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Dear Music Lover,

In these times of political, social, and economic turmoil we often look to the arts for meaning and solace. However, these are difficult times for the arts. Many small arts organizations in the Bay Area may not survive these lean economic times. Grant giving organizations have had to scale back as endowments have suffered the woes of the stock market. The drastic decline of tourism in the Bay Area has had a significant impact on the local hotel tax, which is a substantial source of funding for the arts in the Bay Area. Philanthropy is also on the decline, even now when it is most needed. Earplay needs your support; you can help make the difference.

Earplay is the only San Francisco-based new music group dedicated to presenting local works. The group has presented remarkably innovative programming and virtuosic performances for nearly two decades; and year after year Earplay has been lauded with critical acclaim.

*Earplay's excellent band of musicians was ably led by [conductor] Mary Chun... The program's diversity of scope and intention received a gratifying and enthusiastic response from the audience. New music was well served.*

*...(a) diverse, imaginative concert. Earplay displayed an unflinching high level of professionalism, awareness, and commitment.*

Jules Langert, San Francisco Classical Voice

*The best of [the compositions] disdained orthodoxy and followed their own preoccupations. The most memorable of these chamber works revealed in the sheer expressive power of individual instruments.*

Allan Ulrich, San Francisco Chronicle

In November, Earplay opened its season with a stunning performance of *Pierrot Lunaire* as tribute to Arnold Schoenberg on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death. Critic Eric Valliere wrote that featured soprano Elise Ross, "commanded the room with her account of Pierrot's journey." Some of the highlights of the rest of the 2001-02 season include the presentation of the winners of the first Earplay international composition competition: *Eco di un tempo perduto* by Italian composer Massimo Lauricella and *La Lutte Bleue* for cello and electronics by Japanese composer Shintaro Imai, a performance of David Schiff's exuberant quintet, *Scenes from Adolescence*, and premieres of new works commissioned by Earplay from Bay Area composers Yu-Hui Chang and James Carr.

The cost of presenting high quality performances of new music in the Bay Area continues to rise, and we still need donations from classical music lovers such as you to sustain Earplay. Even small individual donations of between \$25-100 make an enormous difference. Make your tax-deductible donation to Earplay to help keep new music thriving in the Bay Area. Help keep new music alive in the Bay Area. Your support is vital to Earplay's success; you make it all possible.

Sincerely,

Bruce Christian Bennett  
President, Board of Directors  
EARPLAY