

CELEBRATING URSULA MAMLOK
A Portrait Concert of the Berlin-Born American Master

CONTINUUM, Cheryl Seltzer and Joel Sachs, directors, presents the second concert of its 44th New York season on Wednesday, January 13, 8 PM, at Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center, 129 West 67th Street.

Continuum has enjoyed a long association with Ursula Mamlok, performing her music regularly in the U.S. and abroad -- as far afield as Mongolia and Kazakhstan! Born in Berlin in 1923 she started composing as a youngster. The catastrophe of Hitler forced her family to seek refuge in Ecuador. As a very enterprising teenager, she made contact with Mannes College and still during wartime traveled on her own to New York to accept their offer of a scholarship. She subsequently earned degrees from Manhattan School of Music. Her earlier compositions were in the prevailing traditional mode of the conservatories, but she felt a need to explore more progressive currents. She pursued studies with several pioneers of the day; most influential were Stefan Wolpe, and especially Ralph Shapey, and became an important part of New York's contemporary music scene from the 1960s onward. Her music of the 60s and 70s boldly employs the new spatial concepts and liberated tonal language of the post-Schoenberg/Webern era. In recent decades she has developed a highly personal, creative use of the 12-tone technique. Attention is focused on melodic elements, intricate contrapuntal inter-weavings, and vivid juxtaposition of contrasting musical characterizations.

Ursula Mamlok has written symphonic works (including for the San Francisco Symphony), but most of her music is chamber music. Continuum will perform some of their favorite chamber works: *Variations for Solo Flute* (1961), *From My Garden* for viola (1983), *Rhapsody* for clarinet, viola, piano (1989), *Sonata for Violin and Piano* (1989), *Girasol* for ensemble (1991), *String Quartet No. 2* (1998), and *Confluences* for clarinet, violin, cello, piano (2001), a work commissioned by Continuum. Featured will be Ursula Mamlok's most recent work *Aphorisms II* (2009), written for clarinetists Charles Neidich and Ayako Oshima, who will present the World Premiere. Two recently published miniatures, *Arabesque* for solo flute (1960) and *Love Song of Two Pigeons* (1991) will also be heard in their World Premieres.

Soloists are Charles Neidich and Ayako Oshima, clarinetists; Ulla Suokko, flute; Renée Jolles, violin; Stephanie Griffin, viola; and Joel Sachs, piano, conductor.

Continuum's signature Retrospective Series has been a key part of New York's musical life since the organization's founding in 1966. Its innovative programming has been praised for introducing New York to unknown extraordinary composers from around the world, many of whom later achieve worldwide standing. Continuum, in turn, has had remarkable opportunities to bring American and other new music to festivals in far corners of the world, in the ensemble's travels to such locations as Brazil, Venezuela, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Mongolia, Indonesia, and Korea. In May, Continuum will perform at the Beijing Modern Music Festival. Continuum has recorded on Nonesuch, Musical Heritage Society, Bridge, CRI, Capstone, Cambria/Troppe Note, TNC Recordings, Naxos, and New Albion, and has been broadcast extensively on national and European television and radio.

The third concert of Continuum's 2009-10 New York series will be SPOTLIGHT ON GEORGIA - New Music from an Ancient Tradition - Sunday, May 9 7 PM at Merkin Concert Hall.

This concert is made possible in part with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency, the Amphion Fund, the Aaron Copland Fund, Meet The Composer's Cary New Music Performance Fund, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the Virgil Thomson Foundation, and other private and business donors.

Tickets, \$20, seniors, students \$10, are available at the box office, 129 West 67th Street (212-501-3330), www.merkinconcerthall.org. Continuum's website: www.continuum-ensemble-ny.org.