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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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newEar Presents "Sounds of the Northwest Hemisphere" on September 22

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newEar contemporary chamber music ensemble presents ***Sounds of the Northwest Hemisphere***, an evening of eclectic new music from Mexico and Canada, on **Saturday, September 22, 2007 at 8:00 PM** at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 4501 Walnut Street, Kansas City, MO. A pre-concert talk will begin at 7:15 p.m.

newEar opens its 15th season celebration with Robert Xavier Rodriguez's spirited *Tango* (1985) for tenor, flute, clarinet, violin, cello, percussion, piano and accordion. This audience favorite, first heard in Kansas City in newEar's inaugural season, is based on news clippings of the tango craze that swept Europe and the United States in 1913-14. Three short scenes played without pause are arranged in a one-act monodrama in which the tenor plays three different roles, both spoken and sung. Quotations from Beethoven to Brahms can be heard throughout the work, all colored by the vibrant rhythm of the tango.

Canadian Michael Bushnell's mysterious scherzo, *Night's Swift Dragons* (1990) plays with time and memory. The title, from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, refers to *Medea* riding the night skies in a chariot pulled by dragons. The composer describes the piece as a reinvention of the language and spirit of Mendelssohn's overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. It expresses Bushnell's fascination with Mendelssohn's fantastic evocation of night spirits. *Night's Swift Dragons* is a dreamscape in a very contemporary context.

Sonata De Camara # 1 (1993) by Mexican composer Armando Luna is scored for clarinet, violin, viola, cello and piano. Cast in the classic three-movement layout common to the sonata form, it makes references to the music of Stravinsky, Bartok, Honegger, and jazz. Though these "comments" are apparent upon close listening, the sonata is also spiked with a rhythmic drive and coloristic boldness that grab the listener's attention. The music is stark and dramatic, with powerful syncopations that create the overall passionate landscape of the piece.

Also on the program is Federico J. Garcia Castells' *Dunas* (2005) for flute, bass clarinet, violin, viola and cello.

Tickets for newEar's ***Sounds of the Northwest Hemisphere*** are \$20 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 Tom Aber (816-333-6842) or Ingrid Stölzel (816-756-0570)

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

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