**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OPENING CONCERT CELEBRATES 50 YEARS:**

FEATURING WORLD PREMIERES, COMPOSER ROUNDTABLE,

AND PREMIERE OF CONTEMPO DOCUMENTARY FILM

**CHICAGO** — The 50th anniversary of Contempo, the University of Chicago’s renowned contemporary music collective, opens on January 24th with *Contempo at 50: Now and Then I*.

Says Artistic Director, Shulamit Ran, “At 50years, ours is a stunning record of longevity and commitment to scaling musical heights in the present tense. This season we will both honor the founding Contemporary Chamber Players (CCP) in a retrospective and share important new voices, too.”

The program features three world premieres – *Wave* (in memorium: 1952-2014) by Lee Hyla, written for eighth blackbird, *The End of It* (2014) by John Eaton, recipient of the MacArthur “genius” award, and “agitated, rough,” the second movement from Huck Hodge’s piano quintet *then*, composed especially for this event.

*Now and Then I* also includes works by two of Contempo’s artistic directors: *Concertante No. 1 for Trumpet and Ten Instruments* (1984) by CCP founder Ralph Shapey, who conducted the group from its inception until his retirement in 1993; and *Perfect Storm* (2010) by Shulamit Ran, who, since her appointment in 2002, has led Contempo down a bold new artistic path that included new venues and audiences, and a broadened notion of new music including jazz and other genres.

Ensembles-in-residence Pacifica Quartet and eighth blackbird are joined by several guest artists: David Fulmer, conductor; Stephen Burns, trumpet; Anthony Cheung, piano; Sharon Harms, soprano; Masumi Per Rostad, viola. To learn more about these artists, [click here](https://lucian.uchicago.edu/blogs/contempo/links/).

Before the program, composers John Eaton and Shulamit Ran will come together for a roundtable discussion on their works, followed by a never-before-seen, 27-minute film documentary on Contempo. As an anniversary gift to patrons, Contempo will offer a free commemorative booklet, which includes Shulamit Ran’s memories of Contempo’s history.

**CONTEMPO’S FULL CONCERT SCHEDULE 2015**

**Contempo at 50: Now and Then I**

SAT | January 24, 2015 | 7:30 PM

Logan Center: Performance Hall

Lee Hyla: *Wave* (world premiere, in memoriam: 1952-2014)

[for flute, clarinet, percussion, piano, violin, cello]

Shulamit Ran: *Perfect Storm*

[for solo viola]

Ralph Shapey: *Concertante No. 1 for Trumpet and Ten Instruments*

[for flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, trumpet, percussion, violin, viola, cello, double bass]

Huck Hodge: *then*

I. like glass (November 2003)

II. agitated, rough (October 2014) (world premiere)

[for piano and string quartet]

John Eaton: *The End of It* (world premiere)

[for soprano, mixed sextet, string quartet, harp]

**David Fulmer,** conductor

**eighth blackbird**

**Pacifica Quartet**

**Stephen Burns,** trumpet

**Anthony Cheung**, piano

**Sharon Harms**, soprano

**Masumi Per Rostad**, viola

Ensemble guests

**Alison Attar**, harp; **Julia Filson,** horn; **Andrew Nogal,** oboe, English horn; **Karl Rzasa,** bassoon; **David Scholl,** double bass; **Minghuan Xu,** violin

*6:30 pm Contempo Commissions: Roundtable Conversation with John Eaton and Shulamit Ran, followed by a short documentary film about Contempo*

**TICKETS**

Tickets $25/$5 students – *Subscriptions for the five-concert series are only $49, with Tomorrow’s Music Today I and II free and open to the public.*

Subscriptions and single tickets are available at UChicago Arts Box Office, Reva & David Logan Center for the Arts, 915 E. 60th Street. Call 773.702.ARTS or visit [ticketsweb.uchicago.edu](http://ticketsweb.uchicago.edu/events/contempo%20at%2050-%20now%20and%20then%20i/2015-1-24_19.30/performance%20hall,%20logan%20center).

Go to [contempo.uchicago.edu](https://lucian.uchicago.edu/blogs/contempo/about/) to learn more about Contempo events and history.

*We are grateful to all of our supporters and partners, including:*

*Illinois Arts Council*

*Hyatt Place*

*Piccolo Mondo*

*Artennial*

*UChicago Presents*

*Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts*

*UChicago Arts*

*Logan Center for the Arts*

*Contempo and its artist residencies are generously supported by the Catherine L. Dobson Music Fund, the Amy and David Fulton Fund, the Claire Dux Swift Music Endowment Fund and the Lowell and Elita Wadmond Endowment in Music.*

**MEDIA IMAGES**

<http://bit.ly/VTz2vz>

**MEDIA CONTACT**

**Amy Iwano**, Executive Director

University of Chicago Presents

773.702.1233 | iwano@uchicago.edu