

EXTREME VIOLA

The Music of Paul Groh

Mr. Groh wishes to THANK the management of SPECTRUM for allowing him to bring his music to New York for the first time. He further wishes to express his profound gratitude to Stephen Rudko and Christopher Kaufman for their friendship, enthusiasm and support, without which this concert would never have taken place.

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

7:00 P.M.

SPECTRUM, 121 Ludlow Street, NYC



Paul Groh has had a diverse career as a musician in both the USA and Australia. Born in Mount Clemens, Michigan, near Detroit, he took up the viola at the age of nine and by his teens had become an active freelance musician in both classical and country music circles. He founded an award-winning folk band while still in high school and was Michigan's old time country fiddle champion at age

nineteen. He attended Boston University and Wayne State University and received a Bachelor of Music degree from the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. After graduate study in composition at Indiana University he spent several years playing bass guitar in rock and roll bands.

In 1992 Paul Groh joined the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra as a violist, later serving as the orchestra's librarian and personnel manager. He was also the orchestra's utility string player, performing the banjo solo in *Porgy and Bess*, the mandolin solo in *Feste Romane*, and bass guitar on many occasions. He was the banjo player in the KSO's subsidiary ensemble, the Newport Ragtime Band, and was active in the orchestra's Education Outreach program, in which he visited local schools as a guest speaker and performer.

Since migrating to Australia in 2000 Paul Groh has been Principal Viola in the Central Coast Symphony Orchestra and Christ Church Camerata in Newcastle. In 2008 he helped establish the Crossroads Festival, one of Australia's leading annual festivals of chamber music. He is a frequent guest on the ABC radio program "Smart Arts" and a regular contributor to the Journal of the Australian and New Zealand Viola Society. He was a featured guest artist at the 38th International Viola Congress in Cincinnati in 2010 and has performed as a soloist throughout Australia, Asia and the South Pacific.

In 2006 Paul Groh released his solo CD *Extreme Viola*, including four of his own compositions as well as works by Paul Hindemith and Australian composers Graham Powning and Gordon Monro. He composes music exclusively for the viola as a self-sufficient solo instrument. He has also written arrangements for the viola ranging from early Baroque to 20th-century cartoon music.

PROGRAM

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| Jive Turkey (2004) | Paul Groh |
| Three Arachnids (2001) Scorpion Tick Tarantula | Paul Groh |
| Penguins (2006) | Paul Groh |
| Lucky Star (2007) | Satoru Kousaki (arr. Groh) |
| Para Para (2011) | Paul Groh |
| When Turtles Fly (2014) | Paul Groh |
| Mihrab (2005) | Marco Lombardi |
| Curiosity and the Giant Mushrooms (2007) | Paul Groh |