Polish Music Center Presents: POLISH MUSIC: THE NEW GENERATION
With guest artist, David Lynch

March 26, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in Alfred Newman Recital Hall at USC

LOS ANGELES (March 26, 2011) — On March 26, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in USC’s Newman Recital Hall, the Polish Music Center will present a concert featuring trend-setters in Polish contemporary music. Members of what is generally referred to as the “Glissando Generation” (named after a Polish music periodical covering avant-garde music and art), Wojtek Blecharz, Mikołaj Górecki, Jarosław Kapuściński, Robert Pierzak, Ewa Trębacz, and Krzysztof Wołek represent a wide spectrum of musical styles and approaches. These young composers, who have already made their mark on the international scene with numerous commissions and performances of their works, will be present to discuss their music and their compositional process. The concert will be capped with a special performance by filmmaker David Lynch, appearing in a keyboards-grand piano duet of free improvisations with Marek Żebrowski.

Wojtek Blecharz, currently pursuing a doctoral degree in composition at UC San Diego, has already been recognized with a number of international prizes for his compositions as well as for performances as an oboist. He has received commissions from the Poznań Music Spring Festival, Polish Composers’ Union, Ensemble Intégrales, Kwartludium Ensemble, clarinetist Michael E. Richards, and Royal String Quartet, and wrote music for the Silesian Dance Theatre, Kokoro Dance Ensemble in Vancouver, City Dance Ensemble in Washington, Fringe Festival for Arts in Philadelphia, Ballet Met in Ohio, Rotterdamse Dansacademie, and theatres throughout Poland. Mr. Blecharz will be represented on the March 26 program with a 2008 composition, Com/m/a for flute and clarinet, performed by flutist Amy Tatum and clarinetist Eric Jacobs.

Mikołaj Górecki, son of the late Henryk Mikołaj Górecki, is also a composer and currently serves on the faculty of Laredo Community College. He studied composition at the Katowice Music Academy with his father and graduated with honors in 1995. A scholarship student at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada during 1996-1997, Mr. Górecki received a doctorate in composition in 2000 from Indiana University in Bloomington. His music has been performed worldwide, including De Ijsbrejer Centre...
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in Amsterdam, Avery Fisher Hall in New York, as well as venues in Montreal, Quebec City, Victoria, Edmonton, Washington, DC, and the World Music Days ISCM Festival in Slovenia. His Sonata for Two Pianos was written in 2005 and will be given its World Premiere at the Polish Music Center concert on March 26 by piano duo Aurelien Eulert and Sara Sumitami.

Jarosław Kapuściński, a composer and pianist, is a graduate of Warsaw Academy of Music and Banff Centre for the Arts and received his doctorate in composition from UC San Diego in 1997. Currently he is Assistant Professor of composition in the Department of Music at Stanford University, and directsthe Intermedia Performance Lab at Stanford’s Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA). He has also taught at McGill University in Montreal, Royal Academy of Arts and Music in The Hague, Art Conservatory and Music Academy in Odense, Conservatory of Music at University of the Pacific, and has lectured internationally. Kapuściński’s primary interest is the creation and performance of works in which musical instruments are used to control multimedia content and the composer will perform his 2009 composition Juicy for Piano and Video on the March 26 concert.

Robert Pierzak is a composer and conductor who writes vocal, electronic, and instrumental music. He studied composition at Ithaca College and the Eastman School of Music with Mario Davidovsky, Phillipe Manoury, Robert Morris, Chinary Ung, Dana Wilson, and Gregory Woodward. Mr. Pierzak is currently in the PhD program in composition at UC San Diego. He is the recipient of the BMI Student Composer Award, the Howard Hanson Large Ensemble Prize, the Smadbeck Composition Award, and the Yale College Composer’s Group High School Composition Award. His music has been performed throughout the U.S. Mr. Pierzak’s composition, I’m Underwater for Piano Solo (2008) will be performed on the March 26 concert by pianist Yevgeniy Milyavskiy.

Ewa Trębacz is a composer and media artist living in Seattle and teaching at the University of Washington’s Center for Digital Arts and Experimental Media (DXARTS). A graduate of Kraków Music Academy in the composition class of Boguslaw Schaeffer, Ms. Trębacz received her Ph.D. from the University of Washington, where she studied computer music with Richard Karpen and Juan Pampin, and experimental video with Shawn Brixey. Ewa Trębacz’s works include instrumental solo, chamber, and symphonic compositions as well as computer realized sound with live performance, soundtracks for animated films, and experimental stereoscopic video. She was commissioned by the Klangspuren Festival in Austria and the International Contemporary Music Festival Warsaw Autumn in Poland and recognized by the 56th UNESCO International Rostrum of Composers in Paris in 2009 for her work things lost things invisible for ambisonic space and orchestra, which resulted in multiple radio broadcasts on four continents. Her 2005 work, Minotaur for Horn and Surround Sound will be performed by Josiah Boothby, who collaborated with Ms. Trębacz on this composition.

Krzysztof Wołek has studied composition with Edward Bogusławski, Louis Andriessen, Marta Ptaszyńska, Shulamit Ran, and Howard Sandroff and received his Ph.D. in composition and computer music from the University of Chicago. He has taught
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Krzysztof Wolek is a composer and teacher born in Katowice, Poland. He received his Ph.D. in composition, electronic music, and theory at the Academy of Music in Katowice, Columbia College Chicago, University of Chicago, and, most recently, as Assistant Professor of Music Composition and Director of Digital Composition Studies at the University of Louisville. Krzysztof Wolek also serves on the jury of the Grawemeyer Award, is a Programming Committee Member of the Warsaw Autumn Festival, and is the Director of the University of Louisville New Music Festival. His works have been performed at the Warsaw Autumn Festival, SEAMUS, SPARK, International Computer Music Conference, Audio Art Festival, Musica Polonica Nova, and the ISCM World Music Days. He has received commissions from the Warsaw Autumn Festival, the Siemens Foundation, SCI/ASCAP as well as awards and grants from the Chicago Arts Grant, the Concours Internationaux de Musique et d’Art Sonore Electroacoustiques, the MISAME Association, and the Bourge Competition. His 2009 Arguro for Flutes and Live Electronics will be performed by flutist Michael Matsuno.

David Lynch, a visionary filmmaker, is also a keen musician and enthusiast of Polish avant-garde music. For several years he has collaborated with pianist Marek Żebrowski on exploring musical inspiration in free-form improvisations. After a period of in-studio experiments and recordings in the early 2000s, Lynch (on electronic keyboards) and Żebrowski (at the piano), have performed live in Paris, Milan, Łódź, Gdańsk, Los Angeles, New York, and Washington. Their CD “Polish Night Music,” featuring several extended improvisations, was released in 2008. Their performance at the March 26 Polish Music Center concert will include a brief introduction by Mr. Lynch with music—created on the spot—to follow.

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Editors, Please Note:

Calendar Listing

WHAT:
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WHEN:
Saturday, March 26, 2011, 4:00 p.m.

WHERE:
Alfred Newman Recital Hall
3616 Trousdale Parkway
Los Angeles, CA 90089
(located on the USC campus in downtown L.A.; ample parking is available)
TICKET PRICES:
Free and Open to the public

TICKETS & INFO:
Polish Music Center
Telephone: 213. 821. 1356
E-mail: polmusic@thornton.usc.edu
Website: http://www.usc.edu/dept/polish_music/

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About the Polish Music Center at USC

The Polish Music Center at USC is the only such institute for Polish music outside of Poland. An exceptional resource for research in Polish music and culture, it houses a unique collection of manuscripts by leading Polish composers (Lutosławski, Penderecki, Bacewicz, and many others), in addition to over 10,000 library items, including scores, books, periodicals, and recordings of Polish music. The Polish Music Center’s website serves the worldwide audience with its monthly Newsletter, provides information on numerous composers and their works, and features the Polish Music Journal, an online publication devoted to examining various topics in Polish music. The Center also publishes books in the Polish Music History Series and organizes concerts, lectures and other musical events in Southern California and beyond.

About the USC Thornton School of Music

Led by Dean Dr. Robert A. Cutietta, the University of Southern California’s Thornton School of Music brings together a stellar faculty chosen from a broad spectrum of the music profession and gifted students from around the globe. Founded in 1884, and today the oldest continually operating cultural institution in Los Angeles, the Thornton School consistently ranks among the top one percent of the nation’s music schools and conservatories. Graduates of the school attain positions with major orchestras, ensembles, recording studios and music industry firms and perform on stages and in studios around the world.

Blending the rigors of a traditional conservatory-style education with the benefits of studying at a leading research university, the Thornton School offers students a thorough music education in a real-world context. Located at the center of Los Angeles, the school is the collegiate partner of choice for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Opera, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the GRAMMy Foundation and The Recording Academy, to name a few.

In addition to their work with these ensembles, Thornton students are a constant presence in local classrooms, reaching out to the next generation of musicians through music education and appreciation courses. With its faculty, its students, its events and its work,
the Thornton School is one of the most important cultural resources in Los Angeles. For more information, visit www.usc.edu/music.