

From dissolution to humpback whales in music

BY AUDRA BEALS

THE DAILY IOWAN

Only at a concert for the UI Center of New Music would a piece from 1925 be considered old.

The Sept. 26 free concert in Clapp 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 — compositions by UI School of Music faculty and students and repertoire pieces from the past 100 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-Marcell, an undergraduate studying music and psychology.

Also on the program is "4 Mod 4," a work for flute, clarinet, violin, and cello composed by Struck-Marcell's teacher, Lawrence Fritts, 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 Eckert's "Point of No Return" was somewhat influenced by those events, Gompper said. Eckert, an associate professor of composition and theory, wrote the nine-minute, single-movement piece for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, and percussion for

a UI Arts & Humanities Initiative project.

"Sonatina for Saxophone and Piano" by Tufts University Professor John MacDonald, is a musical representation of the

work of physicist Stephen Hawking.

The less-recent portion of the program includes the well-known 1971 "Vox Balae-nae (Voice of the Whale)" for flute, cello, and piano, by George Crumb, who was inspired by the sounds of the humpback whale, and "Intégrales," composed by Edgar Varèse in 1925.

The works will be performed by the center's ensemble of faculty and students and feature Assistant Professors Anthony Arnone on cello and Tamara Thweatt on flute.

E-mail *DI* reporter **Audra Beals** at: audra-beals@uiowa.edu

CONCERT

Center for New Music

When: 8 p.m. Sept. 26

Where: Clapp Recital Hall

Admission: Free