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CLASSICAL MUSIC

Calendar Listing at the end of message

Earplay 23: Intricate Inventions

May 28

San Francisco's Herbst Theatre at 7:00 p.m.

(SAN FRANCISCO, CA – April 12, 2008) Earplay 23: Intricate Inventions features works by composers born outside of the U.S. and presented in association with the San Francisco International Arts Festival. Peter Maxwell Davies' rarely performed tour de force *Ave Maris Stella* (1975) scored for mixed sextet is paired with works by three composers who have strong connections to musical modernism, but have imbued their music with a sense of playful invention. The concert features the 2007 Earplay Donald Aird Memorial Composition Competition winner with the U.S. premiere of *Trio Wortschatten* (Trio Wordshadows) by Hèctor Parra (Spain).

Earplay 23: Intricate Inventions is presented by Earplay as part of the San Francisco International Arts Festival.

Program:

Peter Maxwell Davies, *Ave Maris Stella* (1975)

Christopher Burns, *xerox book* (2001)

Salvatore Sciarrino, *Lo spazio inverso* (1985)

Beat Fùrrer, *Presto con fuoco* (1997)

Hèctor Parra, *Trio "Wortschatten"* (2004) U.S. premiere
2007 Earplay Donald Aird Memorial Composition Competition winner

The highly regarded Earplay new music ensemble's concert, Earplay 23: Intricate Inventions (May 28, 2008) concludes its 2007-08 season and features the U.S. premiere of *Trio Wortschatten*, the 2007 Aird Competition Prize winning competition composed by **Hèctor Parra** (Spain). **Mary Chun** conducts **Peter Maxwell Davies'** *Ave Maris Stella* (Star of the Sea), a magical and dazzling tour de force for mixed sextet that Davies wrote for the Fires of London ensemble. Peter Maxwell Davies comments *Ave Maris Stella is based not only on the well-known plainsong but also on this setting of a text by Roderic Dunnett, which I use for my Ex Libris sticker.....It was conceived as a virtuoso vehicle for the group, where each individual part demands new technical resources from the player concerned.*

Three composers who have strong connections to musical modernism, but have imbued their music with a sense of playful invention are paired with Davies work. Austrian composer, **Beat Furrer's** brilliant duo for flute (**Tod Brody**) and piano (**Brenda Tom Vahur**), *Presto con fuoco* recalls the virtuosic hocketing of Medieval vocal music in a thoroughly modern instrumental context. In Italian composer, **Salvatore Sciarrino's** *Lo spazio inverso*, the fabric of the music is carefully woven from a unique palette of sounds produced by unconventional techniques. **Mary Chun** conducts. American composer, **Christopher Burns'** Xerox Book for piano (**Ann Yi**) and percussion (**Chris Froh**) brings explosively complex counterpoint into a set of pithy aphorisms. The concert concludes with the atmospheric *Trio Wortschatten* by Hèctor Parra Esteve (Spain) winner of the 2007 Donald Aird Memorial Composers Competition. The violin (**Terrie Baune**), cello (**Thalia Moore**), and piano (**Eric Zivian**) composition was selected from 169 entries from 27 countries by a panel of composers and performers specializing in contemporary chamber music. Program notes at www.earplay.org

EARPLAY has performed over 425 works in its 23-year history including 105 world premieres and 46 new works commissioned by the ensemble. This season will reinforce EARPLAY's unwavering track record of presenting exceptional music in the 21st century. During the 2007-08 season Earplay will inaugurate a new programming concept, in which the ensemble celebrates the work of a major contemporary composer by performing a cross-section of a composer's work over the course of the season. Each of the three concerts of the 2007-08 season will feature a work by the British composer, Peter Maxwell Davies, that are placed in context with works by a diverse group of local and international composers. Among the most prominent European composers after 1950, Davies is known for his references to music of the distant past, particularly Medieval music. The far-reaching plurality of influences present in Davies music serves as the backdrop for each of the programs. Alongside Davies' music, Earplay continues its commitment to championing the work of local Bay Area composers and

emerging composers, as well as important composers from around the world.

Founded in 1985 by a consortium of composers and musicians, Earplay is dedicated to the performance of new chamber music offering audiences a unique opportunity to hear eloquent, vivid performances of some of today's finest chamber music. Earplay concerts feature the Earplayers, a group of seven artists who, as a group, have developed a lyrical and ferocious style. For more information, please visit www.earplay.org.

Mary Chun conducts the Earplayers, a group of six outstanding Bay Area musicians: **Tod Brody**, flute and piccolo; **Peter Josheff**, clarinet and bass clarinet; **Terrie Baune**, violin; **Ellen Ruth Rose**, viola; **Thalia Moore**, cello, and **Karen Rosenak**, piano. In May they are joined by exceptional Bay Area artists, **Dan Reiter**, cello, **Brenda Tom Vahur**, **Ann Yi** and **Eric Zivian**, piano, **Chris Froh** and **Dan Kennedy**, percussion.

San Francisco International Arts Festival

This year the Festival runs from May 21 to June 8, and the following San Francisco arts organizations are presenting partners in SFIAF 2008:

Arab Cultural and Community Center, Art Street Theatre, Asian Art Museum, Axis Dance Company, Blindsight, Chinese Culture Center, CounterPULSE, Croatian American Cultural Center, Cultural Odyssey, Dance Elixir, Dandelion Dance Theater, Element Dance Theater, the Earplay Ensemble, Epiphany Productions/Sonic Dance Theater, Erling Wold's Fabrications, Footloose, Independent Arts & Media, Israel Center, lean to productions, Melody of China, MJM Management, Navarrete x Kajiyama and the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival.

For more information on the San Francisco International Arts Festival call 415-399-9554, visit the Festival's website at www.sfiaf.org or e-mail andrew@sfiaf.org.

CALENDAR LISTING

Please note: High-res jpegs available upon request

WHO: EARPLAY 23: Intricate Inventions

Featuring compositions by Peter Maxwell Davies, Christopher Burns, Salvatore Sciarrino, Beat Furrer, and Hèctor Parra (U.S, Premiere)

WHEN: Wednesday, May 28, 2008

TIME: 7:00 p.m. (6:15 p.m. pre-concert talk)

WHERE: Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

TICKETS: \$20 General, \$10 students/seniors

City Box Office, (415) 392-4400, www.cityboxoffice.com

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