Tomorrow’s Music Today concerts close Contempo’s season by showcasing today’s most promising up-and-coming talent, University of Chicago doctoral candidates in composition. Contempo’s resident ensembles – eighth blackbird and Pacifica Quartet – bring their music to life. Conducted by Cliff Colnot.

Join us after the concert on May 20 for a reception with the artists and composers!

Works by Alican Çamci, Igor Santos, Tomás Guglio Saccone, and Phil Taylor
Free admission, no reservations required

The 51st season opens in celebration of Shulamit Ran, recently retired artistic director of Contempo (serving 2002-2015). Ran received the Pulitzer Prize in 1991 and has been awarded most major honors given to US composers. The program features her memorable and beloved works, beginning with O The Chimneys (1969), set on poems about those who perished in the Holocaust. The evening concludes with Bach Shards, commissioned in 2003 as part of the Brentano String Quartet's invitation to 10 composers to write companion pieces for Bach's Art of Fugue.

$25 / $5 students

From leading studios in California and Kraków, Jaroslaw Kapuscinski and Marek Choloniewski present the latest in intermedia composition and performance. Experience an up-to-the-minute trend in music with works for piano and interactive audio-visual projection.

$25 / $5 students

Contempo looks across the ocean to today’s leading European composers, creating a compelling program that features award-winning compositions and stunning soprano lines. The electric Agata Zubel, making a return to Contempo, and Tadeusz Wielecki, director of the Warsaw Autumn Festival, perform in their own works.

$25 / $5 students

From the European jazz scene, experience a phenomenal set featuring one of today’s most intriguing contemporary vocalists ("This must-see performer is one of the best voices to be heard today" – Chicago Tribune) in collaboration with a virtuoso accordionist.

$25 / $5 students
The Contempo tradition continues: championing the best in new music and the living art of composition.

Welcome to Contempo’s 51st season!

Following last year’s splendid 50th anniversary celebration, my goal as the new artistic director is to curate programming that is as stimulating and absorbing as that of my predecessors while creating a distinctive imprint. The results for this season are evocative and inspiring works by well-known European composers, as well as compositions and performances that reflect cutting-edge trends in interactive music.

We are proud to host the internationally recognized Agata Zubel, Polish composer and singer, as well as Tadeusz Wielecki, composer, bassist, and executive director of the international festival “Warsaw Autumn.” Their program, as well as a tribute to our distinguished outgoing artistic director Shulamit Ran, a return of the Contempo-Jazz Double Bill including renowned intermedia composers, and our extraordinary resident ensembles Pacifica Quartet and eighth blackbird will keep you riveted in every performance this season.

Thank you for your support and interest in Contempo! You, our devoted audience, make the musical journey both possible and worthwhile.

Marta Ptaszyńska, Artistic Director

 “…the musicians…offered thoughtful, incisive readings…from a wide stylistic spectrum”

–Chicago Classical Review

Tickets: $25 / $5 students
Subscribe to five concerts for as low as $56 (new subscribers $53).

773.702.ARTS (2787)
contempo.uchicago.edu

All Contempo concerts except Tomorrow’s Music Today I will take place at the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, located at 915 East 60th Street, where there is plenty of free parking. Tomorrow’s Music Today I will be at Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, 5850 South Woodlawn Avenue.

Contempo and its artist residencies are generously supported by the Catherine L. Dobson Music Fund, the Amy and David E. Frazier Fund, the Chace/Due South Music Endowment Fund and the Lowell and Elita Wadmond Endowment in Music.

Contempo. 51 years, and counting.