



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 13, 2006

Cornish College of the Arts Presents the Erwin Schulhoff Festival

SEATTLE, WA – Cornish College of the Arts presents the Erwin Schulhoff Festival January 18-28, 2007. Jazz improviser, classical pianist, Dadaist, protégé of Dvorak and Debussy and dancehall habitué, Erwin Schulhoff was a rising star in the cultural world of 1920's Europe. Among the first to integrate jazz and neoclassical composition, his work was nearly erased by the Holocaust and the Iron Curtain.

The Erwin Schulhoff Festival includes two weekends of special performances and a panel discussion that draws on Schulhoff's wide ranging repertory for piano, chamber ensembles and voice, much of which will be new for Seattle audiences. A Schulhoff Festival highlight is the world premier performance of *Tempo of Recollection*, a new stage performance integrating Schulhoff's compositions and his historical context, actors, musicians, dancers and innovative stage design.

January 18-20, 8 pm and January 21, 2 pm

Tempo of Recollection

Created and directed by Nick Schwartz-Hall, choreographed by Sheila Daniels and produced by the Cornish Music Series, the performance features Jose Gonzales, actor & piano, Robin Johnson, soprano, Peter Mack, piano, Saint Helens String Quartet (Michael Lim, violin, Adrianna Hulscher, violin, Michael Lieberman, viola and Paige Stockley Lerner, cello) and four Cornish student performers (Ben Burris, Esra Guler, Dylan Sladky and Miriah Ware)

Monday, Jan 22, Noon

Schulhoff Festival Panel

Panelists include Derek Katz, Assistant Professor of Music History and Erwin Schulhoff Scholar, University of California, Santa Barbara, Paige Stockley Lerner, cellist and Michael Lieberman, violist, of the Saint Helens String Quartet, Nick Schwartz-Hall, Creator and Director, Tempo of Recollection, and moderator Carol Shiffman, Chair of the Cornish Music Department

Friday, Jan 26, 8 pm

Schulhoff Chamber Music Performance

Featuring Michael Brockman, saxophone, Mara Gearman, viola, Natalie Lerch, soprano, Peter Mack, piano, Roger Nelson, piano, Saint Helens String Quartet (Michael Lim, violin, Adrianna Hulscher, violin, Michael Lieberman, viola and Paige Stockley Lerner, cello), Mikhail Schmidt, violin, Tonya Siderius, piano, Paul Taub, flute and Amos Yang, cello

Saturday, Jan 27, 8 pm

Schulhoff Piano Music Performance

Featuring solo performance by Peter Mack

Sunday, Jan 28, 7 pm

Schulhoff Chamber Music Performance

Featuring Marc Feldman, bassoon, Beth Fleenor, clarinet, Joe Kaufman, bass, Saint Helens String Quartet (Michael Lim, violin, Adrianna Hulscher, violin, Michael Lieberman, viola and violin and Paige Stockley Lerner, cello), Tonya Siderius, piano, Shannon Spicciati, oboe, Chris Stover, trombone, Paul Taub, flute

Erwin Schulhoff Festival Location

All performances and events will be held at the following location:

PONCHO Concert Hall

Kerry Hall at Cornish College of the Arts

710 East Roy Street

Seattle

Erwin Schulhoff Festival Tickets

Tickets: \$15 general; \$7.50 students, alumni and seniors for individual performances

Festival Pass: \$50 general; \$25 students, alumni and seniors for admission into all performances

Free to the Cornish College community

Tickets available through Ticket Window at (206) 325-6500, ticketwindowonline.com or at Ticket

Window box offices located at Pacific Place, Broadway Market, Pike Place Market, and

Bellevue's Meydenbauer Center

About Erwin Schulhoff (1894-1942) Czech Contemporary Composer

Born in Prague of Jewish-German origin, Schulhoff was one of the brightest figures in a generation of European musicians whose successful careers were prematurely terminated by the rise of the Nazi regime in Germany. The contributions made by many of these musicians, including Schulhoff, have largely languished in obscurity ever since, despite their pivotal importance to the development of classical music during the early 20th century. In his youth, Schulhoff studied composition and piano in Prague, Vienna, Leipzig and Cologne. He began to embrace the avant-garde influences of jazz and Dadaism in his performance and writing after World War I. He was one of the first classical composers in Europe to find inspiration in the rhythms of jazz music. Schulhoff was a celebrated keyboard virtuoso and made extensive tours of Germany while also venturing farther afield to France and England. In the 1930s, Schulhoff ran into mounting personal and professional difficulties. Because of his Jewish descent and his radical politics, he and his work were blacklisted as "degenerate" by the Nazi regime. He could no longer give recitals in Germany, nor could his works be publicly performed. His Communist sympathies, which became increasingly visible in his works, also brought him trouble in Czechoslovakia. In 1932 he created a music version of "The Communist Manifesto" (Op. 82). Taking refuge in Prague, he found employment as a radio pianist but earned barely enough to cover the cost of everyday essentials. When the Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia in 1939, he had to resort to performing under a pseudonym. In 1941, the Soviet Union approved his petition for citizenship, but he was arrested and imprisoned before he could leave Czechoslovakia. In June 1941, Schulhoff was deported to the Wülzburg concentration camp in Bavaria. He died on August 18, 1942 from tuberculosis.

About Cornish College of the Arts

Cornish College of the Arts provides aspiring artists with the educational opportunities to become professionals in their fields. The College offers Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Art, Dance, Design, Performance Production and Theater, and a Bachelor of Music degree. It is one of three private colleges in the United States focusing on both the performing and visual arts, and the only college of its kind in the Northwest. The College is accredited by the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges, and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design and has a national reputation for its faculty, curriculum, and student performance and exhibition opportunities.

Since its founding by Nellie Cornish in 1914, Cornish College of the Arts has contributed to the nation's cultural and intellectual heritage through its alumni and faculty. Historically, these figures include choreographers and dancers Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, Syvilla Fort and Bonnie Bird; composer John Cage; painters Mark Tobey, William Cumming, and William Ivey; photographer Imogen Cunningham; educator Calvin B. Cady and broadcaster Chet Huntley, to name just a few. More recently these figures are joined by Brendan Fraser (film actor), Patrick Haskett (painter), Steve Jenson (sculptor), Paul Owen Lewis (illustrator), Lois Rathvon McCarter (dancer/choreographer), Evyind Kang (violinist), Jarrad Powell and Joshua Kohl (composers). And, the College continues to represent the Northwest's largest concentration of professional artists dedicated to instruction.

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Erwin Schulhoff Festival Artist & Panelist Bios

(Listed in alphabetical order)

Michael Brockman, saxophone

Michael Brockman moved from the East Coast to Seattle in 1987 to join the UW School of Music faculty. He instructs concert and jazz saxophone performance, and jazz arranging and composition. Brockman earned a master of music degree with distinction from the New England Conservatory, where he studied arranging, composition, and woodwind performance... He earned a bachelor of music degree from Lewis and Clark College, and also attended both the Berklee College of Music in Boston, and the Musikhochschule in Cologne, Germany. An authority on the music of Duke Ellington, Brockman is co-director of the award-winning Seattle Repertory Jazz Orchestra. Brockman has performed with Clark Terry, Frank Wess, Frank Foster, Jimmy Heath, Quincy Jones, Ernestine Anderson, Arturo Sandoval, Ella Fitzgerald, Jon Hendricks and Joe Williams. As both a jazz soloist and a classical recitalist, Brockman has toured throughout Europe and the eastern United States. Brockman is an active professional performer in numerous Seattle ensembles, including the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, the Pacific Northwest Ballet, the Auburn Symphony, and the Clarence Acox Sextet He has premiered many new works for saxophone, including the West Coast premiere of *Sonata for Saxophone* by Gunther Schuller, and has appeared as a soloist in many national and international festivals. Brockman is a clinician for the Selmer Company.

Sheila Daniels, Adjunct Theater Instructor, Cornish College of the Arts

Sheila Daniels is Artistic Director and co-founder of Baba Yaga Productions and an Artistic Associate at Capitol Hill Arts Center (CHAC). Directing credits include Shock Brigades: Women in Combat, Vaya con Lola (Baba Yaga), Waiting for Lefty, Arcadia (CHAC), Macbeth (Wooden O), The Last State (On the Boards), Anaphylaxis (Throwing Bones - Artistic Pick of 2003 Seattle Fringe Festival) The Trojan Women, Language of Angels, Dream of A Common Language, The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek, Transformations and Other Tales (Theater Schmeater), COLD (Tacoma Museum of Glass) and Machinal (A Theater Under the Influence). She has also directed numerous productions at Cornish, where she teaches Acting and Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration.

Marc Feldman, bassoon

Marc Feldman, a New York City native, was an American Symphony Orchestra League Fellow in 2005. He was an active freelance bassoonist in Paris for twenty years in France and was the Executive Director of the Orchestra for Peace, an orchestra comprised of Israeli and Arab musicians, 2002 to 2005. He received his diploma in music performance and education from the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris, and went on to become a fellow at the Tanglewood Festival. Marc has been solo bassoon for the Orchestre National de Lyon, co-soloist for the Orchestra Metropolitana de Lisboa, as well as bassoonist for many contemporary music and theatre ensembles, such as Ars Nova in Paris, Divertemento Ensemble in Milan and Corpsàson Theatre in Marseille. Previous administrative appointments include Musical Assistant to the Artistic Director of the Banff Opera and Theatre Arts department, and Head of Operations for an American opening of artwork from the Louvre Museum at the French Consulate in New York. Marc Feldman is now Executive Director of the Sacramento Philharmonic (CA).

Beth Fleenor, clarinet

Originally from Bristol, Tennessee/Virginia, Clarinetist Beth Fleenor has been surfing genres since arriving in Seattle in 1998. Exploring work featured in idioms including jazz, rock, classical, contemporary chamber, metal, folk, ambient, surf, and noise, Fleenor has been recognized as one of Seattle's "most adventurous clarinetists" (The Stranger). Her love of variety and sonic manipulation have earned her performance opportunities in night clubs, concert halls, festivals, recordings, modern dance pieces and art installations featuring collaborations with many of the city's most noted artists. Fleenor is also honored to have performed new/commissioned works by composers including Robin Holcomb, Denney Goodhew, Jim Knapp, Bill Patton, Yemin Kim, Paul Moore, Timothy Young, William O. Smith, Eyvind Kang, Gretta Harley, Tom Swafford, John Burrow, Flora McGill, Zachary Watkins, and many more. Currently you can find her performing with duo projects Bling (featuring Denney Goodhew on piano) and Double Yoko (featuring Paris Hurley on violin). Fleenor holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in jazz and classical clarinet

performance from Cornish College of the Arts, is the founder and director of The Frank Agency: Innovative Arts Management, and is an active member of the Monktaill Creative Music Concern.

Mara Gearman, viola

Violist Mara Gearman joined the Oregon Symphony in 2002 and subsequently the Seattle Symphony Orchestra in 2004. She is an active chamber musician and has debuted concerts with the Four Violas, a unique ensemble which she founded. Mara was an award winner at the Tertis International Viola Competition in England, and the Primrose International Viola Competition in the United States, two of the most prestigious competitions in the world. She has been soloist with the Fort Collins Symphony, Northwest Sinfonietta, Federal Way Philharmonic, and Northwest Chamber Orchestra. Gearman has performed at music festivals including Domaine Forget, Quebec, the Verbier Academy, Switzerland and the Pinchas Zukerman Young Artist Program in Ottawa. Ms. Gearman received her Bachelor of Music at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where she studied with Roberto Diaz and Karen Tuttle. Additional studies included those with Pinchas Zukerman. A native Seattleite, Mara Gearman is on the faculty of the Marrowstone Music Festival (the summer home of the Seattle Youth Symphony) in Bellingham, Washington, as well as the faculty of Central Washington University.

Jose Gonzales, piano and actor

Jose Gonzales received a BFA from Cornish College of the Arts in 1989 and is both a professional actor and musician. Gonzales has been performing in Seattle theaters since graduating and his work has included *Our Town* at Intiman, Franz Kafka in the Philip Glass opera *In The Penal Colony* and Guiliano in *Big Love*, both at ACT Theatre, Buddy Holly in *The Salvation of Iggy Scrooge* and Aldo in *The True History of Coca-Cola in Mexico* at The Empty Space Theatre. Nationally, Gonzales reprised the role of Franz Kafka in *Chicago* at Court Theatre, and played Anthony in *A Question of Mercy* at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta. As a professional pianist, his repertoire is based around the music of the American Songbook. He has his own jazz trio, The Jose Gonzales Trio, that plays regularly in Seattle and he also performs in musical revues, solo shows and musical accompaniment. Additionally, Jose Gonzales has composed music and soundtracks for film and video.

Adrianna Hulscher, violin

Adrianna Hulscher is a native of Seattle and holds degrees from the New England Conservatory, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and Louisiana State University. She has recently returned to the Pacific Northwest after residing in Austin, Texas, where she performed with the Austin Symphony, New Texas Music Works and the Austin Lyric Opera. Her interest in chamber music started in high school years as a member of the Roosevelt Chamber Orchestra and continued as she went on to perform in the New England Conservatory Honors String Quartet. She has since collaborated with many musicians and performed a wide repertoire of chamber music, most recently with the Austin Chamber Music Center. Past honors include winning the International Bartok Conference 2000 concerto competition, awarding her a performance of Bartok's concerto No. 1 under the baton of Conductor Peter Bay. Hulscher is a member of the Saint Helens String Quartet.

Robin Johnson, Mezzo-soprano

Robin Johnson is a native to the Northwest, and was a student at Cornish College of the Arts where she studied classical voice. Robin has performed with professional and amateur opera companies and with a variety of professional singing groups throughout the Northwest and Florida. In the past 3 years, Johnson performed as the soloist in the "Salon Series" in Seattle; a series of concerts performing a variety of classical pieces ranging from Schubert to Sondheim. She recently performed the role of Hansel in Hansel and Gretel, and Pappagena in The Magic flute with Northwest Opera in Schools. She has appeared with Kitsap Opera as Mrs. Page, and has performed the role of Cherubino with the Bradenton Opera, Opera by the Book, and with the Seattle Opera in their opera previews. Robin Johnson has also performed the role of Despina with the Eugene Opera, and appeared in their chorus in Pagliacci.

Derek Katz, Assistant Professor of Music History, University of California, Santa Barbara

Derek Katz holds degrees from Harvard and UCSB, where he received his PhD in 2000, and has also studied at The Free University of Berlin. A specialist in Czech music, he has published articles in *Musical Quarterly* and multiple Czech journals, as well as chapters in *Nineteenth Century Chamber Music* (Schirmer, 1998), *Janacek and His World* (Princeton, 2003) and the

forthcoming *Cambridge Companion to Dvorak*. Katz has also written for the New York Times and San Francisco Opera and spoken at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. He is currently working on a book about Janacek's operas.

Joe Kaufman, bass

Bio incomplete on press release date. Contact Schelleen Rathkopf, Communications Associate at Cornish to request this bio at (206) 726-5011.

Natalie Lerch, soprano

Natalie Lerch received her doctorate from the Eastman School of Music in May 2002, focusing on Voice Performance and Literature, with an emphasis in opera direction. She began teaching at Cornish in the fall of 2001, where her classes include Musical Theatre Workshop, English, Italian, French and German diction for singers and also provides private lessons. She was the vocal coach for *Into the Woods* (2002), and musical direction for *Closer Than Ever* (2003) and *Hansel and Gretel* (2004). Lerch has performed a variety of roles onstage including Mrs. Grose in *The Turn of the Screw*, Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte*, Miss Pinkerton in *The Old Maid and the Thief*, Lenny in *Crimes of the Heart* and Nancy in *Oliver*. She has performed professionally with Columbus Light Opera, Opera!Columbus, The Reality Theatre, the Norman Luboff Touring Choir and Spotlight Dinner Theatre. Masterclass performances include singing for Renee Fleming, Julianne Baird and Dale Moore. Natalie has sung in Italy (Monteverdi's *Orfeo*) and Brazil (with the Jazz Ensemble at the Federal University in Rio de Janeiro), and hopes to add Scotland and England to her future itinerary.

Michael Lieberman, viola

Michael Lieberman pursues a varied career in music and is in demand as a chamber musician, orchestral player, solo performer and teacher. Lieberman studied at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore with Paul Coletti. In 2000-2001, he performed to rave national reviews as violist in the quintet for the world premier of Philip Glass's opera, "In the Penal Colony". The orchestra consisted of a single string quintet that is on stage and in costume during the entire performance. After giving the world premier in Seattle, the production moved to Chicago and New York eventually giving approximately 115 performances. In the summer of 2002, Lieberman was co-host of the 30th International Viola Congress. The event which was later reviewed in both *Strings* and *Strad* magazines, was a showcase for over 40 of the most important and prestigious violists the world over. With well over 500 Congress participants, daily lectures, master classes, concerts, commercial and luthier exhibits, the event was a week-long celebration of the viola in our time. He has performed with the Los Angeles Opera, the Pacific Northwest Ballet, Northwest Sinfonietta, Oregon Symphony, the Maryland Symphony, the Bach Ensemble of Baltimore as an assistant principal and principal of the Cascadian Chorale and Seattle Choral Company. He has served on the faculty of the Cascade and Seattle Youth Symphonies and the Academy of Music Northwest. Currently, he lives in southern California with his wife and fellow violist, Helen Callus where he joined the Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra and plays regularly with the Santa Barbara Symphony and Opera Santa Barbara.

Michael Lim, violin

Michael Lim enjoys a dynamic musical career as a soloist, chamber musician, orchestral performer, recording artist, and teacher. Widely known for his work as co-founder of the renowned Corigliano Quartet, he is in demand as a chamber musician and as a performer of new and experimental music. He is a member of Open End, a new music and improvisatory group, and holds a first violin position in the American Ballet Theater Orchestra. Lim's solo engagements have included appearances with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the International Chamber Orchestra of Girona, Spain, the Indiana University Philharmonic, the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra as well as a performance in Weill Recital Hall for a tribute concert for celebrated American composer John Corigliano. As a member of the Corigliano Quartet, Lim has enjoyed critical acclaim across the U.S. and abroad and has won numerous awards, including the Grand Prize at the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition and the ASCAP/CMA Award for Adventurous Programming. The Corigliano Quartet has performed in the nation's leading music centers, including Carnegie Hall, Weill Recital Hall, and the Kennedy Center. Lim received his formal training at Indiana University, where he studied with the legendary violinist and teacher Josef Gingold. While at Indiana, he won First Prize in the school's Violin Concerto Competition and served on the faculty as a Visiting Lecturer. Lim later studied chamber music at the Juilliard School and taught there as an assistant to the Juilliard

String Quartet. He currently serves on the faculty of the Seattle Conservatory and has a private studio of violin and viola students. Lim has recorded for DreamWorks, Albany Records, CRI, Bayer Records, and Aguava New Music, and appears on numerous television and film soundtracks. He has been heard on NPR programs such as *Performance Today* and *All Things Considered*. Lim currently lives in Seattle with his wife, violist Melia Watras. He performs on a violin made by Tomaso Balestrieri in Cremona, Italy in 1774.

Peter Mack, piano

Irish pianist Peter Mack has been thrilling audiences in Seattle since he settled here in 1985. He has performed throughout the United States and Europe, as well as in Australia and the former Soviet Union. He is the winner of the New Orleans, Young Keyboard Artists and Pacific International Piano Competitions. His prize in the Sherman-Clay competition included a Steinway grand piano. Peter Mack is well known for his extensive repertoire, having performed twenty-five concertos with orchestras. A choral scholar at Trinity College Dublin, he went on to obtain a doctorate in piano performance from the University of Washington. His primary teachers were Frank Heneghan and Bela Siki. Dr. Mack is equally in demand as a performer, conference clinician and master teacher. Pupils of Peter Mack are frequent winners of local, national and international competitions. A professor of piano performance at Cornish College of the Arts in Seattle, Peter Mack is a Steinway Artist.

Roger Nelson, piano

A member of the Cornish faculty since 1979 and Chair from 1981 to 1983, Roger Nelson performs frequently as a pianist and conductor. He has conducted Minnesota Opera's New Music Theater Ensemble, George Coates Performance Works, SeeHear, and the Floating Opera on Puget Sound. He conducted the Bainbridge Orchestra from 1987 to 2000 and was the pianist with the New Performance Group from 1979 to 1997. Active as a composer, Nelson recently produced a book of 60 fiddle tunes for violin and piano, using a variety of styles and he was a visiting professor at Qufu Teachers University in China for the 97-98 academic year. Nelson earned a BA in Zoology from Pomona College and an MM in Choral Conducting from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and his early teachers were Adolph Baller and John Steele Ritter.

Saint Helens String Quartet

The Saint Helens String Quartet is the quartet in residence at Cornish College of the Arts and includes Michael Lim, violin, Adrianna Hulscher, violin, Michael Lieberman, viola and Paige Stockley Lerner, cello.

Nick Schwartz-Hall, Producing Director, Seattle Rep Theatre

Nick Schwartz-Hall is a producer, designer and production manager working with innovative approaches to live performance and new technology. He is currently the Producing Director of the Seattle Repertory Theatre, where he designed the World Premiere of Ariel Dorfman's *Purgatorio* last fall. Until recently he was a company member and production manager for the internationally-acclaimed performance company *Complicite* where he worked with Artistic Director Simon McBurney, to create *The Noise of Time* (with the Emerson String Quartet), *The Elephant Vanishes*, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (with Al Pacino), and *Strange Poetry* (with the Los Angeles Philharmonic). From 2001 -2003 he was the in-house production supervisor for the Harold Prince Organization, supervising Carol Burnett's *Hollywood Arms on Broadway*, and the musicals *3HREE* and *Bounce* by Stephen Sondheim. Beginning with The American Music Theater Festival's *CrossWaves Festival* in 1994, headlined by Graham Nash's World Premiere of *LifeSighs*, a multi-media, real-time interactive, live performance, co-produced with Silicon Graphics, he has worked with theatrical creators, dancers, musicians, designers and technologists to create new work in venues ranging from Grand Central Station to the West End, Off-off Broadway to Tokyo, art installations to industrials. From 1994-96 he was the General Manager of the American Music Theater Festival, developing innovative new works of music theater, and from 1997-2000 he was the Production Manager for The Public Theater/New York Shakespeare Festival. Since 2000, in addition to working with *Complicite* and Harold Prince, he has developed new work with Elizabeth Streb (*Action Heroes*), The Builders Association/*moti roti* (*Alladeen*), TheatreWorks Singapore (*Silver River*, an opera) and worked with a number of prominent Off-Broadway theater companies. His work is guided by the belief that utilizing new technology is not about imposing cutting-edge equipment on a performance, but about creating compelling content integrated appropriately with emergent techniques to communicate with audiences and facilitate the work of artists. Schwartz-Hall explores new realms of performance

and time-based art made possible by computer processing, video and graphic technology, 3-D sound imaging, animatronics, wireless communication, new scenic materials, various kinds of sensors, and physical performance. Now based in Seattle, he has toured with companies and artists nationally and internationally, and worked frequently in London in recent years.

Carol Shiffman, Chair, Cornish College of the Arts Music Department

Carol Shiffman, chair of the music department at Cornish College of the Arts for the past two years, has a broad multidisciplinary arts background. Prior to her work at Cornish, she was Executive Director of Centrum, a multi-arts presenting and education organization. There she developed new presenting programs, an artists retreat program, plus educational workshops and festivals in both visual and performing arts. She was a senior program officer at the California Arts Council for a decade, managing individual artist programs, arts education programs, and community arts programs. She has developed arts centers, music programs, and has taught in a number of colleges in both California and Washington. With a background originally in dance, she studied and performed in New York, Paris and Los Angeles, where she was Artistic Director of Momentum Dance Company and Momentum Arts Center.

Mikhail Shmidt, violin

Mikhail Shmidt was born in Moscow, Russia where he began his musical education at the age of five. When he was just fourteen, he became the winner of the International Chamber Music Competition "Concertino Prague." He graduated *cum laude* from Gnessin Institute of Music in 1987 and his major teachers were Halida Akhtiamova and Valentin Berlinsky of the celebrated Borodin Quartet. While still in college, Shmidt participated in the highly successful Gnessin String Quartet, winner of several national competitions. He also played in the State Symphony Orchestra, Moscow Radio String Quartet and was concertmaster of "Camerata Boccherini" Baroque Orchestra. One of the highlights of his Russian career was collaborating with Alfred Schnittke, one of the greatest contemporary composers. Since immigrating to the United States in 1989, Mikhail Shmidt has established himself as a leading chamber musician. He was a founding member of the Bridge Ensemble which recorded and toured successfully in the U.S. and Europe. As a guest violinist of the Moscow Piano Quartet he tours Europe annually, and his "remarkable musicianship" was hailed by Lisbon newspaper *Tempo*. Among the highlights of Shmidt's chamber music activities are his collaborations with such diverse and distinguished composers and musicians as Steve Reich, John Zorn, Bill Frisell, Wayne Horvitz, Giya Kancheli, Paul Schoenfield, Dmitri Sitkovetsky, Vadim Repin, and many others. Mikhail has recorded on Melodia, Delos, ECM, Tzadik, Six Degrees and Inova labels.

Tonya Siderius, piano

Tonya Siderius, a native of Seattle, Washington, is currently a doctoral student of piano performance at the University of Washington where she also received her masters degree, studying under pianist Craig Sheppard. In 2002, she was a national finalist in the MTNA/Steinway Piano Competition, and a semi-finalist in the Corpus Christi International Competition in Corpus Christi, Texas. She has performed as a soloist with several symphonies in Washington State, and was featured on the Northwest Chopin Foundation concert series. Siderius participated in the Heifetz International Music Institute and in The International Festival-Institute at Round Top in Texas.

Shannon Spicciati, oboe

Shannon Spicciati enjoys an active performance and teaching career in the Seattle/Tacoma area. She has played extensively with the Seattle Symphony on oboe and English horn, and has been featured as soloist with Seattle Symphony Orchestra on two occasions. She also performs locally with the Northwest Sinfonietta and Camas Quintet. Spicciati holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the University of Washington, having studied with Richard Killmer, Rebecca Henderson and Alex Klein. She is on the faculty of Pacific Lutheran University.

Paige Stockley Lerner, cello

Paige Stockley Lerner is the founder of the Saint Helens String Quartet and on the faculty of Cornish College of the Arts. In addition to her quartet work and teaching, Paige performs with the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra and the Auburn Symphony, and does recording work for movies and television. She is involved with the Seattle Chamber Music Society's outreach program, which introduces Seattle school children to chamber music. A former student of Toby Saks, Valentin Hirsu, Michael Haber, and Ardyth Alton, she received an M.M. degree at the

Manhattan School of Music in New York City. She spent a year in Krakow and Prague on a European Mozart Academy fellowship, returning to the States to serve as a teaching assistant at the University of Ohio in Akron. Paige Stockley Lerner has been a member of orchestras in Connecticut, Castille y Leon, Spain, and Mexico City, as well a freelancer in New York City.

Chris Stover, trombone

Seattle-based musician Chris Stover is quickly becoming known as one of the most innovative trombonists and composers on the creative music scene today. He leads the exciting quintet More Zero, the innovative latin jazz combo Duas Opiniões, the Chris Stover Quartet and the twelve-piece Acquired Involuntary Narcissism. He performs regularly with Frieze of Life, Sonando, the James Knapp Orchestra, Quake, Quasi Nada, and many others. Stover has toured in the US, Canada, South America, Europe, and Africa with Pablo Moses and Apple Gabriel. He appears on over thirty recordings, and his compositions have been performed in the US, Europe, and Japan. Chris Stover holds a DMA in trombone performance from the University of Washington and a Masters degree from the Eastman School of Music. In addition to a thorough background in jazz and classical music, he has studied the music of Brazil, Cuba, and Zimbabwe extensively and much of his work reflects these musical influences.

Paul Taub, flute

Paul Taub is Professor of Music at Cornish College of the Arts where he has been faculty since 1979. Taub was trained at Rutgers University and the California Institute of the Arts where his teachers included Marcel Moyse, Samuel Baron, Michel Debost and Robert Aitken. A founding member of Seattle Chamber Players, Taub has had a strong musical presence in the Seattle chamber music scene as a member of the New Performance Group, Sonora and Taneko. He has recently formed duo partnerships with Seattle guitarist Michael Partington, pianists Jovino Santos Neto and Byron Schenkman. He is an active soloist and recitalist, with extensive work in American, Soviet/Russian, and international contemporary repertoire. Taub has appeared in venues throughout the United States, Western Canada, Southern France, and Russia, Ukraine and Lithuania. He has given world and US premieres of music by Henry Brant, John Cage, George Crumb, Janice Giteck, Sofia Gubaidulina, Toru Takemitsu, Peteris Vasks and many others. His program of twelve pieces commissioned for his twentieth anniversary in Seattle in 1999 was performed in Seattle in Benaroya Hall's first flute recital and reprised in Atlanta and New York. Oo-ee, the CD of this repertoire, is available on the Periplum label. He is the Chairman of the New Music Advisory Committee of the National Flute Association and a member of the Program Committee for Chamber Music America.

Amos Yang, cello

Amos Yang is a member of the Seattle Symphony and has performed as soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States, the Far East and Europe, including Aspen Music Festival, the American Academy in Rome, Wigmore Hall and Alice Tully Hall. He has collaborated with chamber musicians such as the Ying Quartet, pianists Ann Schein and Melvin Chen, violinist Earl Carlyss, and composer Bright Sheng. Yang's awards include the Eastman School of Music's highest honor, the Performer's Certificate, and first prizes in both the American String Teacher's Association and Grace Vamos competitions. He was finalist in the Pierre Fournier International Cello Competition, and for outstanding musical contribution, was awarded the CD Jackson Prize at the Tanglewood Music Festival. As cellist of the Maia String Quartet from 1996-2002, Yang was involved in many educational programs, performing throughout the country for schools under the auspices of such organizations as Arts Excel, Young Audiences Inc. and the Midori Foundation. During this time he also served on the faculties of the Peabody Conservatory, the University of Iowa, Grinnell College, and the Interlochen Advanced String Quartet Institute. Yang holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Juilliard School of Music and his primary teachers have included Irene Sharp, Channing Robbins, Paul Katz, and Steven Doane.

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