From dissolution to humpback whales in music

BY AUDRA BEALS

Only a concert for the UI Center of New Music would a piece from 1915 be considered old.
The Sept. 28 free concert in Chapp Recital Hall features works by UI faculty as well as celebrated compositions from the 20th century.

As the name suggests, the Center for New Music performs only very recent works—composition by UI School of Music faculty and students. This season the ensemble will perform a piece from the past 105 years—and it is the school's only ensemble focusing entirely on music of this time, said center director and UI professor of composition David Gompper.

The concert will include the premiere of "My End is Dissolution," a piece for chamber orchestra by Andrew Struck-Mancini, an undergraduate studying music and psychology.

Also on the program is "A Mod 4," a work for flute, clarinet, viola, and cello composed by Struck-Mancini's teacher, Lawrence Pitts, an associate professor of composition and theory and director of the UI Electronic Music Studios.

While not a direct reaction to the events of 9/11 and the crash of the Columbia space shuttle in 2003, Michael Roberts' "Piece of No Return" was somewhat influenced by those events, Gomper said. Roberts, an associate professor of composition and theory, wrote the nine-minute, single-movement piece for flute, clarinet, viola, cello, piano, and percussion for a UI Arts & Humanities Initiative project, "Music for a World at War: A Response to the Events of September 11th and the Loss of Columbia Space Shuttle." The music was composed for cellist Yo-Yo Ma.


The works will be performed by the center's ensemble of faculty and students and feature Assistant Professor Anthony Amato on tuba and Tamara Thoent on flute.

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