



SOUTHWEST
CHAMBER
MUSIC

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 12, 2010

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New Music from Cambodia & Vietnam

Saturday, November 6, 2010 at 8 p.m.

World Premiere of *2T for Tom* by Vũ Nhật Tân

U.S Premieres of Him Sophy & Tôn-Thất Tiết

Revivals of major works by Nguyễn-Thiên Đạo & Chinary Ung

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, continues its 2010-2011 season with a program that combines new music from Cambodia and Vietnam, two countries that are passions for the ensemble. The concert features the world premiere of Vũ Nhật Tân's *2T for Tom*, dedicated to Southwest's double bass virtuoso Tom Peters. Two U.S. premieres include *The Decline of Angkor* by Him Sophy with soprano soloist Elissa Johnston and *Et la rivière chante l'éternité* by Tôn-Thất Tiết. Rounding out the program will be revivals of *A Mi K Giao Tranh* by Nguyễn-Thiên Đạo and *Oracle* by Chinary Ung, which the ensemble has recorded on Cambria Master Recordings.

Southwest Chamber Music recently completed the largest cultural exchange in history between Vietnam and the United States between February and May of 2010. The *Ascending Dragon Music Festival and Cultural Exchange* celebrated the 1000th anniversary of the founding of Hanoi and was sponsored by the U.S. State Department. In 2006, Southwest Chamber Music toured to Phnom Penh and Siem Reap in Cambodia and Hanoi in Vietnam with composer Chinary Ung and was the first American ensemble-in-residence in Southeast Asia since the Khmer Rouge era and the Vietnam War.

World Premiere of *2T for Tom* by Vũ Nhật Tân

Mark Swed of the Los Angeles Times wrote that "*Vũ Nhật Tân is turning out to be a composer of a many intriguing sides and who is ready for major international recognition.*"

Southwest Chamber Music is proud to present the **World Premiere** of *2t for Tom* by Vũ Nhật Tân. This commission begins the next steps coming from the *Ascending Dragon Festival*. Written for double bass virtuoso Tom Peters, the work was planned here in Los Angeles during *Ascending Dragon*

and is a result of numerous working sessions between Tân and Peters. Born in 1970 in Vietnam, Tân studied composition and musicology at the National Conservatory of Music in Hanoi, where he now lectures, before continuing studies of computer music and new music with composers Clarence Albertson Barlow and Johannes Fritsch. Tân has also studied with Chinary Ung at UC San Diego, and Tôn-Thất Tiết played a major role in shaping his artistic persona. The concert highlights the relationship and continuity between teacher and student so essential in Asian culture.

Vietnam: Tôn-Thất Tiết and Nguyễn-Thiên Đạo

The concert will open with the *Introduction to “Mémoire de la rivière”* by Vietnamese composer Tôn-Thất Tiết. The piece reflects on the soundscape of life in Vietnam with the rolling and sometimes pulsatory flow of the river and the traction of oars and boat on the Perfume River in Huế. Tiết was born in 1933 in Huế and immigrated to France in 1958 where he developed his style of expertly blended Eastern and Western traditions to produce a sound that is both strikingly subtle and enchanting. Tiết’s *Et la rivière chante l’éternité* will be a **U.S. Premiere** by Southwest Chamber Music. The work is part of a cycle of three chamber pieces dedicated to the Perfume River in Huế.

Tôn-Thất Tiết and Nguyễn-Thiên Đạo are described as the founding fathers of Vietnamese avant-garde music, and Southwest Chamber Music will celebrate both as they perform Đạo’s *A Mi K Giao Tranh*. Nguyễn-Thiên Đạo was born in Hanoi in 1940 and entered the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris in 1963 where he developed a style that emphasizes equally lyrical and demanding music, which led Olivier Messiaen to call him a “grand musician.” This piece, written at the end of the Vietnam War, makes a poignant reference to the emotions that still pulse through the memory of Vietnamese people.

Cambodia: Him Sophy and Chinary Ung

Him Sophy's story is both inspiring and electrifying. As a survivor of the Khmer Rouge, Sophy continues to produce compositions that address ideas of identity, creativity and reflection as evidenced by his work, *Where Elephants Weep*, which is the first Cambodian rock opera composed. The opera fuses hip-hop/rock elements with traditional Cambodian and Khmer styles to tell the story of a refugee returning to his homeland after the fall of Khmer Rouge only to be confronted with issues of tradition versus modernity, genocide, dislocation, and love. *The Decline of Angkor* is a **U.S. Premiere** presented by Southwest Chamber Music and reinforces a long-standing friendship and partnership between the composer and the ensemble. Soprano Elissa Johnston, who sang in Chinary Ung’s *Aura* with Southwest in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap at the Temples of Angkor Wat, is the soloist for Sophy’s moving concert aria,

Another friend of Southwest, Chinary Ung, plays an important role in this program and elicits heightened enthusiasm from the ensemble as the group returns to *Oracle*. This haunting composition was the first music Ung composed after returning to Cambodia for the first time after the devastating genocide of the Khmer Rouge. Born in 1942 in Cambodia, Ung has been awarded many prestigious awards, including the Grawemeyer Award (1989), for music that honors traditional Cambodian and Southeast Asian heritage. He immigrated to the United States in 1964 to study clarinet and conducting before transitioning to composition.

Performers for the concert include Elissa Johnston, soprano, Lisa Edelstein, flute, Jim Foschia, clarinet, Alison Bjorkedal, harp, Lynn Vartan, percussion, Shalini Vijayan, violin, Jan Karlin, viola, Peter Jacobson, cello, Tom Peters, double bass and conductor Jeff von der Schmidt.

Pre-concert Talk

Pre-concert Talk will be held before the performance at **7:30 p.m.** at the **Colburn School** with Southwest Chamber Music's Artistic Director Jeff von der Schmidt.

Tickets & Parking

Save 10% on 7 general admission tickets or more! Single tickets are \$38, with senior discount tickets available at \$28. Student tickets are available on the day of the performance with full-time student ID for \$10. Parking is available in the Walt Disney Concert Hall parking lot, diagonally across from The Colburn School, and also at adjacent outdoor parking lots. All lots charge \$8 after 5 p.m.

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)
1-800-726-7147

➤ **Saturday, November 6, 2010 at 8 p.m.**

The Colburn School, 200 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 90012

Tôn-Thất Tiết
Nguyễn-Thiên Đạo
Vũ Nhật Tân
Him Sophy
Tôn-Thất Tiết
Chinary Ung

Introduction to "Mémoire de la rivière"
A Mi K Giao Tranh
2t for Tom (World Premiere)
The Decline of Angkor (U.S. Premiere)
Et la rivière chante l'éternité (U.S. Premiere)
Oracle

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