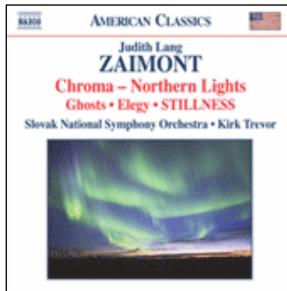


reSOUNDings
The Music of Judith Lang Zaimont

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Judith Zaimont's
New Naxos CD



Naxos has issued a new CD of premiere recordings of four orchestral works by Judith Lang Zaimont (catalog number

8.559619). **Chroma - Northern Lights, Ghosts, Elegy for Strings and Stillness - Poem for Orchestra** are all presented in wonderful performances by Kirk Trevor and the Slovak National Symphony Orchestra. Each of the four connects in its own way with the composer's lifelong interest in questions of memory and artistic heritage, and all the works highlight Ms. Zaimont's control of nuanced orchestral color.

In **Chroma - Northern Lights** (1985) the changing patterns of light and color become a comparable musical display to the polar Aurora's continual visual shift.

Ghosts (2000) is one of three independent movements for large string orchestra composed near the turn of the millennium and features one of the composer's personal motifs, which at times joins with those of her six 'ghost composer' companions—Scriabin, Britten, Ravel, Berg, Christopher Rouse and Laurie Anderson. Another of these "memory" movements, **Elegy** (1998) for massed strings is plain in expression yet intensely felt and is dedicated to the memory of the composer's aunt,

Mildred Barrett- Leonard Friedman. **Ghosts** and **Elegy** are movements from the composer's **Symphony No. 2, Remember Me**.

Symphony-length **Stillness** (2004) is a poem for full orchestra written to explore means to progress over time without necessarily moving forward using traditional harmony and melody. It was written at Copland House during Zaimont's residency there (a component of a 2003 Aaron Copland Award).

This recording was made possible in part by a professional development grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

Complete information about the CD and program notes for can be found [here](#)



The disk has already received critical praise. Daniel Coombs wrote for Amazon.com, "Judith Lang Zaimont has been one of America's finest composers for a long time. A new disc showcases some of her more recent and most heartfelt orchestral output... This is all together a very engaging and well written set of pieces by a composer who should be more familiar; something in each piece for players and audience alike and wonderfully performed by an excellent ensemble and a conductor who clearly understands the contemporary genre."

MaestroSteve at Xanga.com comments particularly on, "Zaimont's superb orchestration [and] deft handling of thematic material", and calls the disc "a superb release, ... a fascinating disc of contemporary music that we can only hope will lead to more exploration of Zaimont's music." Read the complete review [here](#).

First Performances of Judith Zaimont's New Piano Concerto



The World Premiere of **Solar Traveller - Concerto for Piano and Wind Orchestra** was presented by the Peabody Wind

Ensemble, Dr. Harlan D. Parker, Conductor, with pianist Timothy Hoft, on October 7, 2009 in Friedberg Concert Hall of The Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

The Ensemble commissioned the work along with faculty members at the Eastman School of Music, Indiana State University, Louisiana State University, Shepherd University, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, the University of Minnesota, and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Next up was the Indiana premiere by the Indiana State University Wind Orchestra, Dr. John Boyd, Conductor, on December 3 at Tilson Auditorium on the university campus in Terra Haute, with piano soloist Ja-Sing Lin.

Most recently, the Pennsylvania Premiere of **Solar Traveller** was

presented by the SRU Wind Ensemble, Brian Meixner, conductor on May 2, 2010 at Miller Auditorium of the Department of Music at Slippery Rock University, with pianist and SRU Professor Dr. Nanette Kaplan Solomon, pictured below with the composer.



The composer has written about the new Concerto, "Inspired by the vastness, wonder, and beauty of sky and space, the "Solar Traveller" concerto is in three movements: Outward Bound, Nocturne (Lunar), and Ad astra per aspera. We encounter music as desolate and unfamiliar as a lunar landscape—largely expansive, as if in 'stopped' time." Read more about the piece in [Sequenza21](#), and see John Clare's video of the world premiere performance of the final movement on Vimeo [here](#).

The piece will also be presented at the Univ. of Southern Mississippi in November, 2010, when Ms. Zaimont will be the central composer for the contemporary festival "Intégrales."

She will also be Featured Composer/Composer in Residence at the University of Minnesota in February 2011. This will include Masterclasses, coachings, rehearsals and concerts, including a performance of her **Israeli Rhapsody** for concert band and the Minnesota Premiere of **Solar Traveller**.

More of Judith Zaimont in the Concert Hall

Other 2009/2010 Premieres, Performances & Composer Residencies

February and March 2009 were quite busy for Ms. Zaimont.

Judith was the featured composer and scholar of the Athena Festival at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky from March 10 to 13.



Her activities at the Festival include giving the Keynote Speech at the Festival Banquet, presenting Masterclasses on her works (including student and faculty performances), an afternoon concert of her music, evening faculty and chamber choir concerts, working with composition students, presenting a lecture, **Imaging the Composer Today** and participating in an analysis session about her style and key compositions.

Works performed at the Festival included **Hesitation Rag**, and **In My Lunchbox**, both for solo piano, two movements from **Snazzy Sonata** for piano, four hands, **Music for Two** for flute and clarinet, **Folksong** for clarinet quartet, **Duo** for clarinet and bassoon, **Bubble-Up Rag** for flute and piano, **Valse Romantique** for solo flute, **Parallel Play** for saxophone quartet, and choral works **Psalm 97** (Movement I of **Sacred Service for the Sabbath Evening**) and **O Mistress Mine** and **How Sweet I Roamed** from **Three Airs**.

Ms. Zaimont gave a lecture titled **Fanny Mendelssohn-A Room of Her Own** on March 15 as part of the **Close**

Encounters with Music series at Lenox Athenaeum in Lenox, MA. The program also featured Zaimont and Mendelssohn piano works.

Judith was also featured composer at the Women in Music Festival 2009 from



March 23 to 27 at Eastman School in Rochester, NY. This included a full concert of her music and other performances, including two World Premieres by school faculty and students, lectures, a master class, attendance at several rehearsals, an interview at WXXI-FM and community interaction in several venues.

The all-Zaimont concert, **The Four Seasons**, was given on March 25 in the School's Main Hall and included performances of her entire **Calendar Collection** for piano, **Zones: Movements II and III** for violin, cello and piano, **Aria: Ashes are the bread I eat** (from the oratorio **Lamentation**) for mezzo soprano and piano, two movements from **Life Cycle: Kneeling in the Big City** and the World Premiere of **Housewife**, performed by the U. of Rochester Women's Choir, Susan Conkling, director.

Other 2009 performances included **Wizards**, performed at Korea's Busan Festival and on tour by pianist Young-Ah Tak, **"Bubble-Up" Rag** at Arizona's Prescott Summer Festival, **Snazzy Sonata** in Germany and **From the Great Land** in Tennessee.

And, early in April 2009, Ms. Zaimont's article, **Embracing New Music** received the 2009 Article of the Year award from Music Teachers National Association at its annual convention in Atlanta.

In 2010 her **Zones (Piano Trio No. 2)** and the World Premiere of the duo version of her **Serenade** were presented by the Appassionato Trio and the composer on February 12 at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. This was part of **Zones**, a Feb. 10-13 interdisciplinary symposium assembled by Dr. D. Royce Boyer.

Additional performances this year have included **Snazzy Sonata** in Italy and Germany, **Zones** in Langnau, Switzerland, **From the Folk** with the Chandler Symphony Players (Arizona), **Snazzy Sonata** in Maryland and Virginia, **Zones** in Jacksonville and Hattiesburg, Mississippi and an April performance of **Serenade** in NY City.

2010-2011 Season Preview

2011 will see a new CD - **Judith Lang Zaimont - Chamber Works**, which features her **String Quartet - The Figure**, **Zones - Piano Trio No. 2**, **Serenade** and **Astral...a mirror life on the astral plane ...** in performances by The Harlem String Quartet, with pianist Awadagin Pratt.

A complete CD of Zaimont solo piano music for Naxos featuring pianist Christopher Atzinger is also scheduled, and will include her **Sonata**, **A Calendar Set**, **Nocturne: La fin de siècle**.

Her Concerto **Solar Traveller** will be given state premieres in Louisiana, and West Virginia.

Judith Zaimont on Video

Judith Zaimont's music and art suite is now featured on YouTube, Vimeo, Current TV, Buzznet and Daily Motion

video sites, with artwork by her husband Gary Zaimont and videography by Michael Bregman. The suite consists of:

Movement 1 - **The Joy of Dance** – Music: **Clair de lune** from **Chansons Nobles et Sentimentales** art songs.

Movement 2 - **Borealis** – from **Sky Curtains** for mixed quintet.

Movement 3 - **Beasts** – Music: **Growler**, from **Symphony for Wind Orchestra**

Movement 4 - **Serenade** – for piano solo.

Zaimont Publications for 2009-2010



New
Subito
Music

publications include **Concerto for Piano and Wind Orchestra**, **'Solar Traveller'**, **Sonata-Rhapsody for Violin and Piano**, **Serenade** (violin, cello, piano), and **American City - Portrait of New York**, a six-movement suite for solo piano. **From the Folk** for clarinet quartet and **Astral ... a mirror life on the astral plane** (violin solo) have both been published by Jeanné, Inc.

New Zaimont works are now published exclusively by Subito Music Corporation - www.subitomusic.com

On the Web and On the Phone

For more information about the music of Judith Lang Zaimont, visit her online at <http://www.jzaimont.com> or contact Jeffrey James Arts Consulting at 516-586-3433 or jamesarts@att.net.