

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U of M School of Music's Contemporary Music Workshop presents a special series of events featuring violinist Irvine Arditti, in his first visit to the Twin Cities in more than 15 years (Dec 4-7)

Minneapolis, MN (11/25/2009)— The University of Minnesota School of Music's Contemporary Music Workshop (CMW) will present a special series of events featuring world-renowned British violinist Irvine Arditti in his first visit to the Twin Cities in more than 15 years.

This exceptional series will feature Arditti in a recital of new compositions for solo violin by U of M students in the Contemporary Music Workshop lab on Friday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m. in Ferguson Hall, Room 85. Arditti and U of M School of Music professor/pianist Noriko Kawai will perform Iannis Xenakis's *Mikka & Mikka S* for solo violin and *Dikthas* for violin and piano; U of M School of Music professor/composer James Dillon's *Traumwerk Book III* for violin and piano and *Del Cuarto Elemento* for solo violin; and works by Salvatore Sciarrino on Sunday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Ted Mann Concert Hall. Arditti also will give a Master Class on Saturday, December 7 at noon in the School of Music's Ferguson Hall, Room 280. These events are free and open to the public.

In addition to his phenomenal career as first violinist of the Arditti Quartet, Irvine Arditti continues to excel as an extraordinary soloist. Born in London in 1953, Arditti began his studies at the Royal Academy of Music at the age of 16. He joined the London Symphony Orchestra in 1976 and after two years, at the age of 25, became its co-concert master. He left the orchestra in 1980 in order to devote more time to the Arditti Quartet, which he had formed while still a student. During the past decade Arditti has given the world premières of a plethora of large-scale works especially written for him. These include Xenakis's *Dox Orkh* and Hosokawa's *Landscape III*, both for violin and orchestra, as well as Ferneyhough's *Terrain*, Francesconi's *Riti Neurali* and *Body Electric*, Dillon's *Vernal Showers* and Harvey's *Scena*, Pauset's *Vita Nova*, Reynold's *Aspiration* and Sciarrino's *Le Stagioni Artificiali*, all for violin and ensemble. As well as having recorded over 160 CDs with the Arditti Quartet, Arditti has built an impressive catalogue of solo recordings. His recording of John Cage's *Freeman Etudes* for solo violin, as part of his complete Cage violin music series for American label Mode, has made musical history.

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About the Contemporary Music Workshop (CMW)

Based in Minneapolis/Saint Paul, Minnesota, the Contemporary Music Workshop (CMW) is a constellation of performers, composers, and writers passionate about new music. For more information visit www.contemporarymusicworkshop.com

James Dillon, director of CMW

Although he has lectured extensively on his work throughout Europe, Asia and the U.S.A., Dillon has largely remained outside of the academic world working as a freelance composer. In 1976, he won the first Huddersfield Contemporary Music Prize. He was also the first British recipient of the Kranichsteiner Musikpreis (in 1982) from Darmstadt, Germany. In 1989, the Sunday Times named him 'Classical Musician of the Year,' and he has uniquely received three Royal Philharmonic Society Music Awards (1997, 2001, and 2005), the UK's most prestigious music awards. Dillon's large and growing catalogue of works is rooted in the European classical tradition but is touched by his formative exposure to Scottish pipe music—in particular, piobaireachd—and displays a wide interest other musics, from jazz and delta blues to the Hindustani classical tradition and oriental court musics. In 2007, he accepted the position of Professor of Music at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Noriko Kawai, director of CMW

Noriko Kawai studied at the Royal College of Music, London, where she is currently a Professor of Piano, and the Academia di Santa Cecilia in Rome. She has given many recitals and broadcasts throughout the world and is well known for the extraordinary range of her repertoire, from Renaissance composers to new music, and innovative programs juxtaposing standard and contemporary works. In recent seasons, Kawai has appeared at festivals in Aldeburgh, Bath, Huddersfield, Macerata, Paris, Strasbourg, Brussels, Berlin, Valencia and Alicante. She has given concerts with the Leopold String Trio, the Arditti Quartet, and the Quatuor Diotima and duo recitals with violinist Irvine Arditti and cellist Rohan de Saram. For the NMC label, Kawai has recorded works by Gerald Barry and, more recently, James Dillon's The Book of Elements Volumes I-V. She is a Visiting Associate Professor of Collaborative Piano at the University of Minnesota.

About the U of M School of Music

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 500 music students in undergraduate and graduate programs, led by a world-class faculty of over 50 artists, scholars and teachers. The School of Music presents more than 400 free concerts per year. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.music.umn.edu or call (612) 626-1094 for a brochure.

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LISTING INFORMATION

Recital: Irvine Arditti plays new works by U of M School of Music Composers

Friday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Ferguson Hall, Room 85 (2106 Fourth Street S, Minneapolis, MN 55455)

Distinguished soloist and leader for the Arditti String Quartet, Irvine Arditti will play new compositions for solo violin from U of M students in the CMW lab. World premieres of works by Michael Duffy, Colin Holter, Schuyler Tsuda and Jeremy Wagner. Free and open to the public, tickets not required.

www.music.umn.edu or 612/626-1094 for more info.

Concert: Irvine Arditti, violin and Noriko Kawai, piano

Sunday, December 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Ted Mann Concert Hall (2128 Fourth Street South, Minneapolis, MN 55455)

Performing Iannis Xenakis's *Mikka & Mikka S* for solo violin and *Dikthas* for violin and piano; James Dillon's *Traumwerk Book III* for violin and piano and *Del Cuarto Elemento* for solo violin; and works by Salvatore Sciarrino. Free and open to the public, tickets not required.

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Guest Master Class: Irvine Arditti, violin

Monday, December 7 at 12:00 p.m.

Ferguson Hall, Room 280 (2106 Fourth Street S, Minneapolis, MN 55455)

Free and open to the public, tickets not required.

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