter, the Ilex, or winterberry as it is commonly known. Unable to produce milk, and starving together as they hibernate in their burrow, the mother, our protagonist, eventually makes the decision, conscious or not, to eat her children. She emerges from the ordeal a survivor, and speaking a new language acquired while in the throes of a starving sleep and amidst blood dreams.

Rumrill's a capella composition proceeds in eight parts, featuring singing in multiple languages, including a language created especially for the work. On the premiere, local soprano Anna Elder will perform as Quince's guest.

Curtis Rumrill (www.curtisrumrill.com) is a composer of chamber music with and without electronics. His music has been premiered and performed internationally by, among others, Tony Arnold, Thomas Rosenkranz, Aiyun Huang, Jordan Dodson, the Syracuse University Contemporary Music Ensemble, and Alia Musica Musica. In 2015 Ensemble Dal Niente featured his piece *The Parasite, and Her Sister* on their tour of Latin America. Based in Pittsburgh since 2013, Rumrill holds a BMus in composition from Syracuse University and a MM in composition from Bowling Green State University. His primary composition teachers have been Elaine Lillios, Christopher Dietz, Kyle Gann, Daniel Strong Godfrey, Sally Lamb McCune and Patrick Long.

With the precision and flexibility of modern chamber musicians, **Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble** (www.quince-ensemble.com) specializes in experimental repertoire that is changing the paradigm of contemporary vocal music. Described as "a new force of vocal excellence and innovation" by The Brooklyn Rail, Quince continually pushes the boundaries of traditional vocal ensemble literature.

As dedicated advocates of new music, Quince regularly commissions new works, providing a wider exposure for the music of living composers. They recently received a Chamber Music America award to commission a new song cycle by composer LJ White, and will be releasing an album of contemporary vocal repertoire on New Focus Recordings early 2017. In 2016, Quince was featured on the KODY Festival Lublin, Poland in collaboration with David Lang and Beth Morrison Productions, as well as on the Outpost Concert Series, the Philip Glass: Music with Friends concert at the Issue Project Room in Brooklyn, and the SONiC Festival in New York. Collaborations in the 2016-17 season include Eighth Blackbird, Third Coast Percussion, and Alia Musica Pittsburgh.

Comprised of vocalists Elizabeth Pearse (soprano), Kayleigh Butcher (mezzo soprano), Amanda De-Boer Bartlett (soprano), and Carrie Henneman Shaw (soprano), Quince thrives on unique musical challenges and genre-bending contemporary repertoire.

Quince at Alia Musica Pittsburgh 2016-17

<http://www.aliamusicapittsburgh.org/quince>

Concert I, December 10, 2016: *The Passion of the Wilt-Mold Mothers*, by Curtis Rumrill. Frick Fine Arts Auditorium, Oakland. With guest soprano Anna Elder.

Concert II, February 26, 2017: Vocal quartet works by David Land and Kaija Saariaho. Chatham University, Shadyside.

Concert III, May 5, 2017: Luciano Berio's *Laborintus II*, for narrator, three female singers, 8-part speaker choir, 17 instruments, and tape, with Alia Musica Pittsburgh, conducted by Federico Garcia-De Castro. Co-presented with the Italian American Program at the Senator John Heinz History Center in Downtown, Pittsburgh.

Supported in part by The Aaron Copland Fund for New Music, The Opportunity Fund, and The Heinz Endowments.



Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble. Photo Karjaka Studios