I begin almost every day with a cup of coffee and *The New Yorker*. I love the variety, the in-depth analyses of national and world issues, the great arts coverage (I particularly enjoy articles by Alex Ross), a healthy dose of clever comics, good fiction reads, and fascinating biographical stories. One of my favorite articles was on swimming legend Diana Nyad. She is so inspiring!

**TIN HAT**

*The Rain Is a Handsome Animal*

When people ask me what kind of music I program on my radio show, Second Inversion, the ensemble Tin Hat is always one of the first examples I give. There are only four musicians in the group, but they collectively play an eclectic mix of violin, viola, bass harmonica, clarinet, contra alto clarinet, accordion, piano, guitar, dobro, pump organ, prepared piano. Plus vocals! What makes this music so quintessentially Second Inversion is the way each track crosses genres and breaks down musical barriers. Within each song there are unique combinations: Americana meets Erik Satie; Steve Reich meets Viennese waltz; jazz meets Icelandic ambient Bjork-style vocals.

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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR** *Maggie Stapleton '08* holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music and flute performance from Furman and the University of Washington, respectively. Since 2010, Stapleton has worked at Classical KING FM 98.1 in Seattle and is currently the station’s assistant program director, coordinating and implementing all content on Second Inversion, KING FM’s contemporary music project.

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“Barbie” singers, music from the heart (literally), and dobos

We asked classical music programmer Maggie Stapleton ’08 what works are currently inspiring her.

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*A Shelf Life*