



www.earplay.org

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Earplay 26

A nexus of Bay Area composers and performers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Classical Music New Chamber Music

Announcing the 2011 Herbst Theatre Series for Earplay

A nexus of Bay Area composers and performers

Earplay 26: *Sound Science* (February 7)

Earplay 26: *Sound Tangents* (March 28)

Earplay 26: *Sound Lines* (June 1)

June 1 is in association with the San Francisco International Arts Festival

All performances at San Francisco's Herbst Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

Please note: High-res jpegs available upon request

Series Overview. (San Francisco, January 21, 2011) **Earplay**, the Bay Area's noted new classical chamber music ensemble continues its 26th season in 2010-11 of Performing around the Bay with a concert series beginning at **Herbst Theatre** on **Monday, February 7, 2011** at **7:30 p.m.** The exciting season highlights works from composers who worked and/or studied at Stanford University including three new commissions by **Jonathan Berger, Michelle Lou** and **Mauricio Rodriguez** and four extraordinary works by **Jonathan Harvey**, former Professor of Composition at Stanford University. Earplay continues its focus on seminal figures in contemporary music with a survey of their music and in 2011, the focus is **Jonathan Harvey**. In conjunction with the 2010-11 portrait of Harvey, Earplay will perform several other works that share complementary aesthetic concerns. Works from Berkeley composer, **Edmund Campion**, French composer **Betsy Jolas**, Austrian composer **Olga Neuwirth**, 2010 Aird Composition Competition winner, **Adam Roberts** and music by three of the major

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voices in American contemporary music, **John Cage**, **George Crumb** and **Elliott Carter** round out the series. One of the leading figures in contemporary music, Jonathan Harvey's music is distinguished in its extraordinarily broad scope, bringing cutting-edge technology into a highly personal aesthetic that brings post-serial and spectral musical concepts into contact with the mystical and spiritual questions posed by Buddhist, Hindu and Christian religious traditions. The selection of works in the series allows the ensemble to focus on an array of aesthetic issues, ranging from unity and perception to the investigation of the nature of music and sound over the course of the series.

Earplay begins the concert series on **Monday, February 7** with Sound Science, a program that features a world premiere of an Earplay new commissioned work by Stanford composer, **Jonathan Berger**, a U.S. premiere of *Ah! Haydn* with composer **Betsy Jolas** in attendance, a recent work by **Jonathan Harvey** and **George Crumb's** rarely performed *Celestial Mechanics* for 4-hand piano. With a focus on music and cognition, Jonathan Berger's teaching and compositional work are shaped by a deep investigation of the way we perceive and respond psychologically to music. **Mary Chun** will conduct *Yaqira* (2010) which was written jointly for Earplay members and for Ensemble Plural, based in Madrid. The composer comments, *the piece was inspired by an idea my daughter had of musically representing the disorienting sense of kinetosis*. **Betsy Jolas' Ah! Haydn**, (2007) for violin, cello, piano glances back at the classical origins of the piano trio with wit and verve and will be performed by **Terrie Baune**, **Thalia Moore** and **Karen Rosenak**. *String Trio* (2004), one of Jonathan Harvey's more recent chamber works, is brilliantly intricate and will be played by **Terrie Baune**, **Ellen**

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Ruth Rose and **Daniel Reiter**. **George Crumb's** *Celestial Mechanics* (1979), a masterwork for 4-hand piano performed by one of Earplay's founders, **Karen Rosenak** with composer/performer **Christopher Wendell Jones** complements the works created in the 21st century. In *Celestial Mechanics* Crumb evokes the cosmic with its enveloping sonorities and brilliantly clangorous outbursts, and particularly in the iconic way that the composer expands the boundaries of the instrument by having the performers play inside of the piano.

Sound Tangents continues the series on **Monday, March 28** featuring **Elliott Carter's** monumental *Triple Duo*, two Earplay commissioned works by **Mei-fang Lin** and **Michelle Lou**, and works by **Jonathan Harvey** and **John Cage**. **Cage's** *Apollonian Six Melodies for violin and keyboard* (1950) are imbued with a curious blend of delicate subtlety and dance-like vitality that **Terrie Baune** and **Karen Rosenak** will bring to life. Earplay and the San Francisco Foundation Fund for Artists commissioned *Alluvium* (2010) for flute, clarinet and cello by **Michelle Lou**. Funding for this work was from the Foundation's Fund for Artists matched by generous donors. Emerging composer Lou takes a highly personal approach to thinking about the nature of what music is made of through her use of unique and scintillating instrumental palette. Earplayers **Tod Brody**, **Peter Josheff** and **Thalia Moore** will premiere the work. In **Mei-Fang Lin's** *Friction* (2008), an Earplay/Composers Forum, Bay Area Chapter commission, the flute and the viola intricately interact creating layers of tension as **Tod Brody** and **Ellen Ruth Rose** literally play their way through eight music stands across the stage. The crowning work of the night and the season will be **Elliott Carter's** powerful and extraordinarily virtuosic



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Triple Duo (1983) conducted by **Mary Chun** for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano and percussion. The Earplayers will be joined by noted percussionist **Daniel Kennedy**. **Jonathan Harvey's** 1994 memorial to the 20th century master, *Olivier Messiaen, Tombeau de Messiaen* further explores the idea of transformation in the technological domain. In this meditation on spirituality and unity, the voice of the solo piano is refracted through the sound of 12 virtual pianos, each with a unique, microtonally altered intonation based upon synthetic sound spectra. This piece will be complemented by a second tribute piece for piano and electronics entitled *Homage to Cage, à Chopin (und Ligeti ist auch dabei)*.

Earplay 26: Sound Lines completes the series on **Wednesday, June 1** at Herbst Theatre and will feature an eclectic mix of works exploring different musical lines by composers working outside and in the U.S. and with more representation from younger composers. **Edmund Campion's** *Musica* for flute, clarinet, marimba and piano (1997) is characterized by an impassioned lyricism and motoric repetition. In her bass clarinet solo, *Spleen* (1994) **Olga Neuwirth** navigates both the rude and the refined aspects of contemporary music with gleeful abandon. **Adam Roberts** *Sinews* (2008), winner of the 2010 Donald Aird Composition Prize, complements the Neuwirth with its extremes of explosive action and calm introspection. Earplay and the San Francisco Foundation Fund for Artists commissioned **Mauricio Rodriguez** to write *Crepitum* ("to rattle")(2010), a viola solo that will be premiered by Earplayer **Ellen Ruth Rose**. Funding for this work was also from the San Francisco Foundation's Fund for Artists matched by generous donors. Emerging composer Rodriguez also takes a highly personal approach to



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thinking about the nature of what makes music. Finishing the season is **Jonathan Harvey's** quartet, *Lotuses*, composed in 1992 for flute, violin, viola and cello, and a major chamber work from Harvey's oeuvre that exemplifies his interest in transformation with its alchemical treatment of a sinuous melodic idea that winds through the entire work.

EARPLAY has performed over 400 works in its 26-year history including over 110 world premieres and 50 plus new works commissioned by the ensemble. This season will reinforce Earplay's unwavering track record of presenting exceptional music in the 21st century. 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. Concerts feature the Earplayers, a group of seven artists who, as a group, have developed a lyrical and ferocious style. 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*. For more information, please visit www.earplay.org.



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Earplay 26

2010 - 2011 Concert Repertoire

Earplay 26: Sound Science, Herbst Theatre

Monday, February 7, 2011

- ◆ ▲ ★ **Betsy Jolas**, *Ah! Haydn*, (2007); U.S. premiere, violin, cello, piano, 12:00'
- ▲ ★ **Jonathan Harvey**, *String Trio*, (2004); violin, viola cello, 13:00'
- ◆ ☆ ▲ ★ **Jonathan Berger** *Yaqira*, (2010) flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, 16'
Earplay commission/world premiere
- ★ **George Crumb**, *Celestial Mechanics* (1979) 4-hand piano; subset of movements; 22'

Earplay 26: Sond Tangents, Herbst Theatre

Monday, March 28, 2011

- ▲ ★ **Jonathan Harvey**, *Tombeau de Messiaen* (1994); piano solo + electronics, 9:00'
- ★ **John Cage**, *Six Melodies for violin and keyboard* (1950); violin, keyboard, 12'
- ☆ ▲ ★ **Mei-Fang Lin**, *Friction* (2008); Earplay commission; viola and flute. 9'
- ★ **Elliott Carter**, *Triple Duo* (1983); flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, percussion 20'
- ◆ ☆ ▲ ★ **Michelle Lou**, *Alluvium* (2010); world premiere, flute, clarinet, cello, 6:00'
Earplay commission/world premiere

Earplay 26: Sound Lines, Herbst Theatre

Wednesday, June 1, 2011 (Presenting partner, San Francisco International Arts Festival)

- ◆ **Hector Parra** *Time Fields* (2003); U.S. premiere; alto flute solo, 4'
- ▲ ★ **Olga Neuwirth** *Spleen* (1994); bass clarinet, 8'
- ◆ ★ **Adam Roberts** *Sinews* (2008); violin solo, 9', West Coast Premiere,
2010 Earplay Aird Composers Competition Winner
- ▲ **Edmund Campion** *Musica* (1997); flute, clarinet, piano, marimba 13'
- ▲ ★ **Jonathan Harvey** *Lotuses*, (1992); flute, violin, viola, cello, 17:00'
- ◆ ☆ ▲ ★ **Mauricio Rodriguez** *Crepitum*, (2010); viola solo, 6:00'
Earplay commission/world premiere

- ★ American or foreign-born composer lived (living) and worked (working) in the U.S.
- ▲ Composer with strong ties to the Bay Area (study, work or living)
- ☆ Earplay commission
- ◆ Premiere

Earplayers: Mary Chun, *Conductor*; Tod Brody, *flutes*; Peter Josheff, *clarinets*; Terrie Baune, *violin*; Ellen Ruth Rose, *viola*; Thalia Moore, *cello*, and Karen Rosenak, *piano*.



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2010-11 SEASON CALENDAR LISTING

Announcing the 2011 Herbst Theatre Series for Earplay New Classical Music

Earplay 26: *Sound Science* (February 7)

Earplay 26: *Sound Tangents* (March 28)

Earplay 26: *Sound Lines* (June 1)

June 1 is part of the San Francisco International Arts Festival

All performances at San Francisco's Herbst Theatre at 7:30 p.m.

Please note: High-res jpegs available upon request

WHO: EARPLAY 26: *Sound Science*

Featuring compositions by Jonathan Berger♦, George Crumb, Jonathan Harvey, Betsy Jolas♦

♦ premiere

WHEN: Monday, February 7, 2011

TIME: 7:30p.m.

6:45 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

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*. Guest artist: Daniel Reiter, *cello*.



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WHO: EARPLAY 26: *Sound Tangents*

Featuring compositions by *John Cage, Elliott Carter, Jonathan Harvey, Mei-Fang Lin, Michelle Lou*♦.

WHEN: Monday, March 28, 2011

TIME: 7:30p.m.

6:45 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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WHO: EARPLAY 24: *Sound Lines*

Presented in association with the San Francisco International Arts Festival

Featuring compositions by *Edmund Campion, Jonathan Harvey, Olga Neuwirth, Hector Parra, Adam Roberts*♦ (2010 Earplay Aird Composition Competition Winner) and *Mauricio Rodriguez*♦

♦ premiere

WHEN: Wednesday, June 1, 2011

TIME: 7:30p.m.

6:45 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

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*. Guest artist: Chris Froh, *percussion*. Information: www.earplay.org.