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Earplay Concert May 10

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TWO PREMIERES SPARK EARPLAY SEASON FINALE

Earplay, the avant-garde chamber music collective, will present “Music Could Be An Art Form,” the finale concert of its 27th season, on Thursday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Herbst Theatre in San Francisco. The concert’s two premiere performances spotlight San Francisco’s position as a city of global influences, and is presented in association with the San Francisco International Arts Festival.

The world premiere of Joan Huang’s *Along the River During the Qingming Festival*, a joint commission with Melody of China, also marks the first time Earplay has collaborated with an ensemble of traditional Chinese instruments. Huang’s work is custom-crafted for Earplay’s core ensemble of flute, clarinet, violin, viola and cello, intermixed with Melody of China’s pipa, dizi, sheng, yangin and guzheng. The Shanghai-born composer, who currently lives and works in Los Angeles, will be on hand to participate in the pre-concert discussion.

First-prize entry in the 2011 Donald W. Aird Composers Competition, *Strom* by 27-year-old German composer Sven Daigger will receive its U.S. premiere performance. Thanks to the generosity of the German Consulate of San Francisco, and with the assistance of the Goethe Institute, Mr. Daigger will be in attendance at the concert. *Lontano*, Richard Felciano’s 1986 work for harp and piano, adds a local element to the program. Earplay and Mr. Felciano have enjoyed a long and fruitful association, and the composer will be present to discuss his work at the pre-concert talk.

As part of Earplay’s season-long salute to the music of Morton Feldman, his 1977 violin and piano work *Spring of Chosroes* will round out the program. Variously described as the “different drummer” of American music and as its “irascible brat,” Mr. Feldman, along with his friend and contemporary John Cage, helped to define the distinctively American compositional voice in the 20th century.

In addition to its flagship concert series, Earplay collaborates in multi-disciplinary projects, including Aurora Theatre Company’s recent groundbreaking production of *The Soldier’s Tale*, and administers the annual Aird Competition for composers. Its major sponsors include San Francisco Grants for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts and a variety of regional and national foundations. Earplay is a two-time

winner of the ASCAP/Chamber Music America Award for Adventurous
Programming of Contemporary Music.

Tickets \$20 at cityboxoffice.com or (415) 392-4400.

[6:45 p.m. pre-concert talk with Joan Huang, Sven Daigger and Richard Felciano included in ticket price]
For additional information about Earplay, consult earplay.org.

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