

NewEar

contemporary
chamber
ensemble

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newEar is now performing in Lawrence as well as in Kansas City!

Kansas City, MO – newEar contemporary chamber ensemble is pleased to present *Mirror, Mirror*, the opening concert of their eleventh season! *Mirror, Mirror* asks the question of whether it is possible for one musical creation to be “mirrored”™ or reflected by another. And on an even larger scale is it possible for the halves of a concert to mirror one another? That question will be answered one way or another at this quasi-palindromic concert on **Thursday, September 25, 2003 at 8:00 pm** at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 13th and Holmes in downtown Kansas City, Missouri, and on **Sunday, September 28, 2003 at 5:00 pm** at the Lawrence Arts Center, 940 New Hampshire Street, in Lawrence, Kansas.

Rob Smith's *Spike* (2003) for solo piano begins this reflective musical journey with a jolt! *Spike* is inspired by all the possible meanings of the title word including "a very large nail, a scoring play in volleyball, the spikes found on shoes, a punk London haircut and the name of a large dog with a leather collar." To mirror this piece at the end of the concert will be Mr. Smith's *Schroeder's Revenge* (2001) for toy piano which is an amusing take on Schroeder being fed up with yet another performance of the Moonlight Sonata.

Rob Smith's music is frequently performed throughout the United States and abroad. He has received commissions from the New York Youth Symphony Chamber Music Program, the American Composers Forum and several nationally renowned university wind ensembles, among others. He teaches at the University of Houston Moores School of Music where he is Assistant Professor of Music Composition.

The second piece on the program will be Arvo Pärt's powerful *Fratres* (1980) for violin and piano. Part's music is renowned world wide for its austere and startling beauty: *Fratres* will prove that point. And to mirror *Fratres* newEar has chosen Japanese composer Somei Satoh's™ soaring *Birds in Warped Time II* (1980) also for violin and piano. Notice all the reflections between these two works: same instrumentation, same year, and a similar use of harmonic language. Also both of these composers are highly influenced by their spiritual beliefs; for Part, Christianity and for Satoh, Shintoism and Zen Buddhism.

Sofia Gubaidulina's™ music provides us with the third pair of compositions to reflect one another: the experimental *dots, lines and zigzag* (1976) for bass clarinet and piano, and the searing *In Croce* (1979) for cello and accordion. Respectively, they are the third and sixth pieces on the program. Both of these works are duets but there the similarity ends: musically there are many differences. So how can they be a reflection of each other? The answer is that they come from the same source: the heart and mind of one of Russia's finest living composers.

MORE

And the last and strangest reflection of all, suggesting perhaps a circus mirror in the mind, is Peter Lieberon's invigorating *Ziji* (1987) for six players and conductor and Wolfgang Rihm's *Chiffre IV* (1983) for clarinet, cello and piano. The word *Ziji* is Tibetan for shining out, rejoicing while remaining dignified. For Lieberon the work is about the energy of confidence. *Chiffre IV* is the polar opposite: quiet, sparse, with crystalline sonorities evoking a still but concentrated state of being.

Season tickets for newEar's Season Eleven are \$44. Individual tickets for *Mirror, Mirror* are \$15 at the door, \$12 in advance and \$8 for students with valid ID. For ticket information call the **Central Ticket Office** at **(816) 235-6222** or **toll-free 1-888-286-4849**. For more information on the concerts and artists visit the web at www.newear.org or contact Robert Pherigo (816-523-5402, lyrarob@earthlink.net) or Jan Faidley (913-671-7368, jfaid74702@aol.com).

PHOTOGRAPHS: Print-quality downloadable photographs of newEar are available at www.newear.org

PLEASE NOTE: newEar's mailing address has changed:
newEar contemporary music ensemble, P.O. Box 7156, Kansas City, MO 64113-0156

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