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**newEar Presents "COMPANIONS" on November 4**

**newEar** contemporary chamber music ensemble presents **Companions**, an evening of new music inspired by the written word on **Friday, November 4, 2005 at 8:00 PM** at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in downtown Kansas City, MO.

Not much can surpass the sublime companionship of words and music. newEar brings these two elements together in **Companions**, presenting **Apparition** (1979) for soprano and piano by the seminal American composer George Crumb. The text of **Apparition** is extracted from Walt Whitman's *When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd*, part of a set of poems grouped under the title *Memories of President Lincoln* and written by Whitman during the weeks following the assassination of Abraham Lincoln on April 14, 1865. Crumb chose most of his text from a section subtitled *Death Carol* which contains some of Whitman's most imaginative writing on the experience of death.

**Life Story** (1994) by British composer Thomas Adès is based on Tennessee Williams' poem (from) *Winter of Cities*. A stark and morbid text about a one - night stand gone wrong or as Adès calls it a "tragic snapshot of desperation". Set for soprano and piano, the soprano is enjoined to use Billie Holliday as a model in the interpretation of the piece. newEar welcomes back soprano Rebecca Sherburn, Associate Professor of Voice at the Conservatory of Music in Kansas City, for this concert.

*Ulysses*, the classic work by James Joyce is the source material for two electronic pieces on the program. Luciano Berio's **Thema (Omaggio a Joyce)** realized in 1958 featuring Berio's wife Cathy Berberian and Robert Mackay's **Joyce's Vision** (2002).

Also on the program: Cathy Berberian's *Stripsody* (1966) for solo soprano and Alfred Schnittke's Cello Sonata No. 1 (1979).

**Tickets:** Flexible packages of four tickets (\$60 each package) may be used singularly or collectively in any combination during the four-concert season. Individual Tickets are \$18 and \$8 for students with valid ID. For ticket information please 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 Ingrid Stölzel (816)-756-0570, [istolzel@crn.org](mailto:istolzel@crn.org) ) or Mark Lowry (816)-523-1764, [marktammie@aol.com](mailto:marktammie@aol.com) ).

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

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