

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Music of Pittsburgh native Paul Gallagher to Be Performed at Microtonal Festival
February 5, 2025**

Pittsburghers will have a chance to hear the music of one of their own this month at **Music on the Edge's Beyond: Microtonal Music Festival**.

The acclaimed New York-based vocal ensemble **Ekmeles** will perform a piece from the late **Paul Gallagher's** catalogue of contemporary classical works composed in the alternative tuning system known as just intonation on **Saturday, February 22, 2025, at 8 p.m.** at Bellefield Hall on the University of Pittsburgh campus in Oakland.

Pittsburgh-based composers and performers of national and international stature will also include the festival co-directors, composers **Mathew Rosenblum, Eric Moe** and **Amy Williams; Chatham Baroque's Scott Pauley**; and **Monroeville native Ryan McMasters** of Duquesne University.



Paul Gallagher (1953-2011) made enduring contributions to the artistic possibilities of just intonation. His body of work is now being reconsidered as a missing chapter in American musical innovation. His legacy includes a rare feat, a four-movement symphony for full orchestra in just intonation that premiered at the American Festival of Microtonal Music in New York in 1987.

Born in Pittsburgh, Paul Gallagher graduated from Gateway High School in Monroeville and received his B.A. in music from the Pennsylvania State University and his M.A. and Ph.D. in composition from the State University of New York at Buffalo, studying under Morton Feldman and Lejaren Hiller.

Reflecting his interest in harmony as both a sonic and philosophical value, his works extend the natural ratios of the overtone series to all aspects of a composition — rhythm, melody, phrase structure, etc. — his holistic response to humanity's inharmonious relationship with itself and nature. While interest today is especially focused on his pioneering instrumental works, the piece to be performed at the festival, *Already Gone*, was part of his later turn toward vocal music and was one of his last compositions.

The February 22 concert is one of many musical experiences planned for **the multi-day microtonal showcase** taking place **February 19–23** at various venues in the city. The sounds of more than 30 performers and composers will span genres, cultures, styles and centuries, ranging from the Renaissance to right now, including several world premieres.

Music on the Edge's festival will also bring several stellar artists to Pittsburgh including pianist **Conor Hanick**, Grammy-nominated **JACK Quartet**, renowned composer and installation artist **Ellen Fullman** and her signature Long String Instrument, and jazz trio **Dsilton** of Austria.

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<https://www.paulgallaghermusic.com>

Paul Gallagher: Harmony for Our Time

<https://www.soundcloud.com/paulgallaghercomposer>

<https://www.paulgallaghermusic.com/copy-of-about/presskit>