



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 18, 2005

**COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT: THE MUSIC OF LAURA KAMINSKY**

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Friday, April 1, 8 pm

Performances by Cornish faculty members of works by former music department chair, Laura Kaminsky. Program will include the world premiere of "Music for Thelma," dedicated to longtime Cornish supporter Thelma Lehmann.

PONCHO Concert Hall, 710 East Roy Street, Seattle

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

Tickets can be purchased through Ticket Window at 206.325.6500, [www.ticketwindowonline.com](http://www.ticketwindowonline.com) or in person at Ticket Window's box offices located in the Pike Place Market, Harvard Market, and Bellevue's Meydenbauer Center.

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SEATTLE, WA – Cornish College of the Arts is proud to present a concert by innovative composer **Laura Kaminsky**, who served as Chair of the Department of Music at Cornish from 1999-2004. Kaminsky returns to Seattle from her home in New York City for a performance of her work on Friday, April 1st in PONCHO Concert Hall.

The program features the world premiere of *Music for Thelma*. Kaminsky composed this work in honor of Thelma Lehmann, a passionate supporter of Cornish College, and of the arts in Seattle. *Music for Thelma* is a show of admiration, affection and respect, and a tribute to all of Thelma Lehmann's years of dedication, creativity and support.

Kaminsky's work will be performed by a host of her former colleagues: Faculty musicians Oksana Ezhokina, Roger Nelson and Beth Winter, Music Faculty/Alumni Dawn Clement and Alumni Tiffany Lin. *Music for Thelma* will be performed by Adrianna Hulscher, violin and Oksana Ezhokina, piano. *Transformations II* will be performed by the Saint Helens String Quartet, currently in their third season as the Thelma-Lehmann-Ensemble-in-Residence at the College. The program will also include *Triftmusik* with Tiffany Lin on piano; a duo with Sally Singer, cello and Oksana Ezhokina, piano; and *Rise, My Love* with Dawn Clement, piano and Beth Winter, voice.

Currently, **Laura Kaminsky** is Director of the Conservatory of Music at Purchase College, SUNY (State University of New York). Her compositions have been performed across the U.S. and abroad, including West Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Ms. Kaminsky has received numerous commissions, fellowships, and awards as a composer and presenter, including from the NEA, NYSCA, Copland Fund, Chamber Music America, Artist Trust, Seattle Arts Commission, PONCHO, Jordan Foundation, Jack Straw Productions, Virgil Thomson Foundation, Allen Foundation, King County Arts Commission, Serage Foundation, and Meet The Composer.

Laura Kaminsky received her B.A. from Oberlin College, and her Master's in Music from the City College of New York. She is also Co-founder and Artistic Director of Musicians Accord, a new music collective based in New York and dedicated to 20th and 21st century chamber music. Musicians Accord has commissioned and/or premiered over 100 new works, has recorded for the Mode, CRI and North/South labels, and has been ensemble-in-residence at the City College of New York since 1984.

Previously, Kaminsky served as Vice President for Programs at Meet the Composer, Director of the European Mozart Academy in Poland (an international post-graduate chamber music program); and in New York as Director of Music and Theater Programs at The New School, Artistic Director of The Town Hall, and Associate Director of Education at the 92nd Street Y.

*Transformations II: Music for a Changing World* was commissioned by the Odeon String Quartet and received its world premiere on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at Nordstrom Hall at Benaroya Hall in Seattle. The commission was supported by grants from the King County Arts Commission, the Seattle Arts Commission and Artist Trust. A one-movement work of approximately 17 minutes duration, *Transformations II* is an intense, emotionally charged, often gritty piece, reflective of the times in which it was written, but without a specific narrative. Kaminsky's compositional challenge was to write an extended one-movement work that was organically conceived.

#### **ABOUT CORNISH COLLEGE OF THE ARTS**

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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. Uniquely, Cornish College provides a rigorous educational environment for the cultivation of technical mastery, artistic integrity and practical knowledge. The faculty at Cornish is comprised of practicing master artists and professional educators, renowned in their respective fields. The college maintains a low student to faculty ratio, allowing for individualized teaching and mentoring. 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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