

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

newEar contemporary chamber music ensemble presents ***Three English Gentlemen***, an evening of eclectic new music from Great Britain, on **Friday, February 1, 2008 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.

One composer is hailed as the next Benjamin Britten, the other is the youngest composer to have ever had a retrospective by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and the third composer has been called one of the most gifted composers of his generation. ***Three English Gentlemen*** celebrates the chamber music of British heavy hitters Thomas Adès, Mark-Anthony Turnage and Harrison Birtwistle.

Thomas Adès, born in 1971, is the bright new star of British music. On the program are two pieces written early in his career. *Life Story* (1994) is a tragic snapshot of desperation, set for soprano channeling Billie Holliday, and piano to text by Tennessee Williams. *Still Sorrowing* for solo piano written in 1991 was first premiered by the composer at the age of 21 in London's Purcell Room to wide acclaim.

newEar will also feature two recent chamber works by Mark-Anthony Turnage. *A Fast Stomp* (2004) for piano trio is a very energetic and unrelenting Scherzo and Trio. The title refers to an episode around two minutes in, where the violin plays a pizzicato section while the piano plays thick, stamping chords in extreme registers. In contrast, *Two Memorials* (1995-2000) for soprano saxophone reveals the composer's tranquil and introspective voice.

Also on the program is Harrison Birtwistle's epic *The Axe Manual* (2000) for piano and percussion. Described as a compendium of rhythmical devices by the composer, the work was commissioned and premiered by world-renowned performers Emanuel Ax and Evelyn Glennie.

Tickets for newEar's ***Three English Gentlemen*** 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/>

Financial assistance for newEar has been provided by the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, the Carolyn L. Hart Memorial Trust and the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

#####