



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2006

BY CRUMB!

Friday, April 7, 8 pm

Saint Helens String Quartet members Paige Stockley Lerner and Adrianna Hulscher are joined by percussionist Gunnar Folsom and pianists Oana Rusu-Tomai and Oksana Ezhokina, playing the works of renowned composer George Crumb.

PONCHO Concert Hall, 710 East Roy Street, Seattle

Tickets: \$15 general, \$7.50 students, seniors & Cornish College alumni.

Purchase tickets through Ticket Window: 206.325.6500, www.ticketwindowonline.com

or in person at Ticket Window's box offices located in the Pike Place Market, Broadway Market, and Bellevue's Meydenbauer Center.

For information, please call 206.726.5011 or email events@cornish.edu

SEATTLE, WA – Cornish College of the Arts is pleased to present **By Crumb!** a concert by members of the Saint Helens String Quartet and guests performing the works of renowned composer George Crumb. The concert will take place on Friday, April 7, at 8 pm in Cornish College's PONCHO Concert Hall, located at 710 East Roy Street in Seattle.

The program features cellist Paige Stockley Lerner and violinist Adrianna Hulscher, both members of the Saint Helens String Quartet, joined by percussionist Gunnar Folsom and pianists Oana Rusu-Tomai and Oksana Ezhokina. Three of the evening's performers, Paige Stockley Lerner, Adrianna Hulscher and Oksana Ezhokina are members of the Cornish Music Department Faculty.

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The program will include the *Dream Sequence (Images II)* for violin, piano, cello, percussion and glass harmonica, *4 Nocturnes (Night Music 2)* for violin and piano and *Zeitgeist* for two pianos. From the meditative nature of *Dream Sequence* to the more exploratory tenor of *Zeitgeist*, the works featured in this evening's program offer a sampling of some of George Crumb's best loved compositions. In the words of George Crumb himself, describing *Zeitgeist*, these works embody "the quest for a new kind of musical primitivism... an obsession with more minimalistic ... modes of expression; the desire to reconcile and synthesize the rich heritage of our classical Western music with the wonderfully vibrant ethnic and classical music of the non-Western world; and, finally, our intense involvement with acoustical phenomena and the bewitching appeal of timbre as a potentially structural element."

Taking its inspiration from the exquisite rugged natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest, the **Saint Helens String Quartet** embraces a sense of musical adventure, exploring an often uncharted sonic territory in which contemporary classical music intersects with genres including jazz, pop, rock, folk and world music. Like the world-renowned Kronos Quartet, the Saint Helens String Quartet brings classical training to a dynamic, cutting-edge sensibility, creating music that extends the boundaries of the ear and defines a truly American sound. Called the "Saint Helens adventurous four" by *Seattle Weekly*, the group makes a practice of commissioning and performing works by local composers, including Ken Benshoof, which the Saint Helens String Quartet premiered at Seattle's Benaroya Hall. The quartet recently served a four-year appointment as Thelma Lehmann Ensemble-in-Residence at Cornish College of the Arts, performing at the College and working with composition students writing for the string quartet.

A recipient of two grants from Seattle's 4Culture, the Saint Helens String Quartet can be heard frequently on KUOW's *The Beat* with Dave Beck. In November of 2004, the quartet recorded New York composer Joe Diebes' *Phantom String Quartet #2*, which appeared as an audio art installation at the Jack Straw New Media Gallery in Seattle. The quartet regularly plays works of such composers as Jovino Santos Neto, Shostakovich, Schnittke, Ken Benshoof, Hendrix, Schickele, Thomas Oboe Lee, Janice Giteck, John Cage, Arvo Part, Aulis Salinas, the Beatles, Philip Glass, Gorecki, and Herbolsheimer. Currently in development: A new music-theatre piece based on Czech composer Erwin Schulhoff's 2nd String Quartet and inspired by the composer's life, a concert featuring John Adam's "Gnarly Buttons" for the Seattle Symphony's "Made in America Festival" May 20, and Jennifer Higdon's String Quartet, "Southern Harmony".

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ABOUT CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Cornish College of the Arts is the premier, accredited arts college in the Northwest, inspiring the highest standards of artistic and academic excellence. Founded in 1914 by Nellie Cornish, Cornish College is the only private, accredited college in the region offering baccalaureate degrees in visual and performing arts. Cornish College offers a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in art, dance, design, theater and performance production. Cornish College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

Over the years, Cornish has hosted a parade of important artists in the roles of students, teachers or as visiting artists-in-residence, including John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham, Ping Chong, Kenny Werner, Obo Addy, Mark Morris, Meredith Monk, Rinde Eckert, Bebe Miller, Ruth St. Denis, Ted Shawn, Robin Holcomb, Chet Huntley, Syvilla Fort, Ralph Towner, Thornton Wilder, Lou Harrison, Bill Frisell, Morris Graves, Jane Ira Bloom, Kraig Patterson, Musicians Accord, Bun Ching Lam, Brendan Fraser, Myra Melford, Sharon Isbin, Joanne Brackeen, Oliver Lake, California Ear Unit, Colorado Quartet, and Gary Peacock, among others.

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