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Office of Public Relations

News Bureau

NEW S.D. ENSEMBLE OF MUSICIANS TO FOCUS ON CONTEMPORARY WORKS;
DEBUTS AT USD IN NOVEMBER WITH COPLAND'S APPALACHIAN SPRING

A new professional ensemble of musicians seeking to acquaint San Diego audiences with the best of contemporary music debuts Thursday, November 7, at 8 p.m. at the University of San Diego.

The ensemble, consisting of professional musicians from USD, UC San Diego, San Diego State University, and the San Diego Symphony and Chamber Orchestra, will perform for the first time in Camino Theatre during the nationwide celebration of American Music Week (November 3-9).

The featured work will be Aaron Copland's Pulitzer Prize-winning Appalachian Spring in the original version which was premiered in 1944 at the Library of Congress with the composer conducting.

In addition, Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird, a work of Lucas Foss (who will be in San Diego to conduct the San Diego Symphony November 8, 9, and 10), will be performed by soprano Carol Plantamura, Chairman of the UCSD Music Department. Samuel Barber's Knoxville: "Summer of 1915" will be sung by soprano Ann Chase. Concert violist Karen Elaine will present the West Coast premiere of Cinnabar by David Ward-Steinman with the composer

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at the piano. And flutist Beth Buckley, accompanied by pianist Mary Barranger, will round out the program with a performance of Howard Hanson's Serenade.

The as-yet-unnamed ensemble will perform under the direction of Dr. Lily Gunn, Assistant Professor of Music at USD, who was approached this summer by area musicians and asked to conduct and direct the new ensemble.

"Too often, when people hear '20th century music,' they shy away because they think the music will be too far out," said Dr. Gunn. "This ensemble has been formed to show San Diego audiences the accessibility of the best of contemporary music.

"We are especially excited at the prospect of performing Copland's Appalachian Spring in the original chamber version as it was first performed at the Library of Congress," Dr. Gunn said.

The next concert in the ensemble's series will feature Arnold Schoenberg's Pierrot Lunaire performed by soprano Ann Chase at SDSU on Monday, December 9.

Admission to the debut concert is \$10 (\$5 for seniors and students). For further information, please contact the USD Department of Fine Arts, 260-4600, ext. 4486 or 4456.