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Ensemble for These Times Announces Composers from the 2016 Call for Scores "56x54" to be presented on the Group's 2016/17 and 2017/18 Bay Area Home Seasons

Berkeley – On the heels of a highly successful tour to the Krakow Culture Festival in June, Bay Area contemporary chamber group <u>Ensemble for These Times</u> (E4TT) is thrilled to announce **56x54**, the winning composers from their first-ever call for scores.

The ensemble received 275 scores by more than 200 composers. "We were amazed and impressed by the overall quality of the submissions," E4TT member and composer-in-residence David Garner said, "It was really an embarrassment of riches."

As it was impossible for the ensemble members—including soprano Nanette McGuinness and pianist Dale Tsang, in addition to Mr. Garner—to narrow down what was a veritable treasure trove of new works to what could fit into a single season, E4TT chose 56 scores by 54 composers for performance over the 2016/17 and 2017/18 seasons. The selected composers hail from 11 countries—Brazil, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, England, Germany, Greece, Israel, Poland, Russia, Spain, and the U.S.—and 18 states, and range from emerging composers beginning their undergraduate degrees to veterans in the field, including (pictured below, from left) Pulitzer Prize nominee Joelle Wallach; oboist and former member of the Musical Arts Quintet, Greg Steinke; Emmy-nominated Syrian-American composer Kareem Roustom; recently retired Director of the Electronic Music Studio at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Alden Jenks; and 1989 Guggenheim Fellow Juliana Hall.

"They are a fascinating, talented cross-section of composers, playing instruments ranging from the organ and drums, to the oud and guitar," Ms. McGuinness noted, adding, "A number are also singers, poets, or painters."











56 Outstanding Works by 54 Outstanding Composers

The complete list of the 54 composers is as follows: Roger Ames, Craig Carnahan, Mario Carro, Jerry Casey, Partick Castillo, Dave Collins, R. Michael Daughtery, Emily Doolittle, Carlos Dos Santos, Scott Feiner, Tom Flaherty, Arthur Gottschalk, Morgan Greenwood, Juliana Hall, George Hatzimichelakis, Jeffrey Hoover, Christopher Hopkins, Alden Jenks, Derek Jenkins, Molly Joyce, Aleksandra Kaca, Leah Kennedy, Sam Krahn, Lawrence Kramer, Andrew List, Eden Lonsdale, David Luna, Mike McFerron, Daniel Mehdizadeh, Justin Merritt, Weiwei Miao, Klaus Miehling (two works), Melanie Mitrano, Stephen Mitton, Gladys Smuckler Moskowitz, Polina Nazaykinska, Loretta Notareschi, William Price, Gene Pritsker, Kareem Roustom, Justin Henry Rubin, Jessica Rudman, Naftali Schindler, Frederick Schipizky, Grace Xu Schott, Dan Senn, Bob Siebert, Alexander Skripko, Bartos Smoragiewicz, Greg Steinke, Anderson Viana, Joelle Wallach, Christopher Wicks (two works), and Mercedes Zavala.

See them <u>here</u>.

About Ensemble for These Times



E4TT consists of award-winning soprano Nanette McGuinness, Van Cliburn competitor pianist Dale Tsang, and 2015 American Prize in Composition winner David Garner. E4TT focuses on 20th and 21st century music that is relevant, engaging, original and compelling—music that resonates with today and speaks to tomorrow, that harnesses the power of artistic beauty, intelligence, wit, lyricism, and irony to create a deep

understanding of our times and the human condition. The ensemble performed at the 2016

Krakow Culture Festival, was sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Budapest in 2014 for a four-city tour in Hungary, and made its international debut in Berlin. E4TT has performed locally at the German Consulate General, SF Conservatory of Music, Old First Concerts, JCC Peninsula, Trinity Chamber Concerts, and Noontime Concerts, among other venues, has commissioned 18 works and two arrangements, and has been a fiscally-sponsored affiliate of the



San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music since 2011. E4TT's debut CD, *Surviving: Women's Words*, was released on the Centaur label in April 2016. Writing on Examiner.com, Stephen Smoliar called Mr. Garner's settings of poetry by Jewish women Holocaust survivors "fascinating," "passionate," and "highly compelling."

For more information about "56x54" go to E4TT's website.

High resolution jpgs are available for download at www.E4TT.org/http://www.e4tt.org/presskit.html.