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**The San Francisco Contemporary Music Players present
*Longing for Utopia: Graeme Jennings plays Nono***

Performance and discussion of Luigi Nono's La lontananza nostalgica utopica futura.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – **Thursday, February 4, 2010** – The San Francisco Contemporary Music Players present Luigi Nono's groundbreaking work for violin and electronics on Monday, March 1, 2010 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Forum at 8:00 p.m., with a pre-concert lecture at 7:15 p.m. and a post-concert talk-back with experts on Nono's work. Violinist Graeme Jennings and composer/sound diffusionist Christopher Burns will perform the work.

CALENDAR LISTING:

WHO: San Francisco Contemporary Music Players

WHAT: *Longing for Utopia: Graeme Jennings plays Nono*

WHEN: Monday, March 1, 2010, 8:00 p.m. (pre-concert talk at 7:15 p.m.)

WHERE: YBCA Forum, 701 Mission St., San Francisco

PRICES: \$28 general, \$23 seniors, \$10 students

TICKETS: www.ybca.org/tickets

INFO: www.sfcmp.org, 415-278-9566

Italian composer Luigi Nono is one of the most influential composers of the late 20th century. Composed in 1988, *La lontananza nostalgica utopica futura* is one of Nono's last works and contains elements of improvisation. In performance, the violinist moves to music stands positioned throughout the audience – including some dummy stands with fake music, so the audience cannot predict where the violinist will go next. In addition to the solo violin, *La lontananza* includes eight independent tape parts recorded by violinist Gidon Kremer, for whom the piece was written. The tape parts contain many hours' worth of diverse material – everything from passages of music to improvisations to bits of Kremer's conversations in the studio. There is far more recorded material than could be used in any single performance of the piece, and the sound engineer must decide which sections to play and which to leave out. The piece can sound radically different from one performance to the next, depending on what choices the sound engineer makes.

The performance will take approximately one hour, following which there will be a talk-back moderated by composer Luciano Chessa, Ph.D. of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, with the audience, the performers, and Nono expert Professor Bruce Durazzi (Washington University, St. Louis). After the performance there will be a reception in the lobby with prosecco donated by the Istituto.

At 7:15 p.m., there will be a pre-concert talk by Professor Bruce Durazzi, who is known for his investigation of music and politics in the work of Luigi Nono. Durazzi's research in music theory emphasizes the relationship between music analysis and broader social, cultural and historical issues.

About the performers:

Violinist **Graeme Jennings** is a former member of the legendary Arditti String Quartet (1994-2005). Jennings has made over 70 CDs, given over 300 premieres, and appeared as a soloist with top orchestras around the world. Having served on the faculties of UC Berkeley, Mills College, and Stanford

University, he was recently appointed Senior Lecturer in Violin and Viola at the Queensland Conservatorium in Australia.

Christopher Burns is a composer, educator, and producer specializing in chamber and electroacoustic music. The former Technical Director of the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics (CCRMA) at Stanford University, Burns now teaches composition and technology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is a co-director of San Francisco's *sfSoundSeries*, and he co-founded and produced Stanford's *strictly Ballroom* contemporary music series.

This concert is presented in collaboration with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura.

The San Francisco Contemporary Music Players is supported in part by:

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