



*New musical inventions that provoke, awaken and inspire*

## ***The Wit of Jürg Wytenbach***

***“Beethoven: the Avant-garde composer”***

**Saturday April 18, 2009 at Glenn Gould Studio**

**For Immediate Release – Toronto, April 2, 2009:** Despite his very successful and high profile career in Europe, the playful and iconic Swiss composer, conductor and pianist **Jürg Wytenbach** is not so well known in North America. To address this anomaly, **New Music Concerts** has invited Mr. Wytenbach for a week-long residency in Toronto. On **Saturday, April 18** at **Glenn Gould Studio**, NMC presents *The Wit of Jürg Wytenbach*, a concert devoted primarily to Wytenbach’s music in which he will conduct the **New Music Concerts Ensemble** and also perform as pianist. As a composer, his works are often humorous and theatrical in nature as will be seen in the program he has devised for NMC in which a number of Beethoven’s settings of folksongs are interspersed with his own unique impressions of folk idioms. By doing so, Wytenbach points a new direction for New Music Concerts. *“I use musical and scenic means in an attempt at showing existential problems”*, explains the composer. **Xin Wang, Melinda Delorme** and **Kathleen Promane** – all emerging artists who have already distinguished themselves on the concert and opera stage - are the three young talented singers who will perform this musical feat. Finally, a performance of Wytenbach’s orchestration of Mussorgsky’s *Children’s Songs* for voice and 16 instruments will bring this novel evening to a close.

On **Monday, April 20** at **7pm**, Wytenbach’s visit will culminate with a piano recital/lecture *“Beethoven: the Avant-garde composer”* at **Gallery 345** (located at 345 Sorauen Avenue). It features Wytenbach’s performance of Beethoven’s piano Sonatas opp.90 and 109; Beethoven’s Sketches for op.109 and Wytenbach’s own Trio to the “Prestissimo” and Six “new” Variations on the third movement of that sonata designed to complement and expand on Beethoven’s ideas. This intimate evening is designed as a benefit performance on behalf of New Music Concerts. The \$50 admission includes a wine and cheese reception. A charitable tax receipt will be issued for a portion of the ticket price as per Canada Revenue Agency guidelines.

Born in 1935 in Berne, **Jürg Wytenbach** studied in Berne and Paris. He lives in Basel, where he teaches contemporary music and piano at the Music Academy. He directs the Ensemble der Internationalen Gesellschaft für Neue Musik (IGNM) Basel and, with Heinz Holliger and Rudolf Kelterborn, organizes the Basel Music Forum symphony concerts. As conductor and pianist, he has performed well over 100 works by 20th century composers, both famous and lesser known, including many creations and first performances. *“Jürg Wytenbach is one of the most respected musicians today; New Music Concerts is proud to welcome him to Toronto for the first time”*, comments NMC’s artistic director **Robert Aitken**.

### Programme:

Beethoven – *Three Folksongs* (soprano, violin, cello, piano) [Delorme]

*Three hundred pounds*

*Oh! Who, my dear Delmot*

*Bolero*

Wytenbach – *Sonatine on Swiss (Räto-Romantch) Folksongs* (piano solo)

Wytenbach – *Three Love Songs* (mezzo, flute, piano) poems by Else Lesker-Schüler [Promane]

Beethoven – *Three Folksongs* (Duetti) (soprano, mezzo, violin, cello, piano) [Wang; Promane]

*Sweet power of Song*

*Schweizerlied*

*Bolero*

Wytenbach – *Two Nonsense Verses, an Epigram and a Madrigal* (soprano, cello) [Wang]

Wytenbach – *Flûte Alors!* (flute, clarinet)

- Intermission -



Beethoven – *Three Folksongs* (arr. Wyttenbach for soprano, flute, cello, harp) [Wang]  
*The Damsels of Cardigan*  
*To the Aeolian Harp*  
*Paddy O'Rafferty*  
Wyttenbach – *Divisions* (solo piano and string orchestra)  
Beethoven – *Air Cosaque* (voice, violin, cello, piano) [Promane]  
Mussorgsky (arr. Wyttenbach) – *Kinderstube* (mezzo, 13 instruments) [Delorme]

**New Music Concerts presents “The Wit of Jürg Wyttenbach”**  
**Saturday April 18, 2009 at Glenn Gould Studio**  
**Pre-concert lecture at 7:15PM; Concert at 8:00PM**  
**Jürg Wyttenbach**, curation, direction and piano  
**Robert Aitken**, flute; **Max Christie**, clarinet  
**Fujiko Imajishi**, violin; **David Hetherington**, cello  
**Erica Goodman**, harp; **Melinda Delorme & Xin Wang**, sopranos  
**Kathleen Promane**, mezzo-soprano  
**New Music Concerts Ensemble**

**Glenn Gould Studio, CBC Broadcast Centre, 250 Front Street West**  
**Box Office: (416) 872-4255**

**Tickets available in advance at the Roy Thomson Hall box office, located at 60 Simcoe St.**  
**\$33; \$20; \$10**

**Information and April 20 Tickets from New Music Concerts 416.961.9594 [nmc@interlog.com](mailto:nmc@interlog.com)**

**New Music Concerts gratefully acknowledges the generous support of**  
**Pro Helvetia and the Consulate General of Switzerland.**

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New Music Concerts also gratefully acknowledges the support of The Canada Council for the Arts; Toronto Arts Council; The Department of Heritage through Arts Presentation Canada; The Province of Ontario through the Ontario Arts Council & the Ontario Arts Foundation Endowment Fund; The Goethe Institut; The Julie-Jiggs Foundation; The Koerner Foundation; The McLean Foundation; Roger D. Moore; The SOCAN Foundation; The Imperial Tobacco Canada Foundation; The Amphion Foundation Inc.; The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Inc.; Edward Epstein and Gallery 345