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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Joanne Rooney Stout, Executive Administrator

Phone: 913-642-8158

E-Mail: stout.jr@sbcglobal.net

newEar Presents

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newEar contemporary chamber music ensemble presents **guest artist Jin Hi Kim** in an evening celebrating new music from the ***Pacific Rim***, on **Saturday, April 26, 2008 at 8:00 PM** at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 4501 Walnut Street, Kansas City, MO. A pre-concert talk with composers will begin at 7:15 p.m.

newEar welcomes guest artist Jin Hi Kim. Ms. Kim is highly acclaimed as both a virtuosic *komungo* (Korean fourth century fretted board zither) performer and composer. She has created a wide array of pioneering compositions for the *komungo* and has appeared as a soloist with the Kronos Quartet, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, and the American Composers Orchestra, among others.

newEar will premiere *Nori II* (2008) commissioned for the concert by newEar, featuring Jin Hi Kim on *komungo*. The word *nori* means 'fun play' in Korean and originated in the traditional farmer's percussion band called *pungmul-nori*. This percussion band can be traced back to the third century, where performances at lunar calendar festivals and at village Shamanistic rituals took place. *NORI II* realizes the energy of the traditional band with western percussion instruments.

We also welcome back two founding members of newEar, Patrick Alonzo Conway and Jeffrey Rukaman, to help us celebrate the close of our 15th season with two new compositions written for gamelan and newEar.

Patrick Alonzo Conway's composition *Sekar Purwa Pascima* (2008), loosely translates as "east/west flower," and indicates a mixture of Balinese and Western elements. The music is structured formally along Balinese lines, but incorporates Western harmony and melodic flow. *Gamelan Genta Kasturi* will join newEar performers in the world premiere of *Sekar Purwa Pascima*.

Arrivals and Departures III (2008) by Jeffrey Rukaman, similarly combines western instruments with gamelan. This piece is scored for gamelan semaradana, bass clarinet and prepared piano, and presents the composer's third installment on the topic of transportation and the essence of time.

Also on the program is *Catur Rawita* by founding director of *Gamelan Genta Kasturi*, I Ketut Gede Asnawa. The title, *catur* meaning four and *rawita* meaning beautiful, refers to the fact that the composition is in the exceptionally sweet sounding four tone *Anklung* style of Balinese music. This work features singing and Wayang puppets representing the Balinese tree of life.

Tickets for newEar's ***Pacific Rim*** 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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