

NewEar

contemporary
chamber
ensemble

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newEar presents *Exotica* on April 23 and April 25

Kansas City, MO - newEar contemporary chamber ensemble presents *Exotica*, an evening at the musical confluence of east and west, on **Friday, April 23, 2004, at 8:00 PM** at Unity Temple on the Plaza and **Sunday, April 25, 2004, at 5:00 PM** at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 13th and Holmes Streets in downtown Kansas City, Missouri. The definition of *exotic* as that which is "...strikingly or excitingly unusual" promises that newEar's last event of the season will be an auditory and visual experience not to miss! A pre-concert dialogue with composers I Ketut Gedé Asnawa, Patrick Conway and Jeffrey Ruckma will begin forty-five minutes prior to each concert.

Balinese gamelan master I Ketut Gedé Asnawa and the Gamelan Genta Kasturi join newEar for these performances. The two ensembles meld their distinctive voices in the **world premiere** of Patrick Conway's *AmeriCuBali* (2004). Scored for Gamelan Gong Kebyar, percussion and 3 winds, *AmeriCuBali* fuses elements of traditional Balinese gamelan, AfroCuban drum-song forms and western harmonies. *Gita Genta Kasturi* (2004) by I Ketut Gedé Asnawa is a **world premiere** signature piece that features the characteristic sounds of the various gamelan instruments while including vocalization, hand clapping and the sounds of newEar bass clarinetist Tom Aber.

newEar offers the **North American premiere** of British composer Mark Anthony Turnage's *Lament for a Hanging Man* (1983) for soprano and ensemble with text drawn from Jeremiah and Sylvia Plath. The music of Mark Anthony Turnage, considered by many to be one of the most significant creative figures to have emerged in British music in the last two decades, is music of powerful contrasts. *Lament for a Hanging Man* is his first published vocal work. The very dissimilar texts, from the Lamentations of Jeremiah, sung in Hebrew, and Sylvia Plath's poem *The Hanging Man*, are juxtaposed in a manner making them symbiotic, yet interdependent. The scoring for the ensemble is for soprano saxophone, soprano saxophone doubling bass clarinet, bass clarinet, harp and percussion. All of the wind players must also play some type of percussion instrument.

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Piano Nets (1990) for piano and electro acoustic sounds by New Zealand composer Denis Smalley will feature the talents of newEar's Robert Pherigo. Smalley writes about his work, ".....the 'nets' in the title express the idea of networks of chords and a certain feeling of confinement created by them. Also net-like is the fact that the piano is trapped almost entirely in a chordal style. Such a restriction enables a concentrated exploration of subtle blendings of piano and electro acoustic sounds." Denis Smalley studied with Olivier Messiaen and at the Groupe de Recherches Musicales in Paris, France. He is also notable as a writer on the aesthetics of electro acoustic music. Since 1994 he has been Professor of Music and Head of the Department of music at City University (London, UK).

Also on the program is another **world premiere** for gamelan by local composer Jeffrey Ruckma: *Arrivals and Departures* (2004). Ruckma has dedicated this work to the seminal American composer Lou Harrison who died in February 2003. Lou Harrison appeared in Kansas City in 1998 on a newEar concert celebrating his music.

Two modern Balinese compositions for gamelan will also be performed: *Puspanjali*, an energetic welcoming dance in modern Kebyar style and *Cendrawasih* (1988) by I Wayan Beratha and I Nyoman Windha with dance directed by Putu Oka Mardiani. *Cendrawasih*, a modern creation of the dance of the bird of paradise, is a national theme in Balinese culture. This piece portrays the beautiful bird, exhibiting its gorgeous feathers during mating season.

Individual tickets for *Exotica* 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 at **1-888-286-4849**. 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, Patrick Conway and the Gamelan Genta Kasturi](#) are available at www.newear.org

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