



S O U T H W E S T
C H A M B E R
M U S I C

PRESS RELEASE

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2010-2011 Season 24 to 25

October 24: Opening Night Benefit with music by Wadada Leo Smith, Lei Liang, Gabriela Ortiz, Charles Wuorinen, Hyo-shin Na, Gabriela Lena Frank

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 2010-2011 *Season 24 to 25* from **October 24, 2010**, through **April 10, 2011** at the **Armory Center for the Arts** in **Pasadena** and at **The Colburn School** in **Los Angeles**.

Our Opening Night Benefit highlights many of the composers who are commissioned for our upcoming 25th anniversary next season and offers a glimpse at our *Cage 2012* festival. This *tasting menu* concert of brilliant and virtuosic short pieces is the perfect avant-garde music party and a great way to support Southwest Chamber Music. Before the concert, enjoy an assortment of treats from some of Pasadena's finest restaurants.

Pre-concert Talk

Pre-concert Talk is held before the performance at **7:30 p.m.** at the **Armory Center for the Arts** with Southwest Chamber Music's Artistic Director Jeff von der Schmidt.

Tickets & Parking

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

Public parking for the Armory Center is available in adjacent lots.

For tickets or more information, please call 1-800-726-7147 or visit www.swmusic.org

SOUTHWEST CHAMBER MUSIC
2010-2011 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 24, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. Opening Night Benefit**
Armory Center for the Arts, 145 N. Raymond Ave., Pasadena

Wadada Leo Smith	<i>In the Diaspora</i>
Lei Liang	<i>Gobi Canticle</i>
Gabriela Ortiz	<i>Denibée Yucunana</i>
Charles Wuorinen	<i>Spinoff</i>
Gabriela Lena Frank	<i>Bosquejos pre-Incaicos</i>
Hyo-shin Na	<i>Song of the Beggars</i>
John Cage	<i>Quodlibet from String Quartet in Four Parts</i>

About Southwest Chamber Music

SOUTHWEST CHAMBER MUSIC celebrated a transformative season in 2009-2010 as international cultural ambassadors for the United States in Asia and Latin America. The U.S. State Department selected our ensemble from a highly competitive field to produce the *Ascending Dragon Festival and Cultural Exchange*. Held between March to May 2010, this was most significant musical cultural exchange between Vietnam and the United States in the history of the two nations. *Ascending Dragon* involved six weeks of performances in Hanoi, Saigon, Pasadena and Los Angeles with performances at the Hanoi Opera House, the Vietnam National Academy of Music, the Ho Chi Minh Conservatory in Saigon, the Colburn School of Performing Arts and the Armory Center for the Arts.

Ascending Dragon received significant media attention in both Vietnam and the United States. Mark Swed of the Los Angeles Times traveled with the ensemble to Vietnam, posting numerous articles from Hanoi, Saigon as well as in Los Angeles. Wall Street Journal-Asia, the Harvard Business Review, Voice of America, CNN International, Pasadena Star News, and the American Record Guide (2010 September/October edition) all created important stories. Over 25 print and online media outlets in Vietnam covered the project, including all national television stations. Summing up the impact of *Ascending Dragon* between Vietnam and the United States, Mr. Swed wrote in the Los Angeles Times, "Good can only come out this exchange."

In December 2009, Southwest Chamber Music toured to Mexico, representing the United States at the *Guadalajara FIL Arts Festival*, an arts festival produced alongside the world's largest Spanish book fair. Guadalajara invites one host country each year, which in 2009 featured 16 arts organizations from Los Angeles. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, the ensemble reunited with the Tambuco Percussion Ensemble of Mexico City performing music by William Kraft, John Adams, Carlos Chávez and Aaron Copland.

Southwest Chamber Music is the first group in the nation to begin focusing attention on the centennial of John Cage, who was born in Los Angeles in 1912. In January and February 2010 the ensemble inaugurated *Cage 2012*. In collaboration with the Armory Center for the Arts a series of Cage concerts were performed inside an Amory Gallery retrospective exhibition devoted to Robert Rauschenberg. *Cage 2012* concerts will continue throughout the next two seasons supported by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Arts as part of its American Masterpiece series.

The ensemble's ability to energize classical music includes past 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. In May 2007 Southwest Chamber Music performed 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. This was the first complete retrospective of Chávez's output in Mexico.

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 25th recording in 2009, a monumental 3 CD set surveying the world of percussion with the *Encounters* by William Kraft. The ensemble 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. Volume 4 was honored with a 2007 Latin Grammy Best Classical Album nomination. An additional Latin Grammy nomination for Best Classical Album was received in 2010 for the *Encounters* of William Kraft.

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 25 recordings are available from Cambria Master Recordings, with world-wide distribution by Naxos (Classics Online).

The ensemble will celebrate its 25th anniversary during the 2011-2012 season. 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. Jan Karlin at 626.685.4455 or email jan@swmusic.org.

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