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Hèctor Parra Esteve

July 31, 2007 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CLASSICAL NEW CHAMBER MUSIC

2007 WINNER: EARPLAY Donald Aird Memorial COMPOSERS COMPETITION

San Francisco: Earplay announces the winning composition of the 2007 EARPLAY DONALD AIRD MEMORIAL COMPOSERS COMPETITION. **Trio Wortschatten** by **Hèctor Parra Esteve** (Spain) is the winning composition and carries a \$1,000.00 cash prize with a performance during Earplay's 23rd season. The violin, cello, and piano composition was selected from 169 entries from 27 countries by a panel of composers and performers specializing in contemporary chamber music. The panelists also selected **six finalist** compositions: **Trio (d'après Schoenberg)** by **Patricia Alessandrini (U.S.)**; **Balladei** by **Christopher Bailey (U.S.)**; **Vortici** by **Allesandra Bellino (Italy)**; **Trio: Fantasy in 5 Parts on Fumeux Fume of Solage** by **Christopher Dietz (U.S.)**, **Agitato Intenso** by **José-Luis Hurtado (Mexico)**, and **Aftertouch** by **Vera Ivanova (Russia-U.S.)**

Trio Wortschatten (2004) by Hèctor Parra (Spain) contrasts two musical flows with the violin and cello propelling the musical action with the piano creating the harmonic space. Later in the work the roles reverse and the piano is more assertive with percussive action. Earplay's conductor, Mary Chun observes about the winning composition, *The aching beauty and complex lyricism of Hèctor Parra's Trio Wortschatten can be heard as a melding of Schoenberg with Debussy and a 21st century twist.*

Hèctor Parra (Barcelona, 1976) studied in the Conservatorium of Barcelona and later studied composition with David Padros, Brian Ferneyhough and Jonathan Harvey, as well as with Michael Jarrell at the Haute École de Musique in Geneva. He received a Master in Composition from the Paris-VIII University, Annual Cursus on Composition at Ircam and Post-Cursus in the CNSMD Lyon.

Hèctor Parra has received commissions from the French government, the Ircam-Centre Pompidou, the Spanish Ministry of Culture as well as the Berlin Academy of Arts, Ensemble Intercontemporain, Strasbourg Festival and Klangforum Wien among others.

Ensembles that have performed his work include The Ensemble Intercontemporain, the Arditti Quartet, Ensemble Recherche, Musikfabrik, the Philharmonic Orchestra of Liège, National Orchestra of Ile-de-France and Holland Symfonia have premiered his work at the international festivals of Lucerne, Avignon, Agora-Ircam,

Stuttgart Opera House, Philharmonie Luxembourg, Strasbourg, San Sebastián and Berlin to name a few.

In 2005 he was unanimously awarded the “Tremplin Prize” given by the Ensemble Intercontemporain and was finalist in the International Gaudeamus Competition. In 2002 he won the “INAEM Prize for Musical Composition” (The National Institute for Performing Arts and Music of Spain). Editorial Tritó publishes his music. Currently, he is professor of Electro-Acoustic Composition at the Conservatorium of Zaragoza (Spain) and composer in research at Ircam in Paris.

The Deadline for the 2008 EARPLAY DONALD AIRD MEMORIAL COMPOSERS COMPETITION is March 31, 2008. See www.earplay.org for details.

Past winners are: **Massimo Lauricella** and **Shintaro Imai** (2001); **Christophe Bertrand** (2002); **João Pedro Oliveira** (2003); **Vincent Chee-Yung Ho** (2004); **Fredrik Fahlman** (2005), **Mitru Escalona-Mijares** (2006).

Earplay concerts feature the Earplayers, a group of seven outstanding Bay Area artists who, as a group, have developed a lyrical and ferocious style. Led by Conductor Mary Chun, the Earplayers are: 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.

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. For more information, please visit www.earplay.org.

Upcoming concerts:

Central Valley Tour

College of the Sequoias, Fresno State University, and the Merced Arts Center

August 30-31, 2007

Wayne Peterson 80th Birthday Celebration

Thursday, September 20, 2007, 7 pm

San Francisco State University

Earplay 23: Facets and Lines

Monday, November 12, 2007

Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Festival of New American Music (FENAM)

Sonic Bloom of the Central Valley

Saturday, November 3, 2007

Wayne Peterson 80th Birthday Celebration II

Monday, November 5, 2007

Sacramento State University

Earplay 23: Unorthodox Journeys

Monday, February 11, 2008

Herbst Theatre, San Francisco

Earplay 23: Intricate Inventions

Wednesday, May 28, 2008

Herbst Theatre, San Francisco