



McGill



Schulich School of Music  
École de musique Schulich

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P R E S S   R E L E A S E

## McGill Contemporary Music Ensemble and Schulich School Singers join forces March 7, 2011, Pollack Hall

For immediate release

**Montreal, March 1, 2011** – Conductor **Julian Wachner** will lead a varied program featuring the **McGill Contemporary Music Ensemble** and the **Schulich School Singers** on Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in Pollack Hall. Tickets are \$10.

Program:

*Eros I* by Theodore Antoniou (b. 1935)  
*Expecting the Main Things from You* by Nico Muhly (b. 1981)  
*Nonet* by Laura Schwendinger, (b. 1962)  
*Jetzt immer Schnee* by Sofia Gubaudulina (b. 1931)  
*The Attic Which is Desire* by Steven Mackey (b. 1956)  
*schwarz und stern* by Christa Marie Emerson

About the composers:

### **Nico Muhly**

Nico Muhly was born in Vermont in 1981, the son of painter Bunny Harvey and documentary filmmaker Frank Muhly. He graduated from Columbia University with a Bachelor's degree in English and from Juilliard with a Master's degree in Music. He studied composition with John Corigliano and Christopher Rouse. Muhly is a defender of crossover music and he worked with a large variety of artists and musicians, including Björk and Philip Glass, the Brooklyn-based indie-folk band Grizzly Bear and the UK-based Britten Sinfonia. His first opera will premiere with the English National Opera in June 2011 before going on to make its Metropolitan Opera debut during the 2013-2014 Season.

### **Theodore Antoniou**

Born in Greece in 1935, Theodore Antoniou is one of the most eminent and prolific contemporary artists; he leads a distinguished career as composer, conductor, and professor of composition at Boston University. Trained in violin, voice and composition in Athens, he further studied conducting and composition at the Hochschule für Musik in Munich, and at the International Music Center in Darmstadt. Many of his works were commissioned by major orchestras around the world. Theodore Antoniou's compositions are numerous and varied in nature, ranging from operas and choral works to chamber music, from film and theatre music to solo instrumental pieces.

### **Laura Schwendinger**

Laura Schwendinger is an Associate Professor of Composition at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she is also the Artistic Director of the Contemporary Chamber Ensemble. Her music has been performed by some of the leading artists of our day and at many of the world's most prestigious venues. Born in Mexico City in 1962, Laura Schwendinger was the first composer to win the Berlin Prize from the prestigious American Academy in Berlin.

**Sofia Gubaidulina**

Gubaidulina's compositional interests have been stimulated by the tactile exploration and improvisation with folk and instruments collected by the 'Astreia' ensemble, by the rapid absorption and personalization of contemporary Western musical techniques, and by a deep-rooted belief in the mystical properties of music. Her uncompromising dedication to a singular vision did not endear her to the Soviet musical establishment, but her music was championed in Russia by a number of devoted performers. Since 1985, when she was first allowed to travel to the West, Gubaidulina's stature in the world of contemporary music has skyrocketed. She has been the recipient of prestigious commissions. She made her first visit to North America in 1987. She has returned many times since as featured composer of festivals and for other performance milestones.

**Steven Mackey**

Steven Mackey was born in 1956 to American parents stationed in Frankfurt, Germany. His first musical passion was playing the electric guitar in rock bands; he later discovered concert music and has composed for orchestras, chamber ensembles, dance and opera. As a composer he has been honoured by numerous awards and commissions, and his monodrama *Ravenshead* has been performed nearly one hundred times. As a guitarist he has performed his own music with the Kronos Quartet, Brentano Quartet, New World Symphony, The London Sinfonietta to name just a few. Mackey is currently Professor of Music at Princeton University since 1985. In 1991, he was awarded the first-ever Distinguished Teaching Award from Princeton University.

**Christa Marie Emerson**

Composer-in-residence for the season 2010-2011, Christa Marie Emerson came to McGill after her studies at College-Conservatory of Music at University of Cincinnati where she received a Master's degree in Music in 2009. She currently pursues her doctoral studies in composition with Jean Lesage.

The Box office, located in the Pollack Hall lobby, is open from 12 noon to 6 pm Monday to Friday, and one hour before each performance. Tickets are also available by phone at 514.398.4547

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