



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 14, 2005

UNITY AND DIVERSITY IN RELIGION AND CULTURE PROJECT

Saint Helens String Quartet and Peter Mack, Piano

SEATTLE, WA – Cornish College of the Arts is pleased to announce the featured cultural event of the *Conference on Unity and Diversity in Religion and Culture*, a concert including compositions and performances by several longtime Cornish Music faculty. Works by Janice Giteck, Laura Kaminsky, Henry Cowell and Arvo Part will be performed by the Saint Helens String Quartet with Peter Mack, piano.

The *Conference on Unity and Diversity in Religion and Culture* will focus on the psychological and philosophical issues underlying global conflict, and takes place in Seattle, January 27-30. The aim of the conference series is to develop a “new paradigm of communication,” a new way of understanding the problems facing humanity. The musical program features works composed after a political theme, which seek to explore the idea of the political space we occupy today.

Saturday, January 29, 8 pm

Unity and Diversity in Religion and Culture Project

Saint Helens String Quartet & Peter Mack, piano

Works by Janice Giteck, Laura Kaminsky, Henry Cowell and Arvo Part;

The Program includes: Janice Giteck’s *Where can we live safely then? In surrender*, Henry Cowell’s *United Quartet*, Laura Kaminsky’s *Transformations II: Music for a Changing World*, Arvo Part’s *Fratres* and World premiere of *childsworld* by Bern Herbolzheimer, commissioned by Cornish College in partnership with the UNESCO Chair on Comparative Studies of Spiritual Traditions.

Saint Helens String Quartet: Michael Lim, violin; Adrianna Hulscher, violin; Michael Lieberman, viola; Paige Stockley, cello.

Benaroya Hall, Nordstrom Recital Hall, 200 University Street, Seattle

Tickets: Adults \$15, students/seniors \$8 via Ticketmaster: 206-292-ARTS or www.ticketmaster.com

THE PROGRAM

Janice Giteck: *Where can we live safely then? In surrender*

Henry Cowell: *United String Quartet #4*

Laura Kaminsky: *Transformations II: Music for a Changing World*

Arvo Part: *Fratres*

Bern Herbolsheimer: *childsworld*

“Where can we live safely then? In surrender is based on the haunting, nearly limp, modal cantus firmus from "Gradus ad Parnasum: Study of Counterpoint" by Johannes Fux (1725). With due respect to Fux's genius in mastering and codifying *common practice* polyphony, my use here, of his five-tone dorian mantra is in meditation on the present unraveling of western culture,” explains Janice Giteck. “Rather than aspiring to greater *independence of voices*, I explore the question, would we now be better off, kinder, healthier, had we remained a more tribal people, less differentiated? The title is an exquisitely perceptive line from Islamic poet-saint Jelaluddin Rumi, born in Afghanistan, 1207.”

Janice Giteck (b. 1946, New York) is the composer of Emiko Omori's feature film-memoir *Rabbit in the Moon* which received both national Emmy and Sundance awards in 1999; *Tikkun-Mending* (2000), for tenor and orchestra; and *Navigating the Light* (2001), a collaboration with Seattle poet Judith Roche based on the lives of inmates at Echo Glen Children's Center (Washington State Correctional Center). Other concert-music commissions include those for the San Francisco Symphony, Bang on a Can Festival in New York, Thamyris of Atlanta, and Relache of Philadelphia and, currently, the Seattle Chamber Players. She has scored three award-winning films by Pat Ferrero and is recorded on CD for Mode, New Albion, Periplum, PBS, Wabi Sabi, Hearts and Hands, and Persistent Visions films. Her works have been performed and broadcast throughout the US, Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and India. She has received funding from Meet The Composer, NEA, NEH, Seattle Arts Commission, California Arts Council, Lila Wallace, Djerassi and Gerbode Foundations, the French government. Janice Giteck is included in *New Groves of Music*, *American Music in the 20th Century* among others and holds a BA and MA in Composition from Mills College and an MA in Psychology from Antioch University. She attended the Paris Conservatory; primary teachers include Darius Milhaud, Olivier Messiaen and Rebecca Weinstock.

Yet another true American maverick, **Henry Cowell** was born in Menlo Park, California, in 1897. With his parents divorced, and his mother ill with cancer, Cowell was forced at an early age to help support his family with odd jobs as a janitor, selling wildflowers, and as a cowhand. He was also a gifted pupil with an enormous vocabulary and extraordinary piano and compositional skills but whose early formal education ended with the third grade. In 1925, Cowell founded the Society for New Music to promote contemporary music, and inaugurated the publication *New Music* two years later. Cowell was a study in extremes – a true experimentalist, he also respected traditional music from across the globe, a dissonant composer and the inventor of “clusters,” he also wrote singable tunes and consonant melodies.

Laura Kaminsky's works performed have been performed across the US and abroad, including West Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America. She has received numerous commissions, fellowships, and awards as a composer and presenter, including awards from the NEA, NYSCA, Copland Fund, Chamber Music America, ASCAP, Artist Trust, Seattle Arts Commission, PONCHO, Allen Foundation, King County Arts Commission, Jordan Family Foundation, Serage Foundation, Meet The Composer, Thomson Foundation and others, and has held residencies in a number of artist communities. Her music is recorded on the Mode and CRI labels. She received her BA from Oberlin College, and her M.A. in Music Composition from the City College of New York. Currently Chair of the Conservatory of Music at Purchase College in New York, Laura is also Co-founder and Artistic Director of Musicians Accord, a New York-based new music collective. Prior to Purchase, Kaminsky served as Chair of the Music Department at Cornish. She was also Director of the European Mozart Academy in Poland, an international post-graduate chamber music institute; and served as Vice President for Programs at Meet the Composer, 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, all in New York, her native city.

Like the American Harry Partch, Estonian composer **Arvo Part** (b. 1935, Estonia) looks to music of past centuries for new inspiration. After experimenting with serial composition and working as a film composer and recording engineer, Part retreated from music in the late 1960s. He immersed himself in the works of Bach and the traditions of Gregorian chant and Russian Orthodox music. He re-emerged with *Fratres*, composed in 1977, regarded as the first of his works reflecting a deep spirituality. Noting its religious underpinnings, and its similarity to works of Steve Reich and Philip Glass, some critics have called his music "holy minimalism". In a rare interview the reclusive composer has said of *Fratres*: "My music looks simpler on the page than it is in reality. Musicians must put their souls into it, and this frightens them - as though they were standing in front of a mirror and seeing their true selves."

Bern Herbolsheimer has been on the Cornish faculty for 30 years. His works include operas, ballets, much choral and vocal music, orchestral music as well as chamber music. Two CDs of his choral music are being released this spring by Opus 7 and by the Cascadian Singers.

Details of the *Conference on Unity and Diversity in Religion and Culture* are available at www.networkforpeace.org

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. 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.