

NewEar contemporary chamber ensemble

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newEar Presents "NUCLEAR" on May 5 and May 8

newEar contemporary chamber music ensemble presents *Nuclear*, an explosive evening of new music on **Thursday, May 5, 2005 at 8:00 PM** at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in downtown Kansas City, MO and **Sunday, May 8, 2005, at 5:00 PM** at Unity Temple on the Plaza. *Nuclear* will feature the **world premiere of three new works** and the riveting *Sextet* by Krzysztof Penderecki. A pre-concert talk with composers Judith Shatin, Dwight Frizzell and Michael Henry will begin forty-five minutes prior to each performance.

H for THERMONUCLEAR DEVICE and Remote Chamber Ensemble (2005), a **world premiere** conceived for newEar by Dwight Frizzell and Michael Henry, is the sequel to *Sonic Force* (2003) and shares as its inspiration the use of military technology for the purpose of making art (rather than war). While *Sonic Force* used the A10 Warthog attack planes, *H for THERMONUCLEAR DEVICE* exploits the broadband musicality of the B61 Mod 11 thermonuclear device, about fifty of which are stockpiled at Whiteman Air Force Base and deployed in the airspace above Missouri in B2 bombers. The remote chamber ensemble performs from a bomb shelter (or a space below or separate from the performance space) and is seen via a remote live video camera and heard in the venue over a multichannel sound system.

Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki's *Sextet* (2000) is his most substantial chamber work to date. Composed for clarinet, horn, violin, viola, cello and piano, this powerfully expressive work is in two contrasting movements interspersed with passages of Shostakovich-like irony and pensive melancholy. Penderecki is most notable for his avant garde works of the 1960s. Thereafter, for nearly three decades he wrote almost exclusively for operatic, choral and orchestral formations. His return to chamber music in the 1990s is marked by a significantly more approachable music that explores the timbral richness of the various instruments while still connecting on a visceral level with the listener.

Inspired by the dynamic tradition of the characteristic Afro-Cuban rhythm, *Clave* (2005) by Judith Shatin was written for **world premiere** by newEar. Clave rhythm is the basis of Afro-Latin musical styles and is considered the key, the identity, the root and the "soul" of the music. Shatin states that her composition "... can be thought of as a recombinant take on the rhythm of the *Son Clave*. The underlying parts, like chromosomes on a gene, are restrung in ways that give rise to multiple dancing rhythms. Likewise, the pitch design, based on symmetrical chords, recombines harmonies, changing colors and flavors in the process."

The third **world premiere** on the evening's program is New Zealand composer John Psathas' high energy, virtuosic *Mal Occhio* (2003) scored for the unusual instrumentation of soprano saxophone, electric guitar, marimba/vibes and piano. Psathas' music draws on the harmony and improvisational feel of jazz, the compelling rhythmic drive and excitement of rock music and the sustained repetitive textures of minimalism, yet still retains a freshly original "sound."

<MORE>

Tickets for newEar's **Nuclear** are \$18 and \$8 for students with 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 <http://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 are available at <http://www.newear.org/>

For additional information on composers featured in this concert visit the web:

Dwight Frizzell: <http://www.newear.org/BIOfrizzell.html>

Sonic Force: <http://www.pleasewatch.com/sonicforce/about.html>

Judith Shatin: <http://www.people.virginia.edu/~jsa/musings.htm>

Krzysztof Penderecki: <http://www.penderecki.de/biographie/enlisch/index.html>

John Psathas: <http://www.promethean-editions.co.nz/pages/composer/psathas1.html>

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