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Bold New Music, Passionate Performance



June 2020

Introducing Earplay Online!



Each offering from the Earplay Online video collection brings you a newly produced or from the archives performance of a great work of chamber music from our extensive repertoire.

We're launching the collection with the **California Women Composers** series, celebrating their stellar contributions to the new music canon. The series kicks off with **Laurie San Martin's *Fray***, performed on Earplay's February 2020 concert at San Francisco's Herbst Theatre.

View the performance here:



Composer Notes

Fray (2016-2020) by [Laurie San Martin](#)
for violin, viola, and cello
World premiere; Earplay commission

in three movements

Last spring, while listening to Terrie, Ellen and Thalia read through undergraduate compositions, I felt a pang of nostalgia. I had worked closely with these three musicians while co-directing the Emyrean Ensemble from 2001-2009. So when Ellen approached me a few weeks later about writing a piece for Earplay, I was delighted for the opportunity. I even had old sketches that I had created in years past for a playful piece that would juxtapose three distinct personalities. These past few months turned out to be a challenging time for getting any kind of work done, including writing music. I stole some time away from my internet browser, however, and gradually pieced together this project. It turned into something much darker and more amorphous than what I had intended. *Fray* is in three brief movements. Without giving too much away, I would say that that this piece is about exploring disparate moments, sounds, and ideas, and investigating what direction these fragmentary shreds of music might take. Many of the loose ends from the first two movements come together in the last movement. However, not everything is resolved. There is a sense of the stitching being left loose at the end of the piece.

— L. S. M.

Laurie San Martin writes music that creates a compelling narrative by exploring the intersection between texture and line. Critics have described her music as exuberant, colorful, forthright, high octane, tumultuous, intricate, intense and rumbly. She writes concert music for chamber ensembles and orchestra but has also written for theater, dance and video. Her music has been performed across the United States, Europe and Asia. Most recently she has enjoyed writing for virtuoso soloists including violinists Hrafnhildur Atladottir and Gabriela Díaz, percussionists Chris Froh and Mayumi Hama, Haleh Abghari (soprano), Yi Ji-Young (Korean gayageum) and David Russell (cello).

Laurie has worked with numerous ensembles including the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, Berlin PianoPercussion, Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, eighth blackbird, SF Chamber Orchestra, the Lydian Quartet, Magnetic South Ensemble, Washington Square Contemporary Chamber Players, and others. Recipient of the 2016 Guggenheim Fellowship, she has also received awards from the Fromm Foundation, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, League of Composers-ISCM, the International Alliance for Women in Music, and the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer's Awards. As a composition fellow, she has attended the MacDowell Colony, the Montalvo Artist Residency, Yaddo, Atlantic Center for the Arts, Norfolk Contemporary Chamber Music Festival, and the Composers Conference at Wellesley College.

Laurie holds a Ph.D. from Brandeis University in Theory and Composition. She has taught at Clark University and is currently Professor of Music at the University of California, Davis. Her music can be found on the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble's *San Francisco Premieres* CD, released in 2005 and a recent Ravello CD *Tangos for Piano* performed by Amy Briggs.

Laurie's website is lauriesanmartin.com



Not too late for a Season 35 donation!

We recognize that economically, times are very challenging right now for many of us, with the arts being hit particularly hard. If you haven't yet made a donation for our 35th Season, it's not too late! Up until June 30, your support will count towards this fiscal year. Any amount is helpful, and we are grateful to you. Donations can be made securely using the button below, or mailed to the address below. Thank you, and we'll see you soon!



(Earplay, 560 29th Street, San Francisco, CA 94131)



Please stay tuned for information about rescheduled dates. Thank you for supporting Earplay and the creation and performance of new chamber music! Stay healthy & safe, friends!

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