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## **György Kurtág's 'Kafka's Fragments' presented at KCH**

Feb. 16, 2010 — Ann Arbor, Mich. — Soprano Tony Arnold and violinist Movses Pogossian will perform “Kafka’s Fragments,” a setting of forty short excerpts from Franz Kafka’s writings by Hungary’s greatest living composer György Kurtág. Considered “one of the most profound musical masterworks of the late twentieth century” by Opera News, the work uses forty excerpts primarily from Kafka's letters and diaries. These vignettes cross the spectrum of musical expression, and are a reflection of the composer’s own life. Arnold and Pogossian will perform “Kafka’s Fragments” at **Kerrytown Concert House on Sunday, March 14 at 4:30 p.m.**

Arnold and Pogossian have worked extensively on the piece with the composer, having performed the work across the United States and Europe. “Pogossian ...deftly conjured the music's surreal post-Bartokian nightscape: by turns dreamy, frenetic, and ultimately in the final fragment, sublime,” writes The Boston Globe. According to the New York Times, “Arnold’s drama is touching, with a sense, from the freshness of her singing and from her thoughtful involvement, that the experiences reflected, refracted or directly conveyed in these miniature scenes are happening to her, right now, as she utters.”

A CD/DVD set of Kafka’s Fragments was released in March of 2009, which includes a video of a live concert in Armenia in 2006, as well as footage of a masterclass with the composer.

### *Tony Arnold, soprano*

Soprano Tony Arnold is internationally recognized for her interpretation of the contemporary repertoire. In 2001, she became the first vocalist ever to win the prestigious Gaudeamus International Interpreters Competition, and later that year took top honors at the McMahon International Music Competition. Since those triumphs she has been widely sought as both a concert and recording artist.

### *Movses Pogossian, violin*

Violinist Movses Pogossian has a multi-faceted career as a soloist, avid chamber musician, champion of new music, and a sought-after teacher. He is currently professor of violin at UCLA, and is also the Artistic Director of the new Dilijan Chamber Music Series at Zipper Hall in downtown Los Angeles. Pogossian is a dedicated performer of new music, and has premiered over 30 works.

### *György Kurtág, composer*

A Romanian native, György Kurtág moved to Budapest to study composition at the Liszt Academy of Music in 1946. As Hungary’s Stalinist regime cracked down on artistic expression in the 1950s, Kurtág moved to Paris to study with Olivier Messiaen, Darius Milhaud and others. His “Messages of the late Miss R.V. Trousova” Op. 17 for soprano and chamber ensemble was first premiered in

1981 in Paris, and put him on the map world-wide. Kurtág's "...quasi una fantasia... Op. 27 no. 1 uses spatial effects by having music come from different parts of a hall.

### **About Kerrytown Concert House**

The Kerrytown Concert House is an arts organization focused on community engagement and bringing fine artists and their audiences together. An intimate 110-seat venue, the Concert House is home to diverse offerings in a wide range of musical styles, while rotating art exhibits are displayed on the walls of the house. Located in the Kerrytown district of Ann Arbor, Mich., KCH is available to the community, including educators, students and organizations for recitals, meetings and events. In addition, it is home to the internationally acclaimed festival Edgefest, and is a presenter of artists of the highest artistic excellence. Kerrytown Concert House is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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