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**CONTEMPO CELEBRATES SOFIA GUBAIDULINA
WITH
EIGHTH BLACKBIRD AND PACIFICA QUARTET**

Wednesday, February 15 at Harris Theater in Millennium Park

CHICAGO — Contempo's first concert of 2012 celebrates Sofia Gubaidulina, one of Russia's most esteemed living composers, at the Harris Theater on Wednesday, February 15. The program combines the talents of Grammy-winning new music ensembles **eighth blackbird** and **Pacifica Quartet** in a special event commemorating the composer's 80th birthday.

The program opens with *The Garden of Joy and Sorrow*, featuring guest harpist Alison Attar, eighth blackbird flutist Tim Munro and Pacifica violist Masumi Per Rostad. This one-movement piece draws inspiration from two highly contrasting literary figures: "Sayat-Nova" by Iv Oganov, about the famous Eastern story-teller and singer, and poetic verse by 20th century German poet Francisco Tanzer. Stylistically very different, Gubaidulina's work plumbs the two works' internal similarities: a sense of contemplativeness and refinement.

In Croce features Pacifica Quartet cellist Brandon Vamos with Stas Venglevski on *bayan*, a Russian-style push-button accordion. The work's title translates roughly to "On the Cross" or "Cross-Wise", conveying both musical meaning as well as a Christian one.

Guests Tony Arnold (soprano) and Ricardo Rivera (bass) join eighth blackbird and Pacifica Quartet in the evening's final work, Gubaidulina's monumental cantata *Perception*, which reflects her fascination with mathematics, mysticism and ancient principles of proportion such as the Fibonacci series and the Golden Ratio.

Prominent music critic Alex Ross summed up Gubaidulina's stature in *The Rest is Noise* as follows: "...The [University of Chicago] has never before given [an honorary degree] to a composer, and it's hard to think of an artist more deserving of the gesture." Gubaidulina herself once characterized her artistic aim in these terms: "Art is an uplifting which enables us to emerge from darkness into a blaze of light." More information about Gubaidulina's work can be found on her publisher Schirmer's site.

January 12, 2012
CONTEMPO CELEBRATES SOFIA GUBAIDULINA
Page 2 of 2.

Now in its 47th year, Contempo remains at the vanguard of adventurous new programming in new music. Under Artistic Director Shulamit Ran, Contempo introduces audiences to the bold visions of today's most innovative composers.

Wednesday / February 15, 2012 / 7:30 PM
Harris Theater for Music and Dance / 205 E. Randolph; Chicago

CONTEMPO: CELEBRATING SOFIA GUBAIDULINA
With eighth blackbird and Pacifica Quartet

Tony Arnold, soprano; Ricardo Rivera, baritone; Stas Venglevski, bayan (Russian accordion); Alison Attar, harp

The Garden of Joy and Sorrow
In Croce
Perception

Tickets: \$25 / \$5 students with valid ID
To purchase: Harris Theater Box Office
312.334.7777 or harristheaterchicago.org

This event is part of the Soviet Arts Experience

