

About the Playground

The Playground Ensemble, Artists-in-Residence at DU's Lamont School of Music, is a force for new music in the Rocky Mountain region. While maintaining a unique annual concert season featuring such composers as Arvo Pärt, Samuel Barber, and George Crumb, the Playground actively supports and cultivates Colorado's thriving composition community.

Recent performances of note include the Denver Art Museum, Arvada Center, the National Performing Arts Conference, and the International Society of Improvised Music's 3rd annual conference.

The ensemble strives to reach out to new audiences with inventive programming and a free concert series. The ensemble is also active educationally, providing master-classes and concerts in various public and private institutions. The Playground's goal is to provide stimulating performances, expand common perceptions of both contemporary music and the chamber ensemble, and nurture a community around this music that we love.

Where experimentation and tradition meet, you'll find us there. Where they diverge, you'll find us, too.

The Lamont School of Music is proud to sponsor in part The Playground concerts. Other sponsors include:



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2009~2010 Concert Season Artist in Residence at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music



"New and experimental music remains a difficult-to-find commodity in Denver. That's what makes the Playground... such a valuable asset." The Denver Post

www.playgroundensemble.org

Lamont Subscription Concert Series

Faculty Concerts 7:30 PM

All concerts Hamilton Recital Hall, Newman Center for the Performing Arts, 2344 E. Iliff Ave., Denver. Tickets \$18 adults, \$16 seniors, and free for students from any school and DU/ID. Ticket prices include free parking at the Newman Center parking garage and a reception after the concert to greet the artists. Lamont Concert Line (303) 871-6412.

George Crumb Celebration 10/20/2009

At times mystical, sensual, dramatic, and serene, George Crumb's music captivates and transports us. With this concert we celebrate the eightieth birthday of one of America's most influential composers. Featured on this program *Songs, Drones and Refrains of Death, Madrigals*, and *Eleven Echoes of Autumn*.

Music/Noise/Sound/Silence 2/4/2010

Where do we draw the lines? Redefining these terms was among the most significant pursuits of twentieth century composers. This concert presents music at the boundaries. Tonight's program features John Cage, John Zorn, Einsturzende Neubauten and others.

Dedications, Commissions and Premieres

5/13/2010 Working with living composers is an important part of what we do. Tonight's program features music born from those relationships. Come see performances of our first three commissions as well as pieces written by us and dedicated to us.

Lamont Community Concert Series Free Faculty Lunchtime Concerts

Family Tradition #4 Lamont Student Compositions
3/9/2010 Noon. Join The Playground and Lamont's best and brightest as we perform our annual concert of student composer's chamber music.

Also at the Newman Center

The Mile High Voltage Festival 2/19- 2/20/2010

Explore the ways that popular and alternative music are changing our idea of what can be offered as classical. Performers surprise with new instruments, video as an integral part of music, and boundary-crossing composition. Featuring So Percussion, Evan Ziporyn and Lukas Ligeti's *Burkina Electric*, the Playground is excited to be part of this ground breaking event. Watch our web site for a surprise daytime performance of Terry Riley's *In C*. More info at www.du.edu/newmancenter

Playground at Large

Opening Night at Object and Thought

9/18/2009. 7:00pm Come experience the Playground in a unique setting- downtown and outside- as we perform at the new location of Object and Thought. Tonight's guests include Itchy-o and Roger Green. 1430 Delgany St Unit C.

Soundpainting at the Dikeou Collection

11/20/2009. 6:30pm Play with the Playground and the Front Range Soundpainters at the Dikeou Collection- a private art collection founded by Denver natives Devon Dikeou and Pany Dikeou.
6:30 to 7:15 Bring your instrument and learn to paint.
7:30 to 9:00 We all paint together

The Music of Samuel Barber Arvada Center's Music With a View

3/11/2010. 7:00pm Join The Playground for a celebration of the 100th birthday of one of America's most loved composers, Samuel Barber. Barber's music is romantic yet modern, and truly American. This evening's concert features selections of Barber's piano, string, and vocal compositions including the stunning *Adagio for Strings*. Arvada Center Box Office 720- 898- 7200.

The San Luis Valley Mini-Tour

4/9/2010 **Adams State College** Open Friday afternoon concert/ lecture and master class at Adams State. Details TBA on our web site

4/11/2010 **Hazlerig Music House 2:00pm** The Hazlerig Music House is a venue for house concerts in South Central Colorado. Musicians from all over the world have performed there. For directions visit our website or email info@hazlerigmusichouse.com

Pendulum New Music, CU Boulder 4/14/2010

7:30pm The Pendulum concert series, now in its 9th season, presents the best of new music with CU faculty and students, and first-class guest artists. Join us as we premiere two new commissions by CU composers Leanna Kirchoff and Anthony Green. Info at: <http://www.cu-pendulum.com/>



4/30/2010 (CoCoCo) 4th Annual Colorado Composers Concert

Hosted by the Metro State Department of Music on the Auraria Campus, the Playground's annual Colorado Composers Concert (CoCoCo) showcases chamber music written by residents of Colorado. Perhaps our most important concert of the year, CoCoCo has become the highlight of each season. This concert provides an important opportunity for composers in Colorado to see their works performed. Moreover the event promotes a spirit of community among members of the new music and arts community across the state.

In addition to the concert itself we are proud to announce our Developing Composers Program, which showcases works written by composers in grades K-12 – and perhaps even younger!

Also featured is the commission prize, awarded for the composition of a new work specifically for the Playground. It is an honor for us, as an ensemble, to serve those writing music in this area.

Submission Deadline is 12/1/2009. See our website for the official details. www.playgroundensemble.org

Education and Outreach

Education is an important part of our mission. While all of our concerts have an educational component, we also offer programs for all ages from elementary to college and adult.

Recent K-12 events include Ellis Elementary, Ebert Polaris, Denver School of the Arts, and the Joshua School. We also perform regularly for the Academy of Lifelong Learning and the Aurora Music Teachers Association.

All of our educational programs are individually tailored to the needs of the audience. The members of the Playground are experienced educators, teaching in a variety of institutions in the Denver area.

We believe that it is important for young people to see classical music as a vibrant and exciting art form and not a museum piece. We want to bring an event to your school, organization, or ensemble.

www.playgroundensemble.org/education.html