**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%2C%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:*

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**MEDIA IMAGES**

<http://bit.ly/VTz2vz>

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