

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Laura Russart, Marketing Director

Present Music

414.271.0711 x5

laura@presentmusic.org

Present Music Offers 30th Season Souvenir Choose Concert, January 7

(Thursday, December 29, 2011-Milwaukee, Wis.) [Present Music](#), (PM) Milwaukee's award-winning new music ensemble, is excited to celebrate 30 years of commissioning and performing new music in Milwaukee and for the first time ever has given their loyal audience the opportunity to choose the concert programming. The January 7, 2012 concert, aptly titled, [Choose](#), at Turner Hall Ballroom will feature six contemporary music selections chosen by PM ticket buyers through an online voting process. The music pieces were chosen from four categories -- from hauntingly beautiful to clever and quirky to contemplative to wild and gritty-- the top voted choices will be revealed at the concert. All of the music choices from the voting process can be previewed here: <http://www.presentmusic.org/voteall.aspx>.

Present Music's grand finale at the Choose concert will be Donald Erb's multi-media extravaganza for the senses, *Souvenir*. Composed in 1970, *Souvenir* was meant to represent the 'happenings' of that time though it has remained universally relevant in new music programming. Present Music has performed this piece three times before in Milwaukee -- twice as part of regular concert programming and once at the Milwaukee Film Festival. It was also performed in Tokyo, Japan as part as an outreach tour. It was identified as a memorable audience favorite which led to this special 30th season performance. Nearly 800 glow-in-the-dark balls and balloons among other surprises are unleashed during the performance. Fifteen pre-selected audience members will join the Present Music ensemble in this piece to create unique sounds with their instrument of choice.

The Choose concert after party will celebrate Present Music and the [Shepherd Express's](#) 30th birthdays. The after party will include free food and Milwaukee's premier polka-pop party band, [The Squeezettes](#).

General admission by section tickets are \$15/\$25/\$35 and half price for students. Tickets are available in advance at <http://www.presentmusic.org/concerts/choose.aspx> until Saturday, January 7 at noon or at (414) 271-0711 until Friday, January 6 at 5pm. Students must order by phone. Non-discounted tickets will be available at Turner Hall Ballroom starting at 6:30pm on January 7.

Present Music Choose Concert
Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 7:30pm (doors open at 6:30pm)
Turner Hall Ballroom, 1032 N. 4th St., Milwaukee

Present Music Images: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/presentmusic/sets/>

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Present Music is Milwaukee's internationally acclaimed new music ensemble. Celebrating 30 years of new music, Present Music commissions, performs, records, and tours the music of living composers. In the past quarter century, more than 55 new works, by composers from around the world, have come into existence because of Present Music. Founded by Kevin Stalheim, Present Music works closely with many of the world's most exciting and significant composers while supporting the talents of emerging voices. It nurtures the next generation of composers through its education program, the Creation Project.

Present Music is a member of the United Performing Arts Fund, which provides major financial support. This season is supported by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support provided by CAMPAC and by the generosity of foundations, corporations and individuals. PM has won the ASCAP/Chamber Music America's Adventurous Programming Award an unprecedented six times and can be heard on nine compact disk recordings on the Argo, Albany, Aoede, Northeastern, Naxos and Innova labels.

Present Music engages artists and audiences in imaginative and provocative experiences with new music through ensemble performance, education and commissioning.