

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS
THE CONTEMPORARY ARTISTRY OF
BUGALLO-WILLIAMS PIANO DUO
Sunday, February 20 at 3:00 p.m. in Hertz Hall

World Premieres of Jorge Liderman's *In Black and White* and Conlon Nancarrow's *Studies for Player Piano #32*

KEY NOTES: Professor Jorge Liderman, faculty composer in UC Berkeley's Department of Music, talks about his experience composing for two pianos, Wednesday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Musical Offering Classical Record Shop and Café

BERKELEY, January 3, 2005 – One of the country's pre-eminent contemporary music ensembles, the **Bugallo-Williams Piano Duo** makes its Bay Area debut at Cal Performances **February 20 at 3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall. The Duo presents a program full of rhythmic vitality and color, moving from compositions for two pianos to pieces written for four hands and one piano. The program includes world premieres of UC Berkeley professor **Jorge Liderman's *In Black and White***; and **Conlon Nancarrow's *Studies for Player Piano #32***, part of a series transcribed by Amy Williams and Helena Bugallo; as well as Nancarrow's *Twelve Studies for Player Piano*; **György Ligeti's *Three Pieces for Two Pianos***; and **Pablo Ortiz's *Fear of Tango***.

KEYNOTES: *Composing for Duo Piano -- Professor Jorge Liderman* talks about composing for duo piano, Wednesday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. This lecture is presented in conjunction with the performance of Liderman's work by the Bugallo-Williams Piano Duo. The 2004/05 season marks the debut of *Key Notes*, a thematic lecture series presented at the Musical Offering Classical Record Shop and Café by Cal Performances and the UC Berkeley Department of Music. Join fellow music lovers for light refreshments and stimulating conversation. This event is free and open to the public.

BUGALLO-WILLIAMS PIANO DUO

Helena Bugallo and Amy Williams met in 1993 while in graduate school at State University of New York at Buffalo studying piano with Yvar Mikhashoff. For nearly a decade,

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the **Bugallo-Williams Piano Duo** has been presenting innovative programs of contemporary music throughout North America and Europe. They perform cutting-edge new works and masterpieces of the twentieth century for piano for four-hands. “We’ve done earlier music as well, such as Mozart and Schubert,” explains Amy Williams, “but our main focus has been to playing 20th-, and now 21st-, century music.” They have worked directly with dozens of composers by commissioning, premiering and recording new pieces. Their repertoire includes works by John Cage, Morton Feldman, Igor Stravinsky, Frederic Rzewski, Steve Reich, György Ligeti, and György Kurtág, as well as pieces by contemporary composers, many of whom have written for the duo.

As part of their mission to expand the repertoire for piano duet, they have undertaken an extensive transcription project of the *Studies for Player Piano* by MacArthur fellow Conlon Nancarrow. The changes of tempo and the shifts in rhythm are too challenging to be played by one pianist, but the duo has mastered performing the melodies that race against each other at different speeds. In London, Bugallo-Williams’ performance of portions of Nancarrow’s *Studies* was described as “a magic event...sometimes romantic or jazzy, abrupt or wild, but always deeply original pieces full of wit and surprises” (*Music on the Web*, UK). Bugallo-Williams’ work has resulted in a critically-acclaimed recording of Nancarrow’s music for piano duet and solo piano, released by Wergo (Germany) in 2004.

Bugallo-Williams have been featured performers at numerous international music festivals. Recently, they have engaged in a number of multimedia and transcription projects, working directly with composers Jonathan Golove, Erik Oña, Jukka Tiensuu, and Lukas Foss. They perform with additional players in works for multiple keyboards, chamber works with two pianos and instruments, and concertos. Avid proponents of contemporary music, they frequently present master classes and lecture-demonstrations at colleges and universities in the United States and Europe. They also each have active individual performing careers.

HELENA BUGALLO

Born in Argentina, **Helena Bugallo** has performed in the United States, Mexico, England, Germany, Sweden, Poland, and Japan as well as her native country. She has

collaborated with numerous established groups, including the Meridian Arts Ensemble (USA), the String Quartet of the University of La Plata (Argentina), Thürmchen Ensemble (Germany), the Slee Sinfonietta (USA), and the Birmingham Ensemble (UK). She holds music degrees from the Conservatorio Provincial de La Plata (Argentina) and the State University of New York at Buffalo (USA), where she obtained a Master's degree in piano performance and a Ph.D. in musicology. Her doctoral dissertation is on the music of Conlon Nancarrow. Between 2001 and 2003, she was a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Birmingham (UK). Ms. Bugallo presently lives in Basel, Switzerland.

AMY WILLIAMS

Amy Williams has appeared as a pianist and composer at renowned contemporary music venues in the United States and Europe, including the Logos Foundation and Ars Musica (Belgium), Musikhöst Festival (Denmark), Subtropics Experimental Music Festival (Miami), North American New Music Festival (Buffalo), Sound Field Festival (Chicago), LA County Museum, and Hildegard Festival. Her compositions have been performed by leading contemporary music soloists and ensembles, including the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Emyrean Ensemble, Klang, International Contemporary Ensemble, CUBE, California E.A.R. Unit, North/South Consonance, Monarch Brass Ensemble, Ensemble Aleph, pianists Yvar Mikhashoff, Amy Dissanayake and Luk', soprano Martha Herr, bassist Robert Black, and, most recently, a piano concerto for Ursula Oppens and the Boston Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra. Ms. Williams has recorded for MODE and HAT-ART Records. She has received awards from ASCAP, the Thayer Award for the Arts, the American-Scandinavian Foundation, American Music Center, Meet the Composer, and the 2002 Wayne Peterson Prize in Music Composition. She holds a Ph.D. in composition from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where she also received a Master's degree in piano performance. Currently, she is on the composition faculty of Northwestern University and is the Director of New Music Northwestern.

JORGE LIDERMAN

Born in Buenos Aires, **Jorge Liderman** began his musical studies at the Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem, under Mark Kopitman. In 1988 he received his doctorate in composition from the University of Chicago where he worked with Ralph Shapey and Shulamit Ran. A year

later, Liderman joined the composition faculty at the University of California, Berkeley. His works have been commissioned and performed by the London Sinfonietta, the American Composers Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Tanglewood Orchestra, Radio France, the Netherlands Wind Ensemble, the Nieuw Ensemble, the Arditti String Quartet, Cuarteto Latinoamericano, Boston Musica Viva, Milan Divertimento Ensemble, Chicago Pro Musica, and the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, as well as by such individual artists as Oliver Knussen, Diego Masson, Esa Pekka Salonen, David Tanenbaum, and Gloria Cheng. His music has been recorded by CRI and CAMU. “*In Black and White* was written during my stay in Barcelona, Spain (Fall 2003) and its ebullient character mirrors the excitement and intensity of this European city,” explained Professor Liderman.

CONLON NANCARROW

Conlon Nancarrow was born in Texarkana, Arkansas in 1912 and died in Mexico City in 1997. In his early years, he was a trumpet player mainly devoted to jazz. He attended the Cincinnati College-Conservatory and later moved to Boston, where he studied composition and counterpoint with Roger Sessions, Walter Piston, and Nicolas Slonimsky. In 1937 he enlisted in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade to fight against Franco in the Spanish Civil War. Nancarrow's socialist beliefs and his involvement in the war caused the US government to deny him a new passport shortly after his return. He decided to move to Mexico City, where he remained, working in relative musical isolation until the 1980s, when he suddenly gained international recognition. Discouraged by the lack of acceptable performances of his music, Nancarrow turned to the player piano in the late 1940s. His exhaustive exploration of this unusual medium resulted in a series of approximately fifty Studies, both highly idiomatic and utterly original. Missing from the original realizations are the harsh sound of the leather and metal hammers of Nancarrow's pianos, the register differentiation of the upright instruments, and the resonant acoustics of the composer's cement studio. The transcriptions are, however, as faithful as they could be to the original pieces in terms of actual pitches, rhythms, and tempos. Many salient traits of Nancarrow's mechanical music, in particular his rhythmic language, were strongly influenced by jazz as well as African and Indian musical traditions.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Bugallo-Williams Piano Duo** on **Sunday, February 20** at **3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$26.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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Cal Performances' 2004/2005 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

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(Bugallo-Williams' calendar information continued on next page)

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Wednesday, February 16 at 7:00 p.m. **The Musical Offering Classical Record Shop and Café**
KEY NOTES Bancroft Way across from Zellerbach Hall

Professor Jorge Liderman, faculty composer in UC Berkeley's Department of Music, talks about composing for duo piano, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. This event is free. The 2004/05 season marks the debut of *Key Notes*, a thematic lecture series presented at the Musical Offering Classical Record Shop and Café by Cal Performances and the UC Berkeley Department of Music. Join fellow music lovers for light refreshments and stimulating conversation.

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Sunday, February 20 at 3:00 p.m. **Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**
Bancroft Way at College Avenue, Berkeley

20th Century Music & Beyond
Bugallo-Williams Piano Duo

Program:

Jorge Liderman/*In Black and White* (World Premiere)

Pablo Ortiz/*Fear of Tango*

Conlon Nancarrow/*Twelve Studies for Player Piano*

Conlon Nancarrow/*Studies for Player Piano*

György Ligeti/*Three Pieces for Two Pianos*

Tickets: \$26.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.

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