

# ECCE

EAST COAST CONTEMPORARY ENSEMBLE  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The East Coast Contemporary Ensemble will perform its final concert of the year at Christ St. Stephen's Church on Thursday, May 7th, 2009 at 8PM. The concert is being sponsored by grants from the American Composers Forum and Clark University.

Through the 2008-09 season, ECCE has continued to promote exciting new composers and works by established figures whose works are not often programmed on American concert seasons. On the upcoming concert works of Beat Furrer, Luis Karchin and Gerard Grisey find a balanced presentation with new works by John Aylward, Wes Matthews and Paul Lombardi, revealing European and American sensibilities that deal with boundaries between pitch, timbre and atmospheric noises.

Gerard Grisey, *Charme* (1969), for clarinet solo.

Paul Lombardi's *Acquiesce* (2008), duo for violin and cello.

Wes Matthews, new work (2008), for piano trio\*.

Lou Karchin, *Three Epigrams* (2008), piano\*.

John Aylward's *Accord Reciproque* (2008), duo for violin and cello\*.

Beat Furrer, *Aer* (1991), for clarinet, violoncello and piano.

\*world premieres

Grisey noted about *Charme*, "...it is an open artwork, specific sections provide a basis for free interpretation by the instrumentalist...two sonic personalities are on a search of a metamorphosis." Lombardi's *Acquiesce* is a work for which ECCE won an American Composers Forum Encore Grant to perform. ECCE has had the pleasure of performing Lombardi's string duo all season. The May 7th concert will be ECCE final performance sponsored by the ACF Encore Grant. Aylward's duo merges the vibrant rhythmic interaction between two string instruments into a kaleidoscopic shimmer of harmonics. *Accord Reciproque* is a work dedicated to Elliott Carter, a composer who has greatly guided and influenced Aylward's work. He finished the work last year in celebration of Carter's 100th birthday. Matthews' new work *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* for piano trio promises to be a contemplative and rigorously composed commentary on post-minimalist influences. Matthews' previous works have featured delicate and spacious textures, always with a sincere and thoughtful harmonic palette. Our premiere of Wes's new work will aspire to bring out these meditative qualities.

A quasi ambient quality emerges in Furrer's *Aer*. Inside piano playing, pitch-less clarinet figurations and saltandi in the cello give this piece a subtle yet relentless air. Karchin's *Three Epigrams* were commissioned for an upcoming festival in Venice, Italy. The work pays homage to two important Venetians, the composer Luigi Nono, and the painter Emilio Vedova.

The 2008-9 season has been a banner year for ECCE, not only in its continued success in sophisticated programming, but in its partnership with the Virginia Center for Creative Arts to create a new music festival in Auvillar, France. The festival, Etchings, will take place from June 2nd – 9th and will feature the work of 7 composers who will also participate in lessons and masterclasses with guest composers John Aylward and David Rakowski.

ECCE's concert this May 7th will bring about more awareness of the ensemble's work in France and its upcoming 2009-10 season. Admission is \$15, and \$10 for students and seniors.