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(November 20, 2009) FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CLASSICAL NEW CHAMBER MUSIC

EARPLAY 2009 WINNER: Donald Aird Memorial COMPOSERS COMPETITION

San Francisco (November 20, 2009): Earplay announces the winning composition of the 2009 EARPLAY DONALD AIRD MEMORIAL COMPOSERS COMPETITION. *Terâneler* (2006) by Tolga Yayalar (Turkey) is the winning composition and carries a \$1,000.00 cash prize with a performance during Earplay's 25th season on May 24, 2010. The string trio composition was selected from 129 entries from 13 countries by a panel of composers and performers specializing in contemporary chamber music. The panelists also selected two finalists: *Reflections* (2004) by Vassos Nicolaou (Cyprus) and *Scintillation II* (2008) by Anthony Green (USA). Honorable mentions were: *Life Without Stars* (2008-09) by Janet Jieru Chen (Taiwan); *Dream Echo* (2008) by Alastair Greig (England); *De Profundis for Solo Cello* (2002) by Jorge Grossman (Peru/Brazil/USA); *Dancing Wind* (2009) by Tan Hainu (China/USA); *Subterranean* (2009) by Michael Klingbeil (USA); *In un gorgo d'azzurro* (2008/09) by Massimo Lauricello (Italy); *Three Images* (2007) by Paul Yeon Lee (USA); and *Faces* (2008) by Riccardo Panfili (Italy).

Tolga Yayalar's notes about his composition:

Terâneler consists of two short pieces. The first one grew out of harmonizing a simple melody and the harmonies are mostly based on the various enharmonic genera of the Ancient Greek and Byzantine music. The second piece starts from the first's end point and adds heterophony and polyphony to the texture.

The title refers to a type of poetry that was originated by Omar Khayyam in 11th century Iran. It consists of four lines with an AABA rhyme scheme. However, in Turkish, which has borrowed many Persian words over the centuries, it takes a whole different meaning. It stands for something that becomes tedious as a result of over-repetition.

Mary Chun, Earplay conductor observes: *Terâneles* grabs the ear from the first phrase to the last as a new music with an ancient past. Bending micro-tones shifting through tonal centers create an unusual tension against a backdrop of shifting textures.

Tolga Yayalar

A native of Istanbul, Turkey, Tolga Yayalar (b. 1973) studied Jazz Composition at Berklee College of Music. He is currently a PhD candidate at Harvard University. He has studied with Harrison Birtwistle, Joshua Fineberg, Brian Ferneyhough, Chaya Czernowin and Helmut Lachenmann.

Tolga Yayalar played electric guitar in rock and jazz bands before taking up composition. Upon his encounter with the music of Webern, his first serious works incorporated serialism with jazz. Since then, texture and timbre have always been in the center of his music. To overcome the harmonic and sonic limitations of the tempered system, his music focuses on different systems of microtonality. While harmonic series constitute the harmonic focal point of his compositions, he also fuses parts of the eastern tuning systems with the Western tradition.



Ensembles and performers who have played Tolga's music include Le Nouvel Ensemble Modern, Ensemble FA, Ying Quartet, Alarm Will Sound, The Cullithumpian Consort, Chamber Players of the League/ISCM, Orchestre National de Lorraine, Adorno Ensemble, Yesaroun Duo, Samuel Z. Solomon, Benjamin Schwartz, Seda Roeder and Garth Knox.

The Deadline for the 2010 EARPLAY DONALD AIRD MEMORIAL COMPOSERS COMPETITION is March 31, 2010. See www.earplay.org for details.

Past winners are: Massimo Lauricella and Shintaro Imai (2001); Christophe Bertrand (2002); João Pedro Oliveira (2003); Vincent Chee-Yung Ho (2004); Fredrik Fahlman (2005), Mitru Escalona-Mijares (2006), and Hèctor Parra (2007), and Nicolas Tzortzis (2008).

Founded in 1985 by a consortium of composers and musicians, Earplay is dedicated to the performance of new chamber music offering audiences a unique opportunity to hear eloquent, vivid performances of some of today's finest chamber music. For more information, please visit www.earplay.org. Earplay concerts feature the Earplayers, a group of seven outstanding Bay Area artists who, as a group, have developed a lyrical and ferocious style. Led by Conductor Mary Chun, the Earplayers are: Tod Brody, flute and piccolo; Peter Josheff, clarinet and bass clarinet; Terrie Baune, violin; Ellen Ruth Rose, viola; Thalia Moore, cello, and Karen Rosenak, piano.

Upcoming concerts: **Earplay 25 - 2010**, 7:30 pm, Herbst Theatre
Ear and There Monday, February 8
Outside In Monday, March 22
Ports and Portals Monday, March 24

Tickets: City Box Office, www.cityboxoffice.com