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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Ensemble for These Times Announces**

**The “Guernica” Project**

Performed by

**Nanette McGuinness, soprano, Dawn Harms, violin**

**Anne Lerner-Wright, cello, Dale Tsang, piano**

**Featuring the world premiere of Jeffrey Hoover’s “Guernica,” with works by Spanish composers Mercedes Zavala and Mario Carro, and by Derek Bermel (“Death with Interruptions”),”**

**with historical images courtesy of the Museo de la Paz of Gernika-Lumo plus Basque dance by the Zazpiak Bat Dance Group**

**Preview: Sunday, April 2, 3:00 p.m., Maybeck Studio for the Performing Arts, Berkeley**

**World Premiere: Saturday, April 8, 7:30 p.m., Noe Valley Ministry, San Francisco**

(Full calendar listing below)



**Berkeley** – Contemporary chamber group **Ensemble for These Times**—Nanette McGuinness, soprano, Dale Tsang, piano, joined by guest violinist Dawn Harms and season guest cellist Anne Lerner-Wright—announce E4TT’s exciting new commissioning program, **The “Guernica” Project**, commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of Pablo Picasso’s most famous painting, “Guernica.” Featuring the World Premiere of Jeffrey Hoover’s “Guernica” for soprano, violin, cello, and piano, with words in Spanish, Basque, German, Italian, Latin, and English, the program includes: works by two Spanish composers from E4TT’s 2016 Call for Scores—Mario Carro and Mercedes Zavala; Hoover’s “Burning Giraffe,” and *Death With Interruptions* by Derek Bermel. The world premiere will take place on Saturday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry (1021 Sanchez) in San Francisco, with a preview on April 2 at the Maybeck Studio for the Performing Arts (1537 Euclid Avenue) in Berkeley. April 8 will also include images courtesy of the Museo de la Paz of Gernika-Lumo and a Basque honor dance by the Zazpiak Bat Dance Group.

## The “Guernica” Project



**Ensemble for These Times** has commemorated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Picasso’s iconic, monumental painting—itsself inspired by the horrific bombing of the Basque city on April 26, 1937, by Nazi and Italian fascist forces in support of Francisco Franco’s right-wing overthrow of the Spanish Republic—with an exciting Call-and-Response commission by composer Jeffrey Hoover. The group encountered Hoover’s music in their first Call for Scores in 2015/16, which resulted in 275 submissions, including Hoover’s *Burning Giraffe* for cello and piano. Struck by his compositional sensibility, as well as for his creative proclivity for combining musical composition with painting, E4TT commissioned Hoover to write “Guernica,” a call-and-response musical interpretation of the Picasso masterpiece, and a commemoration of the massacre and conflagration that the painting depicts. A monumental and iconic visual image, Picasso’s *Guernica* made its debut at the International Exhibition of Paris just months after the bombing. The work makes a powerful political statement, and nearly 80 years later, continues to resonate viscerally with today’s viewers. Set in four movements for voice, violin, cello, and piano in various combinations, Hoover’s “Guernica” includes words and phrases fragments, and vocalizations in German, Italian, and Spanish, the languages of the three political entities involved in the air attack, plus Basque, the language of the region, as well as English and Latin. Hoover – also a visual artist and professor of integrated arts, who is known for pairing his musical compositions with his own paintings – will recombine thematic material from the first three movements of the work into the fourth movement, which will serve as an interpretation of the Picasso. The intention of the composer and the ensemble is to create a piece imbued with both lyricism and the Zeitgeist of the period, highlighting how the issues explored by Picasso in *Guernica* continue to be relevant to artists and audiences today.

Hoover’s “Guernica” will be the centerpiece of the concert program; the other works at the World Premiere performance are:

- Hoover’s *Burning Giraffe* (2010) for cello and piano, from E4TT’s 2016 Call for Scores;
- Two works by living Spanish composers from E4TT’s 2016 Call for Scores, Mario Carro’s *Alta mar* (2005) and Mercedes Zavala’s *Ha nacido el dolor* from *La sed* (2011);
- *Death With Interruptions* (2015) by Grammy-nominated composer Derek Bermel (Artistic Director of the American Composers Orchestra) for violin, cello, and piano.

For the premiere in San Francisco, E4TT is honored to be able to show historical images provided courtesy of the Museo de la Paz in Gernika-Lumo and to include traditional Basque dance by members of the San Francisco Basque Club’s Zazpiak Bat Dance Group.



**About the Composer.** Jeffrey Hoover’s compositions – ranging from music for voice to orchestral works – have received widespread recognition through the Trieste Prize, the Russolo Competition, awards from Mu Phi Epsilon, the Lancaster Fine Arts Festival, and various other grants, publications, and fellowships. He is a member of the ACME roster of Mu Phi Epsilon, recognized for distinguished achievement in composition. His music has been performed by Rachel Barton Pine, Ronald L. Caravan, Carter Enyeart, Judith Saxton, Merling Trio, The Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Concordia String Trio, and TazWood Dance Company, among others. Hoover’s book, *The Arts and Society: Making New Worlds (Music, Art, Theater, Dance, Film, Poetry, and Architecture)*, is published by Kendall Hunt Publishing. Selected commissions include: *A New Tattoo: Scottish Landscapes* (2015), for large flute choir with string bass and percussion; *In Lincoln’s Day* (2008), for wind ensemble; *With Sun on My Face and Wind to My Back* (2007) for viola and piano (with images); *Praying for Rain* (2007), for cello and wind ensemble (with images); and *Epiphany Vigil at Gethsemane Abbey* (1998), for voice and piano. He is Associate Professor and Director of the Integrated Arts Program at the University of Baltimore.

**About the Ensemble.** Ensemble for These Times has been presented throughout the Bay Area, with performances at the Jewish Music Festival, the Residence of the German Consulate General in San Francisco, Old First Concerts, the Peninsula Jewish Community Center, Trinity Chamber Concerts, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and Noontime Concerts, among others. E4TT made its



international debut in Berlin in 2012, followed in 2014 by a four-city tour in Hungary, sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Budapest as part of the Daniel Pearl World Music Days; the group performed at the Krakow Jewish Culture Festival in Poland in June 2016. E4TT recently concluded a five-year, four-commission project that resulted in the premiere of four song cycles with texts by Jewish women Holocaust survivors.

The project's culminating CD, "Surviving: Women's Words," was released on Centaur Records in April 2016. Consisting of four works by David Garner for the ensemble, the CD has been submitted for consideration for the 59<sup>th</sup> Grammy Awards. "Surviving: Women's Words" CD was reviewed by critic Stephen Smoliar in Examiner.com (April 21, 2016), who wrote that the CD was "fascinating," and "offered four passionate meditations on the Holocaust experience delivered through a unique and highly compelling pair of voices, those of both composer and singer." Critic Erin Heisel in the American Record Guide (September/October, 2016) also called the CD "fascinating," commenting that "Garner's music is difficult but compelling, varied and harmonically interesting," and that "McGuinness handles the vocal and musical challenges well." Formerly known as the Jewish Music & Poetry Project (JMPP), E4TT rebranded in Fall 2015, with the JMPP continuing as a project of the group. The ensemble's new name was inspired by one of Garner's first major works for the group, "In dieser Zeit" ("In These Times"), set to a text by German/Polish poet Mascha Kaléko (1901-1976); this work is included on the new CD, "Surviving: Women's Words."



**Violinist Dawn Harms**, leads an active musical life as a violinist, violist, and conductor and is a member of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and the New Century Chamber Orchestra, as well as co-concertmaster with the Oakland East Bay Symphony. She has performed in chamber music concerts with Frederica von Stade, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Eugenia Zukerman and was the first violinist for ten years with the Harrington String Quart, winners of the Fischhoff chamber music competition. In addition to her solo CDs "Hot Canary" and "The Black Swan," she has performed her one-woman family show in Japan, New Zealand, and the U.S. The co-founder of the Music at Kirkwood chamber music festival, Harms is on the music faculty at Stanford University and earned a B.M. from the New England Conservatory, and M.M. from SUNY, Stonybrook.



Cellist **Anne Lerner-Wright** completed her Bachelor of Arts in Music at Northwestern University as a cello performance major after having spent 3 years as a Spanish Literature major at Bryn Mawr College. She has been performing as a cellist in the Bay Area since 1989, when she moved from her native Chicago to study with Irene Sharp at the San Francisco Conservatory, where she earned a Master of Music in Cello Performance. Anne has performed with many Bay Area orchestras and is a sought-after chamber musician and performer of contemporary music. An equally important part of Anne's musical life is music education. She is the conductor of two of the youth orchestras in the Marin Symphony Youth Programs, is on the faculties of College of Marin and Dominican University and has a large private cello studio in San Rafael.



With a repertory ranging from 1600 to the present, soprano and E4TT co-founder **Nanette McGuinness** has performed in ten languages on two continents in over 25 roles—including Mimì, Cleopatra, Freia, Desdemona, Masetta, Countess Almaviva, First Lady, and Micaela—with the Silesian State (Czech Republic), San Jose (Opera in the Schools), West

Bay, Pacific Repertory, Trinity Lyric, and Livermore Valley Operas, among others. Solo concert engagements include Mahler's Fourth Symphony, *Chants d'Auvergues* (Canteloube), *Shéhérezade* (Ravel) and *Nuits d'étés* (Berlioz), *Stabat Mater* (Rossini), Requiem (Faure), Gloria (Vivaldi), Handel's *Messiah* and *Solomon*, *Lord Nelson Mass* (Haydn) and *Vesperae Solennes* (Mozart). Her CD of music by women composers, *Fabulous Femmes* (Centaur Rec)—called "perfect for the song recital lover" by *Chambermusic Magazine*—features premiere recordings. McGuinness earned a PhD in Music from UC Berkeley, MM in Vocal Performance from Holy Names, and BA in Music from Cornell University.



Pianist **Dale Tsang** began her piano studies at the age of four. A child prodigy, she won numerous competitions and made her concerto debut with orchestra at the age of While still in high school, she gave her first concert series under the auspices of the Young Artists' Guild, performing solo recitals throughout California. She earned her BM in piano performance from the University of Southern California, studying with John Perry; her MM from the University of Michigan, studying with Dickran Atamian; and her DMA from Rice University, studying with John Perry. Nominated for the 1997 Van Cliburn competition, she took first prize in the 2001 Carmel Music Society Competition and was a semi-finalist in the 1999 Washington International Competition. Tsang performed at the Aspen Music Festival, the Holland Music Sessions and the Sarasota Music Festival and is a faculty member at Laney College.

### **Calendar Listings**

#### **Sunday, April 2, 3:00 p.m. Maybeck Studio for the Performing Arts, Berkeley\***

**The Guernica Project Preview: E4TT with guest violinist Dawn Harms and cellist Anne Lerner-Wright**

**Repertoire:** The preview of "Guernica" by Jeffrey Hoover; Hoover's "Burning Giraffe," songs by 2016 Call for Scores Spanish composers Mario Carro and Mercedes Zavala; "Death With Interruptions by Grammy-nominated composer Derek Bermel

**Venue:** Maybeck Studio for the Performing Arts, 1537 Euclid St., Berkeley

**Tickets:** \$20 suggested donation. Limited seating. [Reservations](#) at Eventbrite recommended.

#### **Saturday April 8, 7:30 p.m. Noe Valley Ministry, San Francisco\***

**The Guernica Project World Premiere: E4TT with, guest violinist Dawn Harms and cellist Anne Lerner-Wright**

**Repertoire:** The world premiere of "Guernica" by Jeffrey Hoover; Hoover's "Burning Giraffe," songs by 2016 Call for Scores Spanish composers Mario Carro and Mercedes Zavala; "Death With Interruptions by Grammy-nominated composer Derek Bermel. Presentation to include historical images courtesy of the Museo de la Paz in Gerniko-Lumo and Basque dance by the Zazpiak Bat Dance Group.

**Venue:** Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez, San Francisco

**Tickets:** [At Eventbrite](#), in advance (to 4/5/2017), \$25/15; after 4/5 and at the door: \$30/\$20.

For more information about E4TT and their 2016/17 season, visit [E4TT's website](#).

High resolution jpgs are available for download at [www.e4tt.org/presskit.html](http://www.e4tt.org/presskit.html).

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