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newEar Presents "ON/OFF" on May 6

newEar contemporary chamber music ensemble presents *On/Off*, an evening of eclectic new music on **Saturday, May 6, 2006 at 8:00 PM** at **All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 4501 Walnut Street, Kansas City, MO**. A pre-concert talk with Swedish composer Kent Olofsson and Kansas City composer Paul Rudy will begin at 7:15 p.m.

newEar's season closer *On/Off* promises to be an electrifying experience. Swedish composer Kent Olofsson's music is inspired by biblical texts and antique mythology. *Tarpeian Rock*, composed in 1996-97, is named after an ancient rock of the Capitoline Hill in Rome where Tarpeia famously betrayed the Romans by letting the Sabines enter the fortress. Olofsson incorporates synthesized sounds on a Kurzweil 2000 keyboard with an ensemble made up of alto flute, bass clarinet, guitar, cello and percussion.

For Whom... (2005) by Kansas City composer Paul Rudy is scored for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, percussion and tape. It brings together three worlds under a single subject of impossible love, both beautiful and ugly in its power. The source of inspiration comes from Hemingway's "For whom the bell tolls", Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermore", and Delibe's "Lakme". All three stories are tied to tragic civil unrest and war, a clashing of two cultures, and the impossibility of finding passionate love in the most unexpected places. Source material for the music is inspired by the harmonic resonances and healing power of the Tibetan singing prayer bowl.

Another ensemble piece on the program is *Zaka* (2003) by Philadelphia composer Jennifer Higdon. The title is a made-up word by the composer that she explains as follows: "To do the following almost simultaneously and with great speed: zap, sock, race, turn, drop, sprint." This is a perfect description of Higdon's energetic tour de force for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano and percussion.

Also on the program: a collaboration with Dwight Frizzell and students of the Kansas City Art Institute; Kohei Mukai's *Prelude and Allegro* (2000) for solo marimba; and Bruno Mantovani's *L'incandescence de la bruine* (1997) for soprano saxophone and piano.

Tickets for newEar's *ON/OFF* 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 Ingrid Stölzel (816-756-0570, istolzel@crn.org) 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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