

Press Release

**Centaur Records releases CD entitled
American Fantasies**

March 1, 2008

Music for violin and piano by Arnold Schoenberg and his American Students
(For more information call 801 587 9375, or e-mail info@centaurrecords.com)

Join violinist Hasse Borup and pianist Mary Kathleen Ernst in an exciting exploration of American Music. This release is officially endorsed by the Arnold Schoenberg Center.

Arnold Schoenberg lived, composed and taught in Los Angeles for almost twenty years. Many of his students from this period became influential in American music life, and the goal of this program is to explore and show the multitude of directions that this major figure in twentieth century music sparked.

The natural starting point for this program is Schoenberg's last major composition, the *Phantasy Op.47* for violin and piano. This piece leads us on to John Cage's *Six Melodies for Violin and Keyboard*. Cage's studies with Schoenberg were brief, but made a big impact on the young American composer. Donald Harris was another American fascinated by Schoenberg's style: he studied with Max Deutsch, a disciple of Schoenberg from his Berlin years. Harris' *Fantaisie* from 1953 is probably the closest exponent of a distinct American twelve-tone style. Leon Kirchner was a student of Schoenberg for a number of years. Departing from his training in Los Angeles, he developed his own expressive style that—in various degrees—embrace “American” styles, such as jazz. The program will conclude with two of Kirchner's works, *For Solo Violin* (1986) and *Duo No.2* (2002).

Mr. Borup and Ms. Ernst performed this repertoire at numerous venues, including American Composer's Forum and the Arnold Schoenberg Center, University of Utah, Ohio State University and the Arnold Schoenberg Center. The repertoire was recorded by the National Slovenian Radio and produced by Antony Jurca. The project is supported by University of Utah Creative Grant and University of Utah College of Fine Arts Creative Grant.

Prior to his appointment to the University of Utah, Dr. Borup served on the faculty of University of Virginia. He was a founding member of the award-winning Coolidge String Quartet, heard by audiences in America, Europe, Central America and Asia. To learn more, visit www.hasseborup.com

Pianist Mary Kathleen Ernst is a faculty member at University of Virginia. She graduated from the Juilliard School of Music and has released several CDs featuring new works. Visit www.MaryKathleenErnst.com

This CD will be available through Amazon.com, CDUniverse as well as other major outlets

www.centaurrecords.com