



S O U T H W E S T
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The Voice of New Classical Music Southwest Chamber Music 2009-2010 Season

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS:

Opening Night Benefit – Previews coming season and Naxos distribution of 3-CD release of the monumental William Kraft's *Encounters* series



Autumn 2009: Tour preview performance for Guadalajara *Feria Internacional del Libro* Arts Festival in Mexico



Winter 2010: *Cage 2012* begins with Cage/Rauschenberg Series at the Armory Center for the Arts



**Spring 2010: *Ascending Dragon Music Festival*
Largest cultural exchange in the history of Vietnam and the U.S.
6-week festival in Hanoi, Saigon, Pasadena & Los Angeles
Sponsored by the U.S. State Department**

**4 World Premieres in Vietnam, 18 U.S. Premieres,
4 Composers-in Residence: Vũ Nhật Tân , Kurt Rodhe,
Phạm Minh Thành & Alexandra du Bois
U.S. & Asian Premieres of *On Conversing with Paradise* by Elliott Carter**

Los Angeles – GRAMMY® Award-winning Southwest Chamber Music, the voice of New Classical Music and one of the most active chamber music ensembles in the nation, will celebrate its 2009-2010 Season from **October 18, 2009**, through **May 3, 2010** at the **Armory Center for the Arts** in **Pasadena** and at the **Colburn School of Performing Arts** in **Los Angeles**. The ensemble will **tour this season to Mexico and Vietnam** as international cultural ambassadors for the United States.

Artistic Director Jeff von der Schmidt recently described the ensemble as the voice of **New Classical Music**. “For over the last 20 years, I’ve been constantly asked how I arrive at the interesting programs that drive our organization. This summer, I realized that a very simple but important phrase, **New Classical Music**, could provide a way for us to express my vision for concerts **combining the wisdom of tradition with the color of diversity**. It’s an effective way to describe the reality that music from around the world - be it Vietnamese Ca Trù Opera or the exotic percussion world of the *Encounters* of William Kraft, both part of our new season – is connected to what is now clearly a multitude of “classical” traditions. For me, putting North Indian music into a “world music” category, for example, represents an out-of-date colonial perspective. Or put another way, no female compositional voice has ever dominated a new stylistic movement, so we all have a long way still to travel. **New Classical Music** provides Southwest Chamber Music with a fresh definition of our concerts, an expression allowing us to embrace the currents and streams from all global cultures while honoring the umbilical chord we have with the tradition of western classical music.”

“This season is transformative for us,” von der Schmidt continued. “We’ll emphasize the pivotal position of Los Angeles as a meeting place for Latin America and the Pacific Rim, representing the United States in two tours to Mexico and Vietnam; and inaugurate *Cage 2012*, who was born in Los Angeles in 1912. All these events will be highlighted and previewed at our Opening Night Benefit on Sunday October 18 at 5 PM at the Armory Center for the Arts.

“In November/December we will be traveling to Guadalajara, Mexico, for the *Feria Internacional del Libro* Arts Festival representing the United States in works by William Kraft, John Adams and Aaron Copland, as well as Mexico’s own Carlos Chávez. While in Guadalajara we will reunite with our friends in the Tambuco Percussion Ensemble of Mexico City.

“Our winter concerts in January and February will begin *Cage 2012*, a three year series that will culminate in his centennial year. *Cage 2012* starts auspiciously with two concerts at the Armory Center’s *Rauschenberg at Gemini* exhibition. Cage’s music will be heard in the same space with over 50 works Rauschenberg created here in Los Angeles between 1967 and 2001.

“Finally, sponsored by the U.S. State Department, we’ll produce *Ascending Dragon*, the largest cultural exchange in the history of Vietnam and the United States with concerts in Hanoi, Saigon, Pasadena and Los Angeles. We will have four young Composers-in-Residence: Vũ Nhật Tân and Phạm Minh Thành of Vietnam; and Kurt Rohde and Alexandra du Bois of the United States. *Ascending Dragon* will celebrate the 1000th anniversary of the founding of Hanoi. For good measure, we’ll offer the U.S. and Asian premiere of the most recent piece by 100 year old Elliott Carter.

“Ordinary just isn’t our style - welcome to **New Classical Music**.”

Opening Night Benefit / Guadalajara Preview
October 18 & November 16

The Opening Night Benefit celebrates the coming season and our new **3-CD release of the monumental William Kraft's *Encounters* series on Cambria Master Recordings, with international distribution by Naxos.** Against the background of the exciting 20th anniversary Armory Center art exhibition *Inside/Out*, featuring works by such luminaries as Ed Ruscha, Bruce Nauman, and Betye Saar, the Opening Night Benefit will include delicious treats and wonderful wines. We will offer an opportunity for the audience to have composer William Kraft and our musicians autograph our newest recording. Proceeds from the Benefit will provide an important funding match for our U.S. State Department sponsored cultural exchange with Vietnam. We will also be joined by composers Alexandra du Bois from New York City and Kurt Rohde from San Francisco.

The concert on November 16 at the Colburn School previews an appearance in Mexico in December, sponsored by the NEA and the Cultural Affairs Department of the City of Los Angeles as an important Grammy Award-winning classical music ensemble representing the U.S. at the prestigious Guadalajara FIL Arts Festival. We will be performing works by William Kraft, John Adams and Aaron Copland, as well as Mexico's own Carlos Chávez. Soprano **Suzanna Guzmán** will be the soloist for the songs of Chávez. In Guadalajara we will reunite to perform with our friends from the **Tambuco Percussion Ensemble** of Mexico City.

Cage & Rauschenberg
January 23 – February 6

Beginning *Cage 2012*, a three-year Southwest Chamber Music series culminating in his centennial year, these concerts are a once-in-a-life-time opportunity. We will perform two concerts of major Cage compositions, including works from *The Ten Thousand Things*, *Litany for a Whale*, and *Postcard from Heaven*, featuring sopranos **Elissa Johnston** and **Kathleen Roland**, and KPFK's **John Schneider** as guest speaker. These works will be heard in the Armory Center for the Arts' **exhibition of 50 pieces** by Cage's friend **Robert Rauschenberg**, which were created at the Gemini G.E. L. studio here in Los Angeles. The Rauschenberg works included will be from the *Stone Moon Series*, *Samarkand Series*, and *Cardbird Series*, and include the first poster for Earth Day. The opening concert will include a performance of the landmark silent piece, *4'33"*, premiered at Woodstock in 1952, a perfect finale to the Zen-like world of this music.

Ascending Dragon Music Festival & Cultural Exchange with Vietnam
4 Composers-in Residence/ 4 World Premieres in Vietnam/ 18 U.S. Premieres;
U.S. & Asian Premieres of *On Conversing with Paradise* by Elliott Carter
February 27 – May 3, 2010

The U.S. State Department is sponsoring Southwest Chamber in the **largest cultural exchange in the history of Vietnam and the United States**. This highly competitive award is designed to **encourage new artistic and creative leadership in Vietnam through people-to-people exchange**. Only two other grants in our category were awarded nationally to the University of Iowa and Carnegie Hall in New York. *Ascending Dragon* is a translation of the Vietnamese word *Thăng Long*, the first name of the City of Hanoi which celebrates its 1000th anniversary in 2010. There will be numerous side-by-side performances between Southwest Chamber Music and the Ascending Dragon Players, guest musicians from Vietnam. Repertory will include works by Copland, Cage, Harrison, Debussy, Messiaen, Takemitsu, Mahler, Schoenberg and Stravinsky as well as an exciting survey of new works from Vietnam and the United States.

The *Ascending Dragon Music Festival & Cultural Exchange* is a **six-week cultural exchange** that will bring **19 Americans to Vietnam in March 2010**, and **19 Vietnamese to the U.S. in April-May 2010**, each for three weeks. The *Festival* will have four composers-in-residence, each commissioned for a new work to be **world premiered at the Hanoi Opera House on March 19, 2010**. The composers are **Alexandra du Bois** and **Kurt Rohde** of the U.S., and **Vũ Nhật Tân** and **Phạm Minh Thành** of Vietnam (bios follow).

In addition, two important Vietnamese composers based in Paris, **Nguyễn Thiện Đạo** and **Tôn Thất Tiết**, will be part of the *Ascending Dragon* programs. Their works will introduce American audiences to a compelling musical continuity for Vietnam that begins in the 1950s with their move to France, extends through the Vietnam War era, and continues with very active careers today.

Southwest Chamber Music is honored to have received the **U.S. and Asian premieres of *On Conversing with Paradise* by 100-year-old Elliott Carter**. Written for Oliver Knussen and the Aldeburgh Festival, this most recent work by Carter is a setting of the *Cantos* of Ezra Pound and received its world premiere in June of 2009. The baritone soloist in both Hanoi and Los Angeles will be Evan Hughes, who sang Carter's *Syringa* at Tanglewood in 2008 under Stefan Asbury and was *Don Giovanni* this summer under the baton of James Levine. Mr. Hughes is a member of the Curtis Institute Vocal Program and a recipient of a major award from the Marilyn Horne Foundation. Oliver Knussen, who conducted Southwest Chamber Music in 1992, and Elliott Carter have been supportive members of the ensemble's Advisory Board for over 15 years.

In all, there will be **18 U.S. Premieres** during *Ascending Dragon* in Los Angeles: The premieres are: *From Within Me, Wood Grows* by **Alexandra du Bois**; *Trăng-Moon, Meditation, Nhip Don Nhip Kép, Aó Đơn Aó Kép, Ký Ước* by **Vũ Nhật Tân**; *A Mi K Giao Tranh, Dôi for Bassoon & Percussion, Bà Mẹ Việt Nam for Double Bass & 5 Ensembles, Au dessus du vent* by **Nguyễn Thiện Đạo**; *Mémoire de la rivière, Les jardins d'autre monde, Poèmes, and Prajña Paramita* by **Tôn Thất Tiết**; *Thiên Thai* and *Thăng Long* by **Phạm Minh Thành**, *Threnody* by **Kurt Rhode**; and *On Conversing with Paradise* by **Elliott Carter**.

Pre-concert Talks

Pre-concert Talks are held before all performances at **7:30 p.m.** at the **Armory Center for the Arts** and at the **Colburn School of Performing Arts** with Southwest Chamber Music's Artistic Director Jeff von der Schmidt, often joined by composers discussing each concert's perspective.

Performers

Southwest Chamber Music players are: Alison Bjorkedal, harp; Jim Foschia, clarinet; Lorenz Gamma, Shalini Vijayan, violins; Jan Karlin, viola; Peter Jacobson, cello; Larry Kaplan, flute; Stuart Horn, oboe; Lynn Vartan, percussion; Ming Tsu, piano; Tom Peters, double bass; and conductor Jeff von der Schmidt. Composers-in-residence are Alexandra du Bois and Kurt Rohde.

Southwest Chamber Music's photos and full artist biographies are available online at www.swmusic.org

Ascending Dragon Ensemble players – guest artists from Vietnam are: Bui Cong Duy, Nguyen Thi My Huong, Nguyen Thu Binh, Nguyen Trong Binh, Phan Thi To Trinh, violins; Tran Thi Thu Hien, viola; Bui Thi Ha Mien, cello; Le Thu Huong, flute; Nguyen Quoc Bao, clarinet; Pham Quoc Chung, French horn; Doan Mai Huong, percussion; Bui Le Chi, dan bau. Composers-in-residence are Vũ Nhật Tân and Phạm Minh Thành .

Tickets

Save 10% on 7 general admission tickets or more! Single tickets are \$38, with senior discount tickets available at \$28. Opening Night Benefit tickets are \$100 (also eligible for the 10% discount.) Student tickets are available on the day of the performance with full-time student ID for \$10.

Parking

Parking for the Colburn School is available in the Walt Disney Concert Hall parking lot. Public parking for the Armory Center is available in adjacent lots. Please see attached brochure for more information.

For questions, to arrange interviews and receive more material, please contact Ms. Thu-Nga Dan at 626.685.4455 or email thunga@swmusic.org. Biographical information starts on page 8.

SOUTHWEST CHAMBER MUSIC
2009-2010 SEASON Program Listing

(All programs and artists are subject to change)

SINGLE TICKETS: \$38 (GENERAL), \$28 (SENIOR), and \$10 (STUDENT w/ID)

OPENING NIGHT BENEFIT: \$100

1-800-726-7147

- **Sunday, October 18, 2009 at 5 p.m. Opening Night Benefit**
Armory Center for the Arts, 145 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena

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|--------------------------|--|
| William Kraft | <i>Encounters X</i> |
| Kurt Rohde | <i>Under the Influence</i> |
| Alexandra du Bois | <i>An Eye for an Eye Makes the Whole World Blind</i> |

- **Monday, November 16, 2009 at 8 p.m.** (Pre-concert Talk at 7:30 p.m.)
Colburn School of Performing Arts, 200 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alexandra du Bois | <i>Bryant Medley</i> |
| John Adams | <i>Shaker Loops</i> |
| Carlos Chávez | <i>Cuatro Melodías Indias</i> |
| Aaron Copland | <i>Appalachian Spring</i> |

- **Saturday, January 23, 2010 at 8 p.m.** (Pre-concert Talk at 7:30 p.m.)
Armory Center for the Arts, 145 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena

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| John Cage | <i>Child of Tree for Amplified Cactus</i> |
| | <i>Four for String Quartet</i> |
| | <i>27'10.554 for a Percussionist & String Player with</i> |
| | <i>45' for a Speaker-from "The Ten Thousand Things"</i> |
| | <i>4'33"</i> |

- **Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 8 p.m.** (Pre-concert Talk at 7:30 p.m.)
Armory Center for the Arts, 145 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena

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|------------------|-----------------------------|
| John Cage | <i>In a Landscape</i> |
| | <i>Litany for a Whale</i> |
| | <i>Postcard from Heaven</i> |

- **Saturday, February 27, 2010 at 8 p.m.** (Pre-concert Talk at 7:30 p.m.)
Armory Center for the Arts, 145 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena

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|--------------------------|--|
| Alexandra du Bois | <i>An Eye for an Eye Makes the Whole World Blind</i> |
| Vũ Nhật Tân | <i>Trăng – Moon / Meditation (U.S. Premieres)</i> |
| Kurt Rohde | <i>Under the Influence</i> |
| Nguyễn Thiện Đạo | <i>A Mi K Giao Tranh (U.S. Premiere)</i> |
| Tôn Thất Tiết | <i>Mémoire de la Rivière (U.S. Premiere)</i> |

- **Monday, March 1, 2010 at 8 p.m.** (Pre-concert Talk at 7:30 p.m.)
Colburn School of Performing Arts, 200 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles

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| Nguyễn Thiện Đạo | <i>Dôi for Bassoon & Percussion (U.S. Premiere)</i> |
| Olivier Messiaen | <i>Quatuor pour la fin du temps</i> |
| Tôn Thất Tiết | <i>Les jardins d'autre monde (U.S. Premiere)</i> |

- **Friday, April 16, 2010 at 8 p.m.** (Pre-concert Talk at 7:30 p.m.)
Armory Center for the Arts, 145 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena

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| Phạm Minh Thành | <i>Thiên Thai (U.S. Premiere)</i> |
| Kurt Rohde | <i>Double Trouble</i> |
| Vũ Nhật Tân | <i>Nhịp Đơn Nhịp Kép (U.S. Premiere)</i> |
| Tôn Thất Tiết | <i>Poèmes (U.S. Premiere)</i> |
| Alexandra du Bois | <i>Night Songs</i> |

- **Saturday, April 17, 2010 at 8 p.m.** (Pre-concert Talk at 7:30 p.m.)
Colburn School of Performing Arts, 200 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles

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|--------------------------|---|
| Claude Debussy | <i>Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune</i> |
| Nguyễn Thiện Đạo | <i>Bà Mẹ Việt Nam for Double Bass & 5 Ensembles (U.S. Premiere)</i> |
| Vũ Nhật Tân | <i>Aó Đơn Áo Kép (U.S. Premiere)</i> |
| Alexandra du Bois | <i>From Within Me, Wood Grows (U.S. Premiere)</i> |
| Toru Takemitsu | <i>Archipelago S. for 5 Ensembles</i> |

- **Saturday, April 24, 2010 at 8 p.m.** (Pre-concert Talk at 7:30 p.m.)
Colburn School of Performing Arts, 200 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles

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| Kurt Rohde | <i>Threnody (U.S. Premiere)</i> |
| John Cage | <i>Quartets for 24 Instruments</i> |
| Elliott Carter | <i>On Conversing with Paradise (U.S. Premiere)</i> |
| Aaron Copland | <i>Appalachian Spring for 13 Instruments</i> |

- **Friday, April 30, 2010 at 8 p.m.** (Pre-concert Talk at 7:30 p.m.)
Colburn School of Performing Arts, 200 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles

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| Nguyễn Thiện Đạo | <i>Au dessus du vent (U.S. Premiere)</i> |
| Kurt Rohde | <i>Oculus</i> |
| Phạm Minh Thành | <i>Thăng Long (U.S. Premiere)</i> |
| Tôn Thất Tiết | <i>Prajna Paramita (U.S. Premiere)</i> |

- **Monday, Saturday, May 3, 2010 at 8 p.m.** (Pre-concert Talk at 7:30 p.m.)
Colburn School of Performing Arts, 200 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles

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| Arnold Schoenberg | <i>Five Orchestra Pieces</i> |
| Vũ Nhật Tân | <i>Ký Úc (U.S. Premiere)</i> |
| Gustav Mahler | <i>Songs of a Wayfarer</i> |
| Lou Harrison | <i>Vestiunt Silve</i> |
| Alexandra du Bois | <i>Chanson d'Orange</i> |
| Igor Stravinsky | <i>Dumbarton Oaks</i> |

Biographical Information
4 Composers-in-Residence for Ascending Dragon
Plus Tôn Thất Tiết & Nguyễn Thiện Đạo



“This music attempts to be a conscience in a time of oblivion. She dared, in An Eye for an Eye, to counter abuses of moral authority with an internal, personal sound using the string quartet as a witness, a reminder, that music and creativity are part of a continuing web of responsibility. Alexandra du Bois, for one, looked out at the world and heard an urgent, inward sound revered by western composers since 1750 as the repository of some of their deepest thoughts. Alexandra found a voice where many were speechless” - David Harrington, Kronos Quartet

Composer **Alexandra du Bois** discovered music through the violin, playing the instrument from the age of two years old and later began composing at age fifteen. Her music has been performed on four continents at venues including Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, The Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Barbican Hall in London, The Théâtre de la Ville in Paris, among many other. Alexandra du Bois’ music has been commissioned by ensembles such as the Kronos Quartet, Bargemusic, Orchestra of St. Luke’s, The Beaux Arts Trio, Merkin Concert Hall, The Piano Project at the Kaufman Center in New York and many others.

In 2003 Alexandra du Bois was chosen out of over 300 composers from 32 countries as the inaugural recipient of the Kronos: *Under 30 Project* commission. As a result, du Bois wrote *Oculus pro oculo totum orbem terrae caecat* (An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind) for the Kronos Quartet. Alexandra du Bois’ second commission from Kronos Quartet resulted in *Night Songs*. For this work, Alexandra was inspired by the life, journals and letters of the young writer Etty Hillesum (1914-1943), who died in Auschwitz in 1943 and left one of the great moral documents of the 20th century. The Kronos Quartet premiered *Night Songs* at Stanford University and Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall in 2006. Southwest Chamber Music will perform several of du Bois’ compositions during the *Ascending Dragon Music Festival* here in Los Angeles and in Vietnam. She is writing *From Within Me, Wood Grows* for the *Ascending Dragon Festival* premiere at the Hanoi Opera House in March 2010.



Composer and violist **Kurt Rohde** lives in San Francisco. His music has been described as being *“filled with exhilaration. It’s a mirror of our times, It is dark music, lit up by peckings, clackings, snaps and slides. It sounds eerie, but lyrical; sustained, but skittish; free-form, yet dancing.”* San Jose Mercury News, Richard Scheinin

Recipient of the 2008 Rome Prize, Kurt Rohde has also received the Charles Ives Fellowship and the Hinrichsen Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and commission awards from the Koussevitzky Foundation of the Library of Congress, the Fromm Foundation of Harvard University, the Barlow Endowment for Music Composition, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Hanson Institute for American Music. Kurt Rohde was a recipient of the Berlin Prize Fellowship from the American Academy in Berlin. He has served as composer in residence at the Yellow Barn Music Festival, and as guest composer at the Wellesley Composers Conference. He has received numerous commissions from Kent Nagano in both the United States and Europe. Southwest Chamber Music will include his *Oculus for String Orchestra*, *Under the Influence*, and *Double Trouble* in its repertory for *Ascending Dragon*. *Threnody* will have its world premiere at the Hanoi Opera House in March 2010.



Vũ Nhật Tân is a Vietnamese composer of experimental orchestral/chamber/piano and electro/computer and multimedia works. His compositions have been performed in Australia, Cambodia, China, France, Germany, Mongolia, Switzerland, the U.S., and Vietnam, including at the Roaring Hoofs Festival in Ulaanbaatar, and the Louisiana Festival of Contemporary Music in Baton Rouge, among others. Tan studied piano at the

Vietnam National Academy of Music in Hanoi, where he earned a certificate in 1987 and degrees in secondary education in composition and musicology in 1991. He then studied composition and musicology there from 1991-95. He later studied computer music and new music at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik in Cologne in 2000-01, on a scholarship from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst. In addition, he studied composition with Chinary Ung at the University of California at San Diego in 2002 as a guest student. His honors include Third Prize in the composition for traditional instruments competition of the Vietnam Composers Association in Hanoi and First Prize in the Saint-Germain-en-Laye competition. Most recently, he received a grant from the Asian Cultural Council which enabled him to research contemporary music and ethnomusicology in the U.S. He is also active in electro/computer music and multimedia performances.



Phạm Minh Thành was born in 1978 in Hanoi. He studied piano and composition at the Vietnam National Academy of Music under the tutelage of composer Do Hong Quan until 2000. From 2000-2006, Minh Thành studied composition at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory with Professor Konstantin Batashov. His compositions have been performed and broadcast throughout Vietnam, as well as in Moscow. He is currently teaching composition at the Musicology/ Composition/ Conducting Department at the Vietnam National Academy of Music. Minh Thành is honored to be part of the *Ascending Dragon Music Festival*.



Born in Huế in 1933, **Tôn Thất Tiết** went to Paris in 1958 to study composition at the French National Conservatory of Music. He attended Jean Rivier and André Jolivet classes for composition. Tôn Thất Tiet has written the music of Tran Anh Hung's three films: *The Scent of Green Papaya*, *Cyclo* and *At the Height of Summer*. He has also collaborated with Régine Chopinot on two of her dance pieces: *Parole de feu* (1995) and *Danse du temps* (1999). In 1993, he founded the "France-Vietnam Music Association" to promote the development of music in Vietnam. Southwest Chamber Music will be performing his *Mémoire de la rivière*, *Les jardins d'autre monde*,

Poèmes for Flute, Viola, Harp and Vietnamese Instruments, and *Prajña paramita* - the basic sutra of Buddhism - for 6 voices and instrumental ensemble during *Ascending Dragon*.



Nguyễn Thiện Đạo was born in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 1940. He arrived in France in 1953, entering the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris in 1963. His decisive meeting with Olivier Messiaen in 1967, in whose class he received the 1st prize for composition, led him to discover the path that would become his own. At first filled with images from his childhood and long meditations on nature, possessed by "celestial and imaginary polyphony", and then Vietnamese and Chinese poetry, he sees himself as "heir to two civilizations; oriental and

occidental". He tried to "work out a synthesis by constructing a music based on micro-intervals, sound colors, rhythmic structure and time duration." Southwest Chamber Music will be performing his *Đoi Ba Me Vietnam* for Double Bass & 5 Ensembles, and *Au dessus du vent* for solo harp and 12 strings during *Ascending Dragon*.

About Southwest Chamber Music

Southwest Chamber Music, founded in 1987, is one of the most active chamber music ensembles in the United States, presenting concert series at the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena, and the Colburn School of Performing Arts in Los Angeles, and a celebrated summer festival at The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in San Marino. The ensemble provides weekly music education programs in the Los Angeles and Pasadena Unified School Districts through *Project Muse* in-school concerts and a *Mentorship Program*, as well as *Music Unwrapped Free Family Series* for students of all ages. Southwest Chamber Music takes its name from the Southwest Museum, the oldest cultural institution in Southern California.

Southwest Chamber Music's ability to energize classical music includes recent projects of international cultural significance. In December 2006, the ensemble produced cultural exchange programs with Cambodia's Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh, the 2006 World Culture Expo at the temples of Angkor Wat, and the Vietnam National Academy of Music. The 2006 tour to Southeast Asia featured the music of Grawemeyer Award-winning, Cambodian-American composer Chinary Ung. These were the first residencies by an American ensemble since the end of the Vietnam War and Khmer Rouge era in Southeast Asia. Southwest Chamber Music also performed in May 2007 at the UNAM Center in Mexico City with a cycle of five concerts of the complete chamber works of Carlos Chávez, joined by the Tambuco Percussion Ensemble.

The ensemble has also been presented by the Library of Congress in Washington D.C., Cooper Union in New York City, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Getty Center, Orange County Performing Arts Center, Ojai Festival, and Luckman Fine Arts Center. Guest conductors appearing with the ensemble have included Oliver Knussen, Stephen L. Mosko, and Charles Wuorinen. In March 2003, Southwest Chamber Music became the first American ensemble to perform at the Arnold Schoenberg Center in Vienna.

As a two-time GRAMMY Award-winner, Southwest Chamber Music has one of the most impressive recorded discographies of any American chamber ensemble with the release of their newest recording in 2009. The group has received six GRAMMY® nominations for its four volume cycle of the *Complete Chamber Works of Carlos Chávez* on Cambria Master Recordings. This recognition from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences includes 2003 and 2004 GRAMMY Awards in the Best Small Ensemble category for Volumes 1 and 2. Three further nominations for Volume 3 are shared with the Tambuco Percussion Ensemble of Mexico City, including Best Classical Album and Best Small Ensemble nominations in 2005, and a Latin GRAMMY Best Classical Album nomination in 2006. Finally, Volume 4 was honored with a 2007 Latin GRAMMY Best Classical Album nomination.

Southwest Chamber Music's *Composer Portrait Series* on Cambria Master Recordings received a 2002 ASCAP-Chamber Music America Award for a "landmark set of 12 compact discs featuring American music of our time." The ensemble has also recorded works of Prokofiev and Poulenc on Cambria, as well as the late works of Krenek for Orfeo Records in Munich. The ensemble's recordings are available from Cambria Master Recordings, with world-wide distribution by Naxos (Classics Online). More information about Southwest Chamber Music is available at www.swmusic.org.

For questions or to arrange interviews and receive more material, please contact Ms. Thu-Nga Dan at 626.685.4455 or email thunga@swmusic.org.