

### **About the Festival:**

The second annual ISU New Music Festival will occur March 23-26, 2009. This festival will highlight music by women composers as part of the nation's celebration of Women's History Month. Internationally recognized women composers Augusta Read Thomas, Sheila Silver, and Laura Schwendinger will be in attendance. The four-day festival will feature four evening concerts and four master classes. All events will be free and open to the public.

Chicago based new music ensemble Dal Niente will give the first concert on March 23<sup>rd</sup> in Kemp Recital Hall at 8 pm. Committed to exposing the world to today's compositional talent, the Dal Niente ensemble has presented over 50 premieres in its brief existence. This concert will feature premiere performances of works by Augusta Read Thomas, former composer-in-residence of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and former faculty member of Eastman School of Music and Northwestern University. Augusta Read Thomas is one of the world's leading voices of contemporary music. Her music has been played by organizations such as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, among many others. Ms. Thomas will give a lecture on her compositions at 4 pm at the ISU School of Music. The evening concert will also feature a premiere of a new work written for Dal Niente by ISU composition professor Martha Horst, plus performances of music by women composers Kaija Saariaho, Amy Williams, and Kirsten Broberg.

Day two of the festival will feature a concert by ISU voice professor Michelle Vought. Ms. Vought has dedicated her career to the promotion of new music and has championed music by women composers. ISU faculty members Paul Borg and Chris Hollingsworth will join Ms. Vought in performing contemporary vocal works.

Clarinet professor Eric Mandat of Southern Illinois University will give a master class and recital on the third day of the festival, March 25th. Mr. Mandat is one of Illinois' premiere contemporary clarinet players. He regularly plays with the Chicago Symphony's highly acclaimed contemporary chamber music series, MusicNow. Mr. Mandat's concert will feature solo works for clarinet by women composers such as Linda Antas and Shulamit Ran.

The fourth day of the festival, March 26<sup>th</sup>, will feature residencies by internationally acclaimed women composers Sheila Silver and Laura Schwendinger. Ms. Silver is a professor of composition at State University of New York, Stony Brook. Accolades include a Bunting Fellowship from Harvard University and the Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome. Ms. Schwendinger is an Associate Professor of composition at University of Wisconsin, Madison. She recently received a Guggenheim fellowship. Both composers will speak about their music at 2 pm at Illinois State University School of Music. Their music will be featured on the final concert of the festival at 8 pm in Kemp Recital Hall.

## 2009 ISU NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL: A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC BY WOMEN COMPOSERS

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE: Dal Niente, Eric Mandat; Augusta Read Thomas, Sheila Silver, Laura Schwendinger

### **MONDAY, MARCH 23<sup>rd</sup>**

11 am-1 pm	Kemp Recital Hall	Reading Session by Dal Niente of ISU student compositions
3 pm-4 pm	Kemp Recital Hall	Violin Master class with Austin Wulliman
4 :00-5:30	CE 224	Master class with Augusta Read Thomas
8 pm	Kemp Recital Hall	<b>Concert I – Dal Niente</b>

**Concert I -- Chicago new music ensemble Dal Niente, featuring music by Horst, Saariaho, and Thomas**  
Committed to exposing the world to the exorbitance of today's compositional talent, the Dal Niente ensemble has presented over 50 premieres in its brief existence. It works with established and younger composers to present forceful performances of the newest of new music. This concert will feature premieres of works by women composers Horst and Thomas – former composer-in-residence of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Composers Augusta Read Thomas and Martha Horst will be in attendance and will speak about their music at this concert.

### **TUESDAY, MARCH 24<sup>th</sup>**

8 pm Kemp Recital Hall **Concert II – Michelle Vought and Friends**

**Concert II Michelle Vought, Soprano, featuring music by Rorem, Van de Vate, and Tesori**

Soprano Dr. Michelle Vought has earned an excellent reputation throughout the country as a performer in opera, oratorio, and musical theater. She has performed with many orchestras and opera companies across the nation. Recognized for her expertise in the contemporary genre, she has been invited to perform and lecture at various conferences throughout the United States and in Limerick, Ireland, Bratislava, Slovakia, Toronto, Canada, and in Newfoundland, Canada.

### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25<sup>th</sup>**

3 pm	Kemp Recital Hall	Clarinet Masterclass with Eric Mandat
8 pm	Kemp Recital Hall	<b>Concert III – Eric Mandat</b>

**Concert III -- Solo Clarinetist Eric Mandat, featuring music of Ran and Larsen**

Eric Mandat tours extensively as a soloist and chamber musician, presenting lectures and recitals featuring new American clarinet music and extended performance techniques. He also performs regularly as part of the Chicago Symphony's new highly acclaimed contemporary chamber music series, MusicNow. He will perform solo clarinet works written by prominent contemporary women composers such as Shulamit Ran of the University of Chicago.

### **THURSDAY, MARCH 26<sup>th</sup>**

2:00-3:30	CE 224	Master class with composers Sheila Silver and Laura Schwendinger
8 pm	Kemp	<b>Concert IV ISU Faculty</b>

**Concert IV ISU Faculty & Guest Artists, featuring music by Laura Schwendinger and Sheila Silver**

The fourth concert of the festival will feature chamber music performed by ISU Faculty. Sheila Silver's powerful work *To the Spirit Unconquered* – a musical response to writings on the Holocaust – will be featured. Composers Sheila Silver and Laura Schwendinger will be in attendance.