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For Immediate Release
Digital Photos of Performers Available [HERE](#)
Digital Photos of Composers Available [HERE](#)

FIRST-EVER **EAR TAXI FESTIVAL** ANNOUNCES EXPANSIVE LINEUP OF CONTEMPORARY CLASSICAL MUSIC

**CITYWIDE FESTIVAL SHOWCASES 54 WORLD PREMIERES OCTOBER 5-10, 2016;
DAILY HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**

- *Pianist Patricia Barber to premiere her own composition on opening night program, Wednesday, Oct. 5*
- *International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE) to perform with students from The People's Music School, Thursday, Oct. 6*
- *Live broadcast on WFMT-FM and wfmt.com featuring Chicago Symphony Orchestra's assistant concertmaster Yuan-Qing Yu and assistant principal cellist Kenneth Olsen, Friday, Oct. 7*
 - *100+ festival musicians to premiere a new work by Drew Baker, Saturday, Oct. 8*
- *Weekend-long, 2-day "New Music Marathon" at Chicago Cultural Center, sponsored by the Sanford J. Grossman Charitable Trust, during Bank of America Chicago Marathon, featuring works by two Pulitzer Prize-winning composers (Shulamit Ran, Bernard Rands) and culminating in a "Blowout Party!" at Constellation, Sunday, Oct. 9*
 - *The festival will conclude by presenting MusicNow's Season Opener, Monday, Oct. 10*

TICKETS & PASSES ON-SALE NOW

CHICAGO, IL – 300+ musicians...88 composers...54 world premieres...25 ensembles...5 sound installations...2-day marathon... **Ear Taxi Festival**, a first-of-its-kind Chicago-centric large-scale contemporary classical music festival, proudly announces its complete lineup. Along with **Patricia Barber**, **International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE)** and **members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO)** the impressive roster of Chicago's new music heavy-hitters includes **Spektral Quartet**, **Third Coast Percussion**, **Ensemble Dal Niente**, **Chicago Harp Quartet**, **Arcomusical** and **Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music Contemporary Ensemble**. No one performance overlaps with another, allowing festivalgoers to attend every Ear Taxi Festival event.

Ear Taxi Festival will take place October 5-10, 2016 at multiple venues throughout Chicago, including the Joan W. and Irving B. Harris Theater for Music and Dance, Chicago Cultural Center, Constellation and Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago. Performances will be presented at over 30 festival events, scheduled in 30 – 90 minute sets. Single event tickets range from \$5-\$26 and multiple event passes start at \$36. Festival passes and tickets are currently available at <http://www.eartaxifestival.com/tickets>.

In addition to adventuresome concert programming, Festival offerings include five unique **sound art installations** on display around the city; **community partnerships**, including public micro-performances; a series of **"Meet the Artists"** events, featuring moderated panel

discussions and cocktails; and a “**NewMusicBox LIVE!**” event presented by New Music USA and focused on Chicago-based composers, streaming online for a national audience.

Ear Taxi Festival: Day-By-Day Schedule

*World Premiere

**U.S. Premiere

***Midwest Premiere

****Chicago Premiere

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph Street

- 5:30 p.m., \$25 General/\$15 Students: Patricia Barber, piano (Program: **Angels, Birds, and I* by Patricia Barber)

Harris Theater

- 6:30 p.m., \$5: “Meet the Artists: Championing Emerging Composers” moderated by Michael Tiknis with panelists Amy Iwano, Shawn Okpebholo, Tim Munro, Cynthia Mead Sargent
- 7:30 p.m., \$20/\$10: Fulcrum Point New Music Project (***Ringing the Quiet* by Elizabeth Ogonek; ****Pendulum II: Yap, Yaw, Yawp* by Alex Mincek; *****Fahrenheit* by Mischa Zupko)
- 8:45 p.m., part of 7:30 p.m. show: Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra (**Prairie Music* by Eric Malmquist; ****Blow It Up, Start Again* by Jonathan Newman) and Civic Orchestra of Chicago (*Desert Transport* by Mason Bates)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

Rockefeller Chapel (University of Chicago), 5850 S. Woodlawn Avenue

- 12:00 p.m., free: Joey Brink, carillon (*...*the way nets cannot hold water* by Iddo Aharony; **Invention – Music for Bells* by Tomás I. Gueglio Saccone; **Letters from the Sky* by Joey Brink; *Capriccio* by Joey Brink; *Invocation* by Joey Brink)

Harris Theater

- 6:30 p.m., \$5: “Meet the Artists: New Music, Old Problems” moderated by Seth Brodsky with participants Michael Lewanski and Katherine Young
- 7:30 p.m., \$20/\$10: International Contemporary Ensemble/ICE with students from The People’s Music School (**Divertimento Concertante* by Marcos Balter; *****Assumed Roles* by Anthony Cheung)
- 8:45 p.m., part of 7:30 p.m. show: Northwestern University Contemporary Ensemble and Bienen Contemporary/Early Vocal Ensemble (***Wonderblock* by Hans Thomalla; *****Consent* by Ted Hearne)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7

Live on WFMT from PianoForte Studios, 1335 S. Michigan Avenue

- 12:00 p.m., \$5: Ear Taxi Festival musicians, featuring the CSO’s assistant concertmaster Yuan-Qing Yu and assistant principal cellist Kenneth Olsen (*Triple Marionette* from *Klee Musings* by Augusta Read Thomas, *On a Poem by Miho Nonaka: Harvard Square* by Shawn E. Okpebholo, *****One Moe Time (Waltz for Eric)* by Lee Hyla, *Third Salvage Meditation* by George Flynn, *Teeny Tango* by Stacy Garrop plus teaser performances of **Chicago Song* by Seth Boustead, **From the Shore* by Lawrence Axelrod, **Songs and Dances* by Amy Wurtz)

Curtiss Hall, 410 S. Michigan Avenue

- 1:40 p.m., free: The Chicago Academy for the Arts New Music Ensemble (**Hidden Spaces*)

Harris Theater

- 3:30 p.m., \$5: Colloquium by George E. Lewis (Lewis presenting his music)
- 5:30 p.m., \$15/\$5: Latino Music Festival and Avalon Quartet (**From Freigeld to the Bitcoin* by Enric Riu; ***String Quartet No. 4* by Gustavo Leone; *Musings on the Nature of Time* by Elbio Barilari)
- 6:30 p.m., \$5: “Meet the Artists: IN BETWEEN TIME – Sound*Image*Word” moderated by Steve Everett with composers Peter Gena, Marlena Novak, Christopher Preissing, Jay Alan Yim
- 7:30 p.m., \$20/\$10: Spektral Quartet (**a new work* by Samuel Adams; **Prospective Dwellers* by Tomeka Reid; **String Quartet 1.5: Experiments in Living* by George E. Lewis)
- 8:45 p.m., part of 7:30 p.m. show: Ensemble Dal Niente (**stutter-step the concept* by Chris Fisher-Lochhead; **To Paint Their Madness* by Pierce Gradone; **Water on Glass* by Jeff Parker)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8 – NEW MUSIC MARATHON

Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington Street

- 12:00 p.m., free: Civitas Ensemble (**Tangled lines, luminous tangents* by David ‘Clay’ Mettens) and Gaudete Brass (**Legends of Olympus* by Stacey Garrop; **A Lullaby for the Tender Hearted in the Age of Anxiety* by Hope Littwin; **Colloquy* by Jessica A. Hunt)
- 1:00 p.m., free: Fonema Consort (**(in)armonia: retratos I* by Pablo Santiago Chin; ***Produktionsmittel I* by Joan Arnau Pàmies)
- 2:00 p.m., free: Access Contemporary Music with mezzo-soprano Julia Bentley, “*New Songs on the Poems of Carl Sandburg*” (**From the Shore* by Lawrence Axelrod; **Chicago Song* by Seth Boustead; **Mist* by Yuan-Chen Li; **the has-been to beachey* by Andrew McManus; **a new work* by Timothy Page)
- 3:00 p.m., free: Tim Munro, flute (**breath* by Tim Munro; **Seven Somniloquies* by David Reminick) and Winston Choi, piano & synthesizer (**études* by Igor Santos)

Harris Theater

- 5:00 p.m., free with priority access granted to pass holders (seating is first-come, first-served): “NewMusicBox LIVE!” with hosts Frank J. Oteri and Molly Sheridan, featuring Andy Costello, Nicole Mitchell, Shulamit Ran; reception with artists and NewMusicBox staff to follow
- 7:30 p.m., \$20/\$10: Third Coast Percussion with Spektral Quartet (**Reaction Yield* by Third Coast Percussion; *****Selene (Moon Chariot Rituals)* by Augusta Read Thomas)
- 8:45 p.m., part of 7:30 p.m. show: Chicago Harp Quartet (**Plectra* by Carolyn O’Brien) and Arcomusical (**Berimbau Sextet No. 1, ‘Kora’* by Gregory Beyer; **Apenas Seja* by Alexis C. Lamb) and Ear Taxi Festival musicians (**NOX* by Drew Baker)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 – NEW MUSIC MARATHON

Chicago Cultural Center

- 12:00 p.m., free: Chicago Composers Orchestra (**Lazarus* by Olivia Block; **Lake Effect* by Kathleen Ginther; **Cooper* by Randall West; *Roots Run Deep* by Brian Baxter)

- 1:00 p.m., free: Collect/Project (**En la orilla gris, silencio* by Francisco Castillo Trigueros; **MOBILE 2016 (Shadow play)* by Fredrick Gifford; **for Collect/Project* by Nomi Epstein; *Freed* by Kyong Mee Choi)
- 2:00 p.m., free: Ensemble 20+ (**A Soundwalk with Resi* by Eliza Brown; *Concertino* by Bernard Rands)
- 3:00 p.m., free: MAVerick Ensemble (**how dark and single* by William Jason Raynovich; **Clameurs, Melodie* by Janice Misurell-Mitchell) and Alyson Berger, cello, and Amy Wurtz, piano (**Dirge* by Sarah J. Ritch; **Songs and Dances* by Amy Wurtz)
- 4:00 p.m., free: Latitude 49 (**Birkat Haderekh – Blessing for the Road II* by Shulamit Ran) and Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble (**not merely bad or broken* by Joe Clark) and Amos Gillespie and Taimur Sullivan, saxophones (*****Lacework* by Amos Gillespie)
- 5:00 p.m., free: Fifth House Ensemble (*Soundings* by Dan Visconti) and a.pe.ri.od.ic (*festhalten/loslassen* by Michael Pisaro) and Picoso (*Mechanical Birds* by Jonathon Kirk)

Constellation, 3111 N. Western Avenue

- 8:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m., \$15/\$10: Third Coast Percussion (*Gravity* by Marc Mellits); Mary Stopler (flute) and Kuang-Hao Huang (piano) (*****Wild Card for Flute and Piano* by Nicole Mitchell); Michael Hall (viola) (*Elegia in Memoriam John Paul II* by Marta Ptaszyńska); MAVerick Ensemble (**Plastic Moment* by Christopher Wendell Jones); Fonema Consort (*****I, purples, spat blood, laugh of beautiful lips* by Aaron Cassidy); Spektral Quartet (*Zin zin zin zin* by LJ White)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

Harris Theater

- 7:00 p.m., \$26[^]/\$15: MusicNOW presented by Ear Taxi Festival with musicians of the CSO, led by conductor Cliff Colnot, and guest artists Manual Cinema (**the moss glows and the water is black* by Katherine Young; **Manual Cinema with music* by Kyle Vegter; *Tile Mosaic (After Chagall)* by Sam Pluta; *Splinter* by Marc Mellits)

[^]Note: MusicNOW admission available via VIP Pass or Festival Pass regardless of the date on which you buy a Pass; Single tickets for MusicNOW go on-sale August 12, 2016.

Spearheaded by GRAMMY®-winning composer [Augusta Read Thomas](#), Ear Taxi Festival showcases Chicago's vital new music scene and celebrates the differing styles of new music today with performances from Chicago's top chamber music ensembles and soloists. True to the collaborative nature of Chicago's new music scene, Ear Taxi Festival is co-curated by Thomas and conductor Stephen Burns alongside a curatorial committee of Chicago's leading new music artists and intellectuals: Michelle Boone, Drew Baker, John Bierbusse, Seth Boustead, Teddy Dean Boys, Seth Brodsky, Matthew Duvall, Steve Everett, Peter Gena, Amy Iwano, Michael Lewanski, Peter Margasak, Bill Michel, Liz Pesnel, David Skidmore, Michael Tiknis, Andreas Waldburg-Wolfegg, Austin Wulliman and Angel Ysaguirre.

The full Ear Taxi Festival schedule and artist bios are available at eartaxifestival.com.

EAR TAXI FESTIVAL PASSES & TICKETS

Ear Taxi Festival Passes are available at the Harris Theater Box Office (205 E. Randolph Drive), online [HERE](#) or by phone at 312.334.7777 during regular box office hours: Monday-Friday, 12:00-6:00pm.

- The **VIP Pass** (\$200) offers the best value for new music fans, guaranteeing admission to all Ear Taxi events! Receive guaranteed access to reserved VIP seating for all ticketed Ear Taxi Festival events at the Harris Theater, access to a VIP reserved seating section at free concerts in the Chicago Cultural Center and admission to all panel discussions. The VIP Pass also guarantees admission to an intimate opening night performance with Patricia Barber on the Harris Theater stage and NewMusicBox Live! on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016.
- The **Festival Pass** (\$150 general / \$100 students) guarantees access to reserved seating at all ticketed Harris Theater events, access to a reserved seating section at free concerts in the Chicago Cultural Center and first-come, first-served admission to all panel discussions (limited seating).
- The **Flex Pass** (\$36 general / \$24 students) allows patrons to select three Ear Taxi Festival concerts at the Harris Theater (excluding MusicNOW on October 10) for one low, discounted price.

Single event tickets at Harris Theater are available [HERE](#). Tickets to the “Blowout Party!” at Constellation are available [HERE](#). Tickets to the performance at PianoForte Studios are available [HERE](#). All events held at the Chicago Cultural Center, Rockefeller Chapel and Curtiss Hall are free of charge.

ABOUT EAR TAXI FESTIVAL

Spearheaded by acclaimed composer and University of Chicago Professor Augusta Read Thomas, Ear Taxi Festival - October 5-10, 2016 - celebrates the vibrant and booming contemporary classical music scene in Chicago with concerts, lectures, marathons, webcasts and artist receptions. Co-curated by Thomas and conductor Stephen Burns alongside a curatorial committee of Chicago’s leading new music artists and intellectuals and managed by Reba Cafarelli, the festival will be a joy-ride through Chicago’s contemporary classical music scene.

ABOUT AUGUSTA READ THOMAS

Augusta Read Thomas’ impressive body of works embodies unbridled passion and fierce poetry. *The New Yorker Magazine* called her “a true virtuoso composer.” She has had the distinction of having her work performed more frequently in 2013-2014 than any other living ASCAP composer, according to statistics from the performing rights organization. Music critic Edward Reichel has stated, “Augusta Read Thomas has secured for herself a permanent place in the pantheon of American composers of the 20th and 21st centuries. She is without question one of the best and most important composers that this country has today.

Former Chairperson of the American Music Center, Augusta Read is a generous citizen in the profession at large and, according to the American Academy of Arts and Letters, “has become one of the most recognizable and widely loved figures in American Music.” She is the longest-running composer-in-residence (1997-2006) for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO). During her tenure, she founded, started, fundraised for, programmed and hosted the CSO’s MusicNOW contemporary music series which is still thriving today. In addition to her central role envisioning and leading Ear Taxi Festival, she is currently working to create a Center for Contemporary Composition at the University of Chicago and she is a tireless advocate for the works of other composers and the music of our time.

EAR TAXI FESTIVAL SPONSORS

The Ear Taxi Festival is made possible through generous support from Lead Sponsor Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University; Presenting Sponsors Harris Theater and the University of Chicago; Platinum Medallion Sponsors the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE), The Chicago Community Trust, the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation and Cynthia Mead Sargent; Gold Medallion Sponsor The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation; Silver Medallion Sponsors The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Inc., The Amphion Foundation, Inc., Helyn Goldenberg & Michael Alper, New Music USA and The Sally Mead Hands Foundation; Bronze Medallion Sponsors Susan & Nick Yasillo; and Driver's Seat Sponsor MacArthur Foundation. Additional support for Ear Taxi Festival has been provided through the partnership of Chicago-based foundations, WFMT-FM, WBEZ-FM, Vocalo, Curb Chicago, Cedille Records, PianoForte Foundation, Sharing Notes, Constellation, New Music Chicago, countless ensembles and composers and with the support of individual and anonymous donors.

For more information on the first-ever Ear Taxi Festival, visit eartaxifestival.com

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