



For more information and media requests, contact:
Adam Fong, Associate Director, Other Minds: (415) 934-8134, adam@otherminds.org
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OTHER MINDS NEW MUSIC SÉANCE

Returns for 3rd year to Swedenborgian Church
Saturday, December 6, 2008, at 1pm, 4pm and 8pm

Tribute to Ruth Crawford to highlight hypnotic candlelit music marathon

San Francisco, CA, October 20, 2008 — Other Minds invented the **New Music Séance** in 2005, and after two sold-out editions will produce the third marathon event in December of 2008. In association with the Swedenborgian Church and Pro Piano, Other Minds presents the **New Music Séance** on December 6, 2008. The event will feature three concerts of hypnotic, spiritual and rarely-heard musical gems spanning the past 100 years, offered in the intimate candlelit surroundings of Bernard Maybeck's 1895 Arts and Crafts-style Swedenborgian Church in San Francisco. Performers Sarah Cahill (piano), Kate Stenberg (violin), and Eva-Maria Zimmermann (piano) will channel new music's progenitors alongside composers of today, in works for solo piano and violin-piano duet.

The Other Minds **New Music Séance** marathon features three distinct concerts on Saturday, December 6, 2008: Concert I, "Birds in Warped Time" at 1pm; Concert II, "Deep River Dreams" at 4pm; and Concert III, "Ruth Crawford and Her Milieu" at 8pm. The final concert will be preceded by a special discussion of Ruth Crawford by Professor Judith Tick of Northeastern University, Crawford's biographer. All events take place at Swedenborgian Church, 2107 Lyon Street, San Francisco. Tickets are on a sliding scale (individual concerts / 3-concert series): SEER (\$25 / \$65), MEDIUM (\$40 / \$110), PSYCHIC (\$60 / \$170). Complimentary refreshments are provided for all ticket-holders, and series tickets at the PSYCHIC level include 6pm buffet dinner with the artists. The first two editions of the New Music Séance were sold out, and seating is limited to 100 persons per show, so early ticket purchase is recommended. **Tickets are on sale now, at www.BrownPaperTickets.com or by calling (800) 838-3006.** For information, visit otherminds.org or call (415) 934-8134.

The **New Music Séance** concerts this year will pay homage to Ruth Crawford Seeger (1901–1953), the pioneering American composer and folk music specialist, with performances of her works *Sonata for Violin and Piano* (1924), *Study in Mixed Accents* (1920) and selections from *Nine Preludes* (1927–28). The program will also include works by her influences, contemporaries and successors, such as Alexander Scriabin, Henry Cowell, Dane Rudhyar, Lou Harrison and Johanna Beyer. The three-concert program also features world premiere performances by Sarah Cahill of works for solo piano by composers Ingram Marshall, Mamoru Fujieda and Oakland's Steed Cowart, rarely-heard duets for violin and piano by Somei Satoh, Berkeley's Gabriela Lena Frank and Grazyna Bacewicz, and other treasures by composers including Tan Dun, Luciano Berio, Per Nørgård, Samuel Barber, Meredith Monk, and Olivier Messiaen, in recognition of the centenary of his birth.

Produced by Other Minds Artistic Director Charles Amirkhanian, the three concerts in the **New Music Séance** feature 33 compositions by 23 different composers, written between 1902 and 2008. The marathon of otherworldly music will take place in the Swedenborgian Church, named for Emmanuel Swedenborg (1688–1772), a scientist and mystic philosopher who taught Emerson, Blake, Coleridge and Schoenberg. The church, an intimate and rustic venue, features a wood-burning fireplace and hundreds of candles to illuminate the performances.

Other Minds New Music Séance Musicians

SARAH CAHILL, PIANO

Sarah Cahill, recently called “as tenacious and committed an advocate as any composer could dream of” by Joshua Kosman of the San Francisco Chronicle, has commissioned, premiered, and recorded numerous compositions for solo piano. Composers who have dedicated music to her include John Adams, Terry Riley, Frederic Rzewski, Pauline Oliveros, Andrea Morricone, and Evan Ziporyn, and she has also premiered pieces by Lou Harrison, Julia Wolfe, Ingram Marshall, Toshi Ichiyanagi, Ursula Mamlok, George Lewis, Leo Ornstein, and many others.

Cahill is particularly fascinated by how the early 20th-Century American modernists have influenced composers working today. She has explored these musical lineages in numerous concert programs, the most ambitious being a three-day festival celebrating the centennial of Henry Cowell in 1997. For the 2001 centennial of Ruth Crawford Seeger, she commissioned seven composers, all women, to write short homage pieces, which she has performed at Merkin Hall, Dartmouth College, the Cincinnati Conservatory, and at Hampshire College in Amherst. Her newest project, *A Sweeter Music*, features eighteen commissions on the theme of peace, and will premiere on January 25, 2009 at Hertz Hall in the Cal Performances series, with future performances at New Sounds Live at Merkin Hall and other venues across the country. She enjoys working closely with composers, musicologists, and scholars to prepare scores for performance.

She has performed at the Miller Theatre and Cooper Union in New York, the Other Minds Festival, Pacific Crossings Festival in Tokyo, at the Spoleto Festival USA, and at the Nuovi Spazi Musicali festival in Rome. Cahill and pianist Joseph Kubera appear frequently as a duo; they premiered a set of four-hand pieces by Terry Riley at UCLA’s Royce Hall, and have performed them at the Triptych Festival in Scotland and at Roulette in New York.

Most of Cahill’s albums are on the New Albion label. She has also recorded for the Other Minds, Tzadik, CRI, New World, Albany, Cold Blue, and Artifact labels. Her radio show “Then & Now” can be heard every Sunday evening from 8 to 10 pm on KALW 91.7 FM.

KATE STENBERG, VIOLIN

Violinist Kate Stenberg's career as a soloist and chamber musician has spanned a broad spectrum of styles with particular emphasis on contemporary music. She has performed throughout the U.S. and Europe and currently is most active as first violinist of the Del Sol String Quartet, whose recent accomplishments have won them two ASCAP first prizes for Adventurous Programming for Contemporary Music. She also plays on occasion with the San Francisco Symphony, the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra and the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players and was a founding member of Left Coast, a San Francisco-based contemporary music ensemble. As soloist, she has given world and U.S. premieres of works by Ronald Bruce Smith, Henning Christiansen, Josef Matthias Hauer, Pelle Gudmundsen-Holmgreen, and Charles Amirkhanian.

Stenberg is first violinist with Del Sol on the widely hailed world premiere recording of the complete string quartets of George Antheil, a compilation "Ring of Fire," with composers from around the Pacific Rim, and on a forthcoming CD of the unpublished string quartets of Marc Blitzstein, all for Other Minds Records. She also has recorded with Ali Akbar Khan, Stratos and the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players. Stenberg's history with Other Minds dates to our first festival where she performed music by Julia Wolfe at Other Minds 1 (1993), and she has appeared subsequently at five other OM Festivals. In addition, her festival performances include Centre Acanthes, The Banff Centre, Sandpoint, the Music Academy of the West and Tanglewood. Stenberg trained with Gunther Schuller (Sandpoint Festival), Elliott Carter (Festival Acanthes, Avignon) and Leon Fleisher (Tanglewood). has performed chamber music with Bonnie Hampton and Joan Jeanrenaud, and played under the direction of Leonard Bernstein, Seiji Ozawa, and Michael Tilson Thomas.

A native of Northern California raised in a dynamic family of professional musicians, Stenberg is a graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and received her Master's Degree from the Eastman School of Music where she also served on the violin faculty. She also has taught at the University of San Francisco and continues to teach privately. In her spare time she enjoys Tai Chi Chuan and hiking.

EVA-MARIA ZIMMERMANN, PIANO

Swiss pianist Eva-Maria Zimmermann maintains a career on two continents through performances that are “breathtakingly intense” (Der Bund, Switzerland) and “brilliant and sensitive” (Berner Oberländer). Her solo appearances include recitals as well as concerto performances with major symphony orchestras such as the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. Winner of the prestigious Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship, Zimmermann has appeared at international festivals in Israel, the US and Europe including the Festival Piano en Saintonge in France, the Sommerfestspiele Murten in Switzerland, the Yerba Buena International Music Festival and the Other Minds Festival of New Music in San Francisco. Zimmermann has studied with many distinguished musicians such as Leon Fleisher, György Sebök, Leonard Hokanson and Dominique Merlet. She graduated with highest honors from the Conservatory of Geneva.

Zimmermann is a musician of broad interests and in addition to her solo appearances devotes herself to chamber music, lieder recitals, and teaching. Her partnership in ChamberBridge with soprano Lara Bruckmann includes both concertizing and the production of an annual one-day festival celebrating the work and compositional lineage of a selected 20th/21st-Century composer (2008 – ChamberBridge: Messiaen Illuminated). Other collaborations include projects with the Del Sol String Quartet (Del Sol – Del Seoul: premiers of Korean women composers in Seoul) and bass-baritone René Perler (Festival du Lied, Fribourg, Switzerland). Zimmermann was a founding member of the award winning Charmillon Piano Quartet. Many of her chamber music and lieder recitals have been broadcasted in Swiss Radio DRS2 and Radio de la Suisse Romande. As an educator, Zimmermann has been a faculty member of the University of San Francisco and currently teaches in the music program at the Nueva School in Hillsborough, CA, which was founded by Sir Yehudi Menuhin.

Zimmermann spent her early childhood in Indonesia, where her parents were Peace Corps workers. Being exposed to different cultures and languages from very early on has greatly enhanced her understanding of diverse styles of music and art. Zimmermann currently lives in San Francisco where she pursues her career while raising a family.

About Other Minds

Other Minds, a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in San Francisco, is dedicated to the encouragement and propagation of contemporary music in all its forms. Projects include the annual Other Minds Festival, Other Minds Records, Other Minds New Music Séance Concerts, “Music From Other Minds” on KALW 91.7-FM, and the History of New Music Preservation Project, making content from the Other Minds Archive available for free on the web at radiOM.org.

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