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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Newly formed Philadelphia composers collective  
launches vocal music concert series “Voice of this Generation”  
at 2011 Philadelphia Fringe Festival**

**Seven hot young Philly composers showcase their works.**

*Philadelphia, PA (July 22, 2011)* – Two Penn grad students are attempting to redefine contemporary vocal music with a daring new concert concept to debut at the 2011 Philadelphia Fringe Festival this September. Tony Solitro and Scott Ordway, both working on their doctorates in composition, are mounting an ambitious free performance of cutting-edge, hot-off-the-presses songs by seven Philadelphia composers under 35 in “Voice of this Generation,” a concert built around the theme “Love Lost.” Performances will take place at the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia, 2125 Chestnut Street, on Saturday September 17 at 7PM, and Sunday September 18 at 2:30PM and 7PM. In a decidedly non-classical twist, patrons are invited to “come casual” and bring their own alcohol to enjoy while they take in some of the best vocal talent on the east coast.

“Philly is a hotbed for new music, but audiences seem alienated by the old traditions. Why not strip away the formal dress and stuffy atmosphere, and focus on hearing vibrant and communicative music surrounded by great friends?” says Solitro. His *War Wedding*, which won the Helen L. Weiss Award from the University of Pennsylvania, is a setting of poetry by Alun Lewis portraying a sensuous wedding night during a bloody, savage war. Ordway adds: “We’ve brought some of Philadelphia’s genuine A-list performers on board for this project, and we’re excited for them to collaborate with young composers from all around the city. It’s not about one school, style, or group, but rather about celebrating the richness and diversity of the Philly new music scene.” His dramatic vocal work *The Divine Madness of Vaslav Nijinsky* will celebrate its premiere at the September concerts. Joining these pieces on the program is a song cycle about Nikola Tesla’s bizarre relationship with a pigeon, composed by fellow Penn doctoral student Melissa Dunphy, whose smash hit concert opera *The Gonzales Cantata* premiered in the 2009 Philly Fringe, garnering serious attention from Rachel Maddow and *The Wall Street Journal*. The performance of *Tesla’s Pigeon* will incorporate visually arresting puppetry developed at this year’s O’Neill National Puppetry Conference in Connecticut. Also on the bill are

Penn's Andrew McPherson and Ke-Chia Chen, Temple's Julia Alford-Fowler, and Michael Djupstrom, currently studying at the Curtis Institute.

The performers of this fresh, eclectic program have been chosen from among the brightest rising stars in the area: mezzo-soprano, Cynthia Cook, a recent graduate of the prestigious Academy of Vocal Arts, and soprano, Jessica Lennick, who has received rave reviews since graduating from Peabody in 2009. Joining them will be tenor Justin Vickers, and virtuoso pianists Tim Ribchester and R. Kent Cook.

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## LISTINGS INFORMATION

What: City Wide Composers Collective presents "Voice of this Generation: Love Lost"

When: Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM

Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM

Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7PM

Where: First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia, 2125 Chestnut Street Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

**(Please note that dates and venue printed in the hardcopy Fringe Guide are incorrect.)**

Tickets: FREE ENTRY (Suggested donation \$10)

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## FESTIVAL INFORMATION

The Philadelphia Live Arts Festival & Philly Fringe runs from September 2 - September 17, 2011. The Festival Box Office will open for phone [(215) 413-1318] and walk up sales [location TBA] on August 24th. You may also purchase tickets online, at [www.livearts-fringe.org](http://www.livearts-fringe.org). Festival Guides, which include dates, times, and venues for all performances for both Festivals, will be available mid-August at all Festival venues, and other locations throughout the city.

The Philadelphia Live Arts Festival & Philly Fringe were originally founded in 1997 as the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. Today, the Live Arts Festival serves as a series of selected cutting-edge, boundary-breaking performing arts events, created by some of the most renowned contemporary artists from our region and around the world.

The Fringe serves as a collective home for artists bringing their work to audiences in every conceivable form - in traditional and untraditional venues, using new artistic forms and established ones, breaking rules or refining them.

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

... about Voice of this Generation [www.voiceofthisgen.com](http://www.voiceofthisgen.com)

... about the performers:

Jessica Lennick [www.jessicalennick.com](http://www.jessicalennick.com)

Cynthia Cook [www.avaopera.org/artists/artists-sub/cook.php](http://www.avaopera.org/artists/artists-sub/cook.php)

Justin Vickers [www.justinvickers.com](http://www.justinvickers.com)

Tim Ribchester [www.timribchester.com](http://www.timribchester.com)

R. Kent Cook [www.iwu.edu/music/faculty/cook.shtml](http://www.iwu.edu/music/faculty/cook.shtml)

... about the composers:

Tony Solitro [www.tonysolitro.com](http://www.tonysolitro.com)

Scott Ordway [www.scottjordway.com](http://www.scottjordway.com)

Melissa Dunphy [www.melissadunphy.com](http://www.melissadunphy.com)

Ke-Chia Chen [www.kechiachen.com](http://www.kechiachen.com)

Michael Djupstrom [www.michaeldjupstrom.com](http://www.michaeldjupstrom.com)

Julia Alford-Fowler <http://www.juliaalfordfowler.com>

... about the Philly Fringe Festival [www.livearts-fringe.org](http://www.livearts-fringe.org)

...about the First Unitarian Church, visit <http://philauu.org/>

To schedule an interview, please contact composer Tony Solitro (508) 450-9004,  
[tonysolitro@gmail.com](mailto:tonysolitro@gmail.com))

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## PHOTO INFORMATION

Press Photo ([http://voiceofthisgen.com/votg\\_lovelost.jpg](http://voiceofthisgen.com/votg_lovelost.jpg)) by Matt Dunphy, [www.bitrotten.com](http://www.bitrotten.com)