

NewEar

contemporary
chamber
ensemble

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newEar presents *Electronica* on November 7

Kansas City, MO - newEar contemporary chamber ensemble presents ***Electronica***, a sonic feast for the ears on **Friday, November 7, 2003**, at **8:00 pm** at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 13th and Holmes Streets in downtown Kansas City, Missouri. ***Electronica*** will feature the much anticipated ***world premiere*** of James Mobberley's *Vox Inhumana* along with an innovative collaboration between newEar and the Kansas City Art Institute's performance art class. A comprehensive view of new music today can hardly be constructed *without* the element of electronics (computers, live manipulation of sound, playback). newEar salutes the "technical" side of contemporary music in this evening of works enhanced by and conceived with the use of electronics. A pre-concert dialogue with composers James Mobberley and Dwight Frizzell will begin at 7:15 pm.

James Mobberley's *Vox Inhumana* (2003), with text based on Dante's *Divine Comedy*, combines voice, instrumental ensemble, and electronics to portray one important and universal aspect of humanity found in Dante's work, the concept of *desire*. In all stages of Dante's journey, the souls are deeply pulled, both from within and from without, by the inevitable yearning of desire, whether for the oblivion of Hell or the oblivion of Heaven. Mobberley calls this latest work a "...journey of expression toward the inexpressible." *Vox Inhumana* was composed for premiere by newEar and soprano Rebecca Sherburn with commissions from the Koussevitzky and Barlow Foundations.

James Mobberley is Curators' Professor of Music at the Conservatory of Music of the University of Missouri-Kansas City. His major fellowships and awards include the Rome Prize, the Guggenheim Foundation, Meet the Composer's New Residencies program, the 2001 Van Cliburn Composers Invitational, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Mobberley has received commissions from Chamber Music America, the St. Louis Symphony Chamber Series, the Kansas City Symphony, Meet the Composer, Music From China and the Cleveland Chamber Symphony. His music has received over 700 performances on five continents and appeared on over a dozen recordings, including a release of orchestral works on Albany Records.

MORE

The performance art class of the Kansas City Art Institute joins newEar in *Scientific Americans* (2003), a collaborative composition conceived by Dwight Frizzell. *Scientific Americans* is scored for three instrumental ensembles, live video and surround sound. Blurring the lines between art forms, this work will explore the interaction of three distinct and remotely placed ensembles with interactive live video projection. The ensembles will include saxophone, bass clarinet, mandolin, psaltery, microphones, Theremin, CD scratcher, aquatic bowed instrument, zwoom, and amplified small objects.

Also on the program is Julia Wolfe's darkly evocative *Girlfriend* (1999), a work requiring the amplification of all instruments plus tape. According to Wolfe, "*Girlfriend* is a state of mind," meant to be entered into by the listener. Her music is characterized by an intense focus on sound, the power of sound and the ways in which sound is related to memory and experience. She frequently explores the possibilities for new harmony between familiar chords and microtonal tuning, or sounds found in nature and the urban world.

Michael Daugherty, whose compositions draw heavily from the rock/pop idiom is represented by *Firecracker* (1991). Originally a concerto for solo oboe and chamber ensemble, newEar performs *Firecracker* in a version for soprano saxophone, flute, bass clarinet, violin, cello, piano and percussion. It is a virtuosic piece spun off from a motive inspired by the diabolically difficult etudes of Antonio Pasculli (1842-1924), perhaps the greatest oboe virtuoso of his day: The musical fireworks are briefly interrupted by a playful tango interlude. The stereophonic stage arrangement of the ensemble emphasizes the deliberate spatial patterning of sound employed throughout the work, which the composer calls "visual music."

Season tickets for newEar's Season Eleven are \$44. Individual tickets for *Electronica* 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**. For more information on the concerts and artists visit the web at **www.newear.org** or contact Jan Faidley (913-671-7368, jfaid74702@aol.com) or Mark Lowry (816-523-1764, marktammie@aol.com).

PHOTOGRAPHS: Print-quality downloadable photographs of newEar, James Mobberley and Dwight Frizzell are available at www.newear.org

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