

NewEar

contemporary
chamber
ensemble

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newEar Presents Expectations on September 10 and September 12

Kansas City, MO: *newEar* contemporary chamber ensemble launches its twelfth season with uncommon ***Expectations***, on **Friday, September 10, 2004, at 8:00 PM** at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 13th and Holmes Streets in downtown Kansas City, Missouri and **Sunday, September 12, 2004, at 3:00 PM** at the Lawrence Arts Center, 940 New Hampshire in Lawrence, Kansas. A pre-concert talk will begin forty-five minutes before each performance.

What could music be if a composer focused on his own negative rather than positive attributes in creating a new piece? David Lang's ominously funky *cheating, lying, stealing...* (1993/95) tells all. The music of David Lang, co-founder and co-artistic director of New York's legendary Bang on a Can festival, tends to resist categorization. Yet this work, scored for bass clarinet, cello, percussion, piano and brake drums (the automotive kind) is intensely hypnotic.

At the opposite pole are the subtle and contemplative *Reflections on the Nature of Water* (1986) for solo marimba by Jacob Druckman. Claude Debussy's piano preludes provided the creative impetus for this work. With such movement titles as *Crystalline, Tranquil* and *Relentless* the ear is free to explore the myriad qualities of water.

Fondamenta (1998) by Austrian composer Olga Neuwirth is dedicated to renowned Russian poet Joseph Brodsky. Scored for the unusual instrumentation of bass clarinet, baritone/tenor saxophone and cello, *Fondamenta* creates a labyrinthian atmosphere of undulating sound waves.

Short and sweet, Augusta Read Thomas' piano trio *A Circle Around the Sun* (2000) grabs the listener. According to John von Rhein of the *Chicago Tribune*, Thomas' music " ... explodes with an extroverted boldness of utterance audiences and musicians alike find challenging yet immediate. It's music that doesn't sound like anybody else's -- music that insists you pay attention."

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Also on the program, the Kansas City premiere of newEar composer Ingrid Stölzel's *Between the Lines* (2004) for flute, cello and piano. Premiered last season in Lawrence, but canceled in Kansas City because of January's ice storm, *Between the Lines* explores the deeper meaning of the musical experience beyond the printed page.

And finally rounding out the evening is Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu's *From Far Beyond Chrysanthemums and November Fog* (1983) for violin and piano. The influence of traditional Japanese music along with Takemitsu's characteristic use of long flowing lines take the listener to another space/time continuum.

Season Tickets for newEar are available in flexible packages of four tickets (\$60 each package) which may be used singularly or collectively in any combination during the four-concert season. Single event tickets are \$18 and \$8 for students with ID. For season tickets and 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 <http://www.newear.org> or contact Jan Faidley (913-671-7368, jfai74702@aol.com) or Mark Lowry (816-523-1764, marktammie@aol.com).

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

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