Lauded for providing “a once-in-a-lifetime experience for adventurous concertgoers,” Zeitgeist is a new music chamber ensemble comprised of two percussion, piano and woodwinds. One of the longest established new music groups in the country, Zeitgeist commissions and presents a wide variety of new music for audiences in the Twin Cities and on tour. Always eager to explore new artistic frontiers, Zeitgeist collaborates with poets, choreographers, directors, visual artists and sound artists of all types to create imaginative new work that challenges the boundaries of traditional chamber music. The members of Zeitgeist are: Heather Barringer, percussion; Patti Cudd, percussion; Pat O’Keefe, woodwinds; Nicola Melville, piano.  
  
Zeitgeist has maintained a fierce dedication to the creation of new music for the past three decades, commissioning more than 400 works and collaborating with emerging composers and some of the finest established composers of our time, including Frederic Rzewski, Terry Riley, John Cage, Pauline Oliveros, Paul Dresher, Mark Applebaum, Arthur Kreiger, Scott Lindroth, Pamela Madsen, Edie Hill, Libby Larsen, John Luther Adams, Jin Hi Kim, Mary Ellen Childs, Martin Bresnick, Harold Budd, La Monte Young, Guy Klucevsek, and Chinary Ung. Zeitgeist’s upcoming commissioning projects include new works by Mary Ellen Childs, Davu Seru, Andrew Rindfleisch, and Pamela Z.  
  
Further, Zeitgeist has earned an international reputation for superb craftsmanship, virtuosic performance, and an innovative approach to the presentation of contemporary music. Highlights include *Sound Stage* by Paul Dresher (2001), a music-theater work featuring Zeitgeist and a 17-foot high musical pendulum, Walker Art Center premieres of *Pine Eyes* by Martin Bresnick (2006) and *The Making of Americans* by Anthony Gatto and Jay Scheib (2008), a 30th anniversary celebration (2008) Glancing Back/Charging Forward: 30 Years of Groundbreaking Music featuring the world premieres of works by 30 Minnesota composers, For the Birds (2010), an evening-length chamber suite with narration by composer Victor Zupanc and humorist Kevin Kling, the premiere of Spiral XIV “Nimmitta” (2012) by Cambodian American composer Chinary Ung, and Saint Paul Food Opera (2016), a dining and music collaboration between composer Ben Houge and five Saint Paul chefs. Upcoming collaborations include *Crocus Hill: A Ghost Story*, a macabre tale of a house possessed brought to life with chamber music, narration, and video, by composer Julie Johnson and author Cheri Johnson.  
  
Zeitgeist presents a full season of events for audiences in the Twin Cities. Highlights of the 2016-2017 season at Studio Z include For the Birds (with Kevin Kling and Victor Zupanc), a celebration of the release of a recording of this work; Saint Paul Food Opera, a dining and music collaboration between composer Ben Houge and five Saint Paul chefs; Here and There, featuring Zeitgeist and No Exit New Music Ensemble (Cleveland) performing music by Ann Millikan, Tim Beyer, Greg Theisen, James Praznik, Janika Vandervelde, and Randy Bauer; Playing it Close to Home, featuring works by Mary Ellen Childs plus winning compositions from our ever-popular Eric Stokes Song Contest; Zeitgeist Early Music Festival, a four-day festival celebrating the music of Lou Harrison; and Zeitgeist and Spitting Image Collective, featuring new works by Katherine Bergman, Daniel Nass, and Josh Clausen. Other performances and projects include Lowertown Listening Sessions (a monthly performance/discussion series), educational residencies with the Perpich Center for Arts Education, a residency in Cleveland, and regional tours of For the Birds and Summer Rain (with Nirmala Rajasekar). Active at home and throughout the state, Zeitgeist will present 40-45 performances, conduct numerous educational activities, and carry out several workshops to develop new work.  
  
Zeitgeist has developed several audience-building programs designed to create connections with communities, diversify audiences and encourage individuals to participate in the creative process of music-making. These programs include the Eric Stokes Song Contest (amateur composition contest), Making Music Outside the Lines (new music performance activities for high school students) and A New Music Stew (a long-term composition project with students from St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Arts). In addition, Zeitgeist operates Studio Z, a performance space where audiences, composers, and new music performers can come together to experience the music of our time. Studio Z is home to most of Zeitgeist’s local performances and also hosts new music performances by other local artists throughout the year.   
  
Zeitgeist has released numerous recordings, including She is a Phantom (music of Harold Budd), A Decade (music of Frederic Rzewski), Intuitive Leaps (music of Terry Riley), Eric Stokes (music of Eric Stokes), If Tigers Were Clouds (music of experimental women composers), Shape Shifting (music by Scott Miller, poetry by Philippe Costaglioli), In Bone-Colored Light (works by Ethan Wickman, Anthony Gatto, Katherine Jackanich, and Jerome Kitzke), Night Singing (music of Andrew Rindfleisch), Here and Now (works by 30 Minnesota composers), *Tipping Point* (chamber works by Scott Miller), and *For the Birds* (music by Victor Zupanc, poetry by Kevin Kling).