

# American Double

Philip Ficsor, Violin

Constantine Finehouse, Piano

[www.americandouble.com](http://www.americandouble.com)

## American Double

**American Double** was founded in 2001 by two Yale graduates following their collaboration on a performance of Ezra Laderman's *Duo for Violin and Piano*. Out of this experience emerged a vision to expand the scope of their repertoire with works by composers of American heritage. Besides working with Laderman, they also coached with William Bolcom in preparation for their CD release: "The Bolcom Project" featuring his complete works for violin and piano, the first of its kind. Mr. Bolcom has praised *Double* as "first-rate musicians in every way, balancing style and taste impeccably." Their previous recording, *Sonatas* features them in works by Brahms, Beethoven and Ravel. The 2007-2008 season will see them performing at Yale University's prestigious *New Music New Haven* series, as well as at New York's *Steinway Hall* and the renowned *Harvard Musical Association* in Boston. In October 2006, *American Double* presented the first complete cycle of Bolcom's works for violin and piano in Ann Arbor, with the composer personally introducing each work. They also performed his complete Sonatas in 2003 at New England Conservatory in Boston. The ensemble has been featured on concert series across the United States and Europe. Their 2004 Hungarian tour was lauded by the Kiskunhalas *Mirror* as "collaboration of an unbelievably high degree". Their commitment to educational outreach includes presentations at the 2006 College Music Society National Conference, as well as at the Greenwood Music Camp in Easthampton, MA and the Boston Latin school.

## Artist Bios: Short Version

**Constantine Finehouse, Piano**, has performed extensively in the U.S. and abroad since receiving his Masters in Piano Performance from Yale University as a student of Boris Berman. Mr. Finehouse has played with numerous orchestras in the Boston area and has given a number of solo and chamber music performances in the city's best halls. He is a champion of music by William Bolcom, whose complete solo piano works he is currently recording for Naxos Records. He completed his undergraduate work at The Juilliard School under the guidance of Herbert Stessin and Jerome Lowenthal.

**Philip Ficsor, Violin**, received his D.M.A. in violin performance from Boston University (studies with Lynn Chang). His dissertation analyzed performance aspects of William Bolcom's works for violin and piano. He studied with Erick Friedman at Yale University (M.M.) and at the University of Michigan (B.M. and M.M.) with Stephen Shipps. He is an editorial advisor for publication through E. B. Marks/Hal Leonard Corporation for some of Bolcom's works for violin and piano. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Violin at Westmont College and lives with his family in Santa Barbara, California.

## Artist Bios: Long Version

**Constantine Finehouse, Piano**, was recently praised by *Rhein Main Presse Allgemeine Zeitung*, for his "interpretations of depth and maturity." Since receiving his Masters in Piano Performance from Yale University as a student of Boris Berman, he has performed extensively in the US and abroad. Mr. Finehouse has played with numerous orchestras in the Boston area and has given a number of solo and chamber music performances in the city's best halls. He is a champion of music by the American composer William Bolcom whose complete piano solo works he is currently recording for Naxos Records. In the 2006-07 season Mr. Finehouse has performed at Brandeis University, MIT, Amherst College, Eastern Tennessee State University and Harvard Musical Association; he will perform in London, Russia, Ukraine and Hungary during the summer season. Mr. Finehouse completed his undergraduate work at The Juilliard School under the guidance of Herbert Stessin and Jerome Lowenthal and is currently a Graduate Diploma student of Bruce Brubaker at New England Conservatory. His awards include the *Vladimir Horowitz Scholarship* from Juilliard, a 2004 *St. Botolph Club Foundation Grant* and a 2006 *Classics Abroad Project Award*.

**Philip Ficsor, Violin**, recently was named an Assistant Professor of Violin at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California. He received his D.M.A. in violin performance from Boston University, where his thesis topic concerned the works for violin and piano by William Bolcom. An avid chamber musician, his participation in a performance of Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time* was praised by the Kalamazoo Gazette as "splendid...Ficsor marvelously rendered the ultimate design of Messiaen's work...he effectively created the sense of aurally lifting toward the heavens, step by step". Ficsor received his Masters of Music from Yale University, where he studied with Erick Friedman and received the *George Wellington Miles Scholarship* recognizing "outstanding majors in performance". He earned his BA and an MM in Violin Performance from The University of Michigan (studies with Stephen Shipps). He has participated in numerous festivals across Europe and the U.S., including *The Meadowmount School of Music*, the *Holland Music Festival* (Netherlands), as well as the *Semmering Festival* (Austria). Pre-college, Mr. Ficsor attended the *Hans Richter Conservatory of Music* in Győr, Hungary, where he was enrolled as a violin student.