



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 9, 2004

**Wayne Horvitz**

***I. Whispers, Hymns and a Murmur***

for String Quartet, Electronic and Improvisor

Misha Schmidt, violin; Ami Campbell, violin; Heather Bentley, viola;

Amos Yang, cello; Eyvind Kang, soloist

***II. Duets***

Wayne Horvitz, piano; Eyvind Kang, viola

**Tuesday, March 23 at 8 pm**

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Raisbeck Performance Hall, Ned & Kayla Skinner Theater (*Please note, the concert has been relocated.*)  
2015 Boren Avenue, Seattle

Tickets: \$12; \$6 for students and seniors; free to the Cornish College community.

For tickets, please contact Ticket Window at 206.325.6500 or [www.ticketwindowonline.com](http://www.ticketwindowonline.com)

*Open Rehearsal and Question and Answer Session*

*Monday, March 22, beginning at 4:30 pm; Raisbeck Performance Hall; free and open to the public.*

For information, please call 206.726.5011.

SEATTLE, WA – Cornish College of the Arts is pleased to present Wayne Horvitz’ *Whispers, Hymns and a Murmur*, part of a series of composed works for chamber ensemble that include a component for improviser. The musical structure alternates between short movements for the quartet alone and interludes with electronic processing of the quartet over which the featured improviser, Eyvind Kang, plays. The second half of the program will be a series of duet improvisations with Eyvind Kang and Wayne Horvitz.

“The title *Whispers, Hymns and a Murmur* comes out of my research into the life and times of labor activist Joe Hill and the Industrial Workers of the World, and the appropriation of traditional sacred music for their own secular means,” Wayne Horvitz explains. “Many of these songs and poems were critiques of how the church was used by the great powers to appease the common man. Given what is being done currently in the name of the holy this seems as resonant today as at any time.”

Horvitz continues: “Compositionally, some American hymns of the early 1900’s will be used as source material. I see this piece as an offshoot of my larger project *Joe Hill*, written for chamber orchestra and voice. In the larger work I am more slave to the dictates of the story line and text. *Whispers, Hymns and a Murmur* will explore in more depth the more strictly musical material.”

Funding for this concert was provided by the City of Seattle Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs City Artist Program.

*Images available upon request.*

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## Biographies

**Wayne Horvitz** is a composer, pianist, and electronic musician who has performed extensively throughout Europe, Asia, Australia, and North America. He has performed and collaborated with Bill Frisell, Butch Morris, John Zorn, Robin Holcomb, Fred Frith, Julian Priester, Philip Wilson, Michael Shrieve, Bobby Previte, Marty Ehrlich and Carla Bley, among others. He has been commissioned by the NEA, Meet The Composer, the Kronos Quartet, Seattle Chamber Players, Mary Flagler, BAM and others. Collaborations with choreographers include work with Paul Taylor and the White Oak Dance Project and the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange. Film work includes music and sound design for three PBS specials and Gus Van Sandts' *Psycho*. He is the 2001 recipient of the Seattle Artist Trust Fellowship and the 2002 recipient of the Rockefeller Map Grant. Works for theater include the world premier of Harold Pinter's *Mountain Language*, directed by Carey Perloff and the ACT production of *Death of a Salesman*, directed by Gordon Edelstein. He has produced CDs for Eddie Palmieri, Fontella Bass, Robin Holcomb and Bill Frisell, among others.

**Eyvind Kang** leads many projects, and has recorded and toured with the Bill Frisell Quartet, Robin Holcomb, The Secret Chiefs, Beck, Mr. Bungle, Blonde Redhead and John Zorn. He has two CDs on the Tzadic label. Eyvind graduated from Cornish College of the Arts in 1992.

**Misha Shmidt, violin**, was born in Moscow and attended a music school for gifted children from the age of six. Since moving to Seattle in 1991 to join the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, he has established himself as a leading chamber musician of the Pacific Northwest. A founding member of The Bridge Ensemble and the Seattle Chamber Players, he has also been a guest artist with the Moscow Piano Quartet, touring Europe frequently, including stops in Germany, Spain and Portugal.

**Heather Bentley, violist**, is an active chamber musician in the Seattle area, and has performed for many seasons at the Olympic Music Festival, with the Seattle Chamber Players, at numerous series such as the Belle Arte, ArtsWest, Second City, and most recently as a new member of the Odeon String Quartet. She has appeared as viola soloist with the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra and the Northwest Sinfonietta, as well as with several regional community orchestras. She is Conductor of the Northwest School Chamber Orchestra.

### **Ami Campbell, violin**

Originally from Portland, Oregon, Ami studied violin at the Juilliard School and Indiana University. Before moving to Seattle in 2001, she held positions in the Saint Louis Symphony and the Colorado Symphony in Denver. Currently, Ami is a member of the Seattle Symphony.

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**Amos Yang, cello**

Cellist Amos Yang is a multi-faceted artist, comfortable in a variety of musical settings from his position in the Seattle Symphony to orchestral soloist. Yang has performed as soloist and chamber musician in major concert halls throughout the United States, the Far East and Europe, including Harris Hall of the Aspen Music Festival, the American Academy in Rome, Wigmore Hall and Alice Tully Hall. He has collaborated with noted chamber musicians such as the Ying Quartet, pianists Ann Schein and Melvin Chen, violinist Earl Carlyss, and composer Bright Sheng. Yang's numerous 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 also a 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. His primary teachers have included Irene Sharp, Channing Robbins, Paul Katz, Steven Doane and Joel Krosnick. Yang now resides in Seattle, Washington with his wife Alicia, where they enjoy the diversity and beauty of the Pacific Northwest. He plays on an 18<sup>th</sup> century cello made by Thomas Dodd, currently being loaned to him.

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**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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