



! NEW ! MORSE ! CODE

*Interesting Music,
Interesting People*



ABOUT US

New Morse Code is devoted to bold and engaging performances of music worth sharing. Omnivorous, rigorous and inventive, **Hannah Collins** and **Michael Compitello** activate the unexpected range and unique sonic world of cello and percussion to catalyze and champion the compelling works of young composers.

To Hannah and Michael, collaboration involves drawing upon mutual influences while generating and refining material together over an extended period of time. Through close work with colleagues such as pianist-composer Paul Kerekes, steel pan virtuoso and composer Andy Akiho, Hawaiian composer and visual artist Tonia Ko, and Pulitzer Prize-winning violinist/vocalist/composer Caroline Shaw, New Morse Code generates a singular and personal repertoire which reflects both their friends' creative voices and their own perspectives. Current projects include collaborations with composers Samuel Carl Adams, Matthew Barnson, Patrick van Deurzen, Stephen Gorbos, and Robert Honstein.

In addition to developing new repertoire for concert programs, New Morse Code also creates music for larger interdisciplinary projects. In 2012, New Morse Code worked with a team of artistic collaborators from the Yale Schools of Music and Drama to create *Basement Hades: Songs of the Underworld*, a contemporary retelling of the Orpheus myth which blurs the boundaries between concert, play and multimedia event, and was hailed as "stunningly moving" by the New Haven Review. More theater projects are currently in development with playwright Justin Taylor, composer Kevin Clark, and documentarian/composer George Lam.

Through its outreach initiative New Morse Kids, the duo has inspired young listeners with eye-opening performances and engaging presentations at the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Yale's Morse Summer Music Academy, the ARTS Experience Festival at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and the Educational Center for the Arts in New Haven.

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CONTACT

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WHAT WE DO

Our mission is to share our music in a bold and engaging way.

PERFORMANCE

Full Length Concerts

Each of our programs focuses on a theme and follows a cohesive arc. See samples below.

Interactive Performances

These informal concerts are part performance, part conversation. Audience members are hands-on participants in the music making process.

Interdisciplinary Events

Rhythm and movement workshops, collaborations with painters, dancers, and other artists.

EDUCATION

Family Concerts

An informative fun look into the unique instruments we play and how we create music together.

Workshops

Educational presentations, instrumental demonstrations, composer readings, longterm collaborations with composers.

Teaching

Lessons, coachings, masterclasses.

What kind of music does New Morse Code play?

New Morse Code plays interesting music written by interesting people! Our concerts feature something new and intriguing for everyone along with great rhythms and beautiful sounds. We're passionate about contemporary music and are excited to share our unique repertoire which includes:

- **Commissions** We love getting involved with the creative process and working with composers on music written specifically for us. Our list of commissioned pieces is constantly growing and we are especially excited to share them!
- **Duo Repertoire** A substantial and fascinating body of work for cello and percussion has developed over the past thirty years, thanks in part to several other duos and their commissioning efforts. This repertoire includes works by Osvaldo Golijov, Martin Bresnick, David Lang and others.
- **Arrangements** We perform arrangements made by ourselves and others of everything from folk songs to tangos.
- **Collaborations With Friends** We enjoy working with our talented colleagues and frequently perform with other instrumentalists, singers, and actors.

Sample Programs

- **Text and Song:** Music about written, spoken, and sung words by Andy Akiho, Martin Bresnick, Tonia Ko, Osvaldo Golijov, and Astor Piazzolla.
- **Shifting Patterns:** Rhythmically driven works by David Lang, Andy Akiho, Steve Reich, and Nick Didkovsky.
- **21st Century America:** New American music by Caroline Shaw, Robert Honstein, Justin Tierney, and Andy Akiho.
- **With Piano:** Works for cello, piano, and percussion by Paul Kerekes, Kaija Saariaho, and Marc Mellits.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Why cello and percussion?

It works! We were initially inspired by the incredible music that had already been created for this combination and soon discovered that our two instruments combine to cover an incredibly wide range of timbral and sonic possibilities. We also individually draw from different musical backgrounds and traditions, which allows us to join forces and perform in a wide variety of styles. This has motivated us to develop our own unique and diverse repertoire that represents us as musicians and celebrates the collaborative relationships we've developed with other musicians.

Where do you perform?

We perform in a wide range of venues including traditional concert halls, black box theaters, classrooms, community spaces, etc. We enjoy being close to our audiences so that we can talk and interact with listeners during the performance. We do require a relatively large amount of stage or floor space to accommodate the bigger percussion instruments.

What kind of percussion instruments do you use?

In a typical concert program Mike might use a marimba, vibraphone, and kick drum, along with various smaller drums, cymbals, gongs, and anything else that can be hit, shaken, or scraped.

How long are your concerts? Are they appropriate for children?

YES! Children are always welcome to any New Morse Code concert. Young audiences love the diverse sounds that we create and the variety of styles in which we play. Our concerts typically feature between 45 and 60 minutes of music with additional time for some discussion with the audience.

What are your fees?

Our expenses depend on the availability of instruments, cartage costs, travel and type of event. Please get in touch with us to discuss compensation.

I'm a composer. How can I write for you?

We are always interested in making new projects happen both as a duo and as part of a larger team. Let us know what you have in mind! Contact us at info@newmorsecode.com.

How do I learn more about the music you play?

Please visit the media section of our website for audio and video samples of our performances. Our calendar page also has more information about our programs and links to the personal websites of the composers with whom we work.

A woman with short dark hair, wearing a black top, is seated and playing a cello. She is smiling and looking towards a man on the right. The man has dark, curly hair and is wearing a black shirt. He is standing and holding two wooden drumsticks, smiling back at the woman. The background is plain white.

NMC

www.newmorsecode.com

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