

## **Contemporary chamber music ensemble Speculum Musicae to perform in concert November 17 in UCSD's Mandeville Auditorium**

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Media Contact: Ruth Baily at University Events, 534-0497, or Jan Jennings, 534-0361

New York City's Speculum Musicae, an ensemble described by a New York Magazine reviewer as the voice of uptown academia that can make mind-bending music accessible, will perform at 8 p.m. Nov. 17 in Mandeville Auditorium at the University of California, San Diego.

Included in the sextet's Mandeville concert challenges will be UCSD music Professor Rand Steiger's Woven Serenade.

The Nov. 17 performance will also feature Ingolf Dahl: Concerto a Tre; Silvestre Revueltas: Festival Music; Alban Berg: Adagio from the Kammerkonzert, and Aaron Copland: Sextet for Strings, Clarinet & Piano. The concert is sponsored by UCSD's University Events Office.

The name Speculum Musicae means "mirror of music." The ensemble says their goal is three-fold: to preserve and represent the classic musical works of our time, to participate in the development and expansion of the repertoire by collaborating with living composers, and to educate the musicians and audiences of the future.

"We all get the feeling that it's an uphill struggle," pianist Aleck Karis says of the ensemble's sense of duty to music of this century. "But we do it because we enjoy it -- it's fun....The main thing is to keep (a concert) lively, with lots of contrast."

Speculum Musicae has performed at music festivals and universities throughout the country. The ensemble has toured Great Britain and Germany and has performed at festivals in Warsaw, Poland, and Geneva, Switzerland. Among their recordings are a 70th birthday celebration concert recording for Chow Wen- Chung, a string quartet of Eric Chasalow, works of Stefan Wolpe, works of emerging American composers David Sanford, Morris Rosenzweig and Eric Moe, and two works of Lee Hyla. An upcoming project is a disc of chamber works of Mario Davidovsky.

"This is a transitional age in music," says Karis, praising both the established composers and the newcomers. "Both are writing terrific music. So it is an exciting time for that reason. Sure, some of it may puzzle the audience, but it's not terrible to hear one baffling piece in an evening."

Eager to take on contemporary and unfamiliar music, Speculum Musicae relishes "the excitement of discovery" and delights in inviting their audiences to a "different way of listening." Much of the pleasure of a Speculum Musicae concert, writes the New York Magazine reviewer, comes "from hearing these superb players respond to so many substantial and finely wrought musical challenges."

Tickets for the Speculum Musicae performance at UCSD are \$20 general admission. The UCSD Council of Provosts and Regents Lectureship have made it possible for the concert to be free to all UCSD students. Tickets are available at the University Box Office, 534-6467, and at Ticketmaster outlets. For further information call 534-4090.

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