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**ICA/BOSTON'S NEW MUSIC NOW SERIES RETURNS WITH GEORG FRIEDRICH HAAS'**

***in vain***

**Performed by Sound Icon, Jeffrey Means, conductor**

**Friday, Feb. 3, 2012**

*High res photos on request.*

(BOSTON—Jan. 16, 2012) The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston (ICA) continues its adventurous New Music Now series with the Boston premiere of Georg Friedrich Haas's *in vain*, a shattering work featuring Sound Icon, a 24-member chamber orchestra led by conductor Jeffrey Means, on Friday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m., in the Barbara Lee Family Foundation Theater (100 Northern Ave., Boston). General admission tickets are \$18, \$16 for members and students, and can be purchased at [www.icaboston.org](http://www.icaboston.org) or by calling (617) 478-3103.

An all-encompassing sensory experience, Georg Friedrich Haas' masterwork for light and sound, *In Vain*, has captivated audiences across the world. This progressive performance, a 70-minute piece for 24 instruments, unleashes a luminous sonic landscape of light and darkness, expanding the parameters of how listeners hear, see, and experience music, often while in total darkness. The work is monolithic yet intricate, with music that grows and re-circulates, gradually acquiring new meaning in which light and dark become like sound and silence. Complete darkness falls during the most violent music, and the lack of any visual cues forces the listener to find new ways of coming to terms with the experience and the musicians to find ways of performing while blind. Haas explains, "We do not have any night in our modern life, but I think our body and our souls desire night, and I give this in my art. If we close our eyes, of course our ears are more sensitive. Maybe we don't listen to music; we listen more to sounds." More than just listening to sounds, the drama of light, dark, sound and silence gives an unmatched physical experience brought to life by the ensemble.

**Georg Friedrich Haas** was born in 1953 in Graz, a city in the east of Austria. His childhood was spent in the mountainous province of Vorarlberg, on the Swiss border. He is known and respected internationally as a highly sensitive and imaginative researcher into the inner world of sound. Most of his works make use of microtonality. He lives in Basel, Switzerland.

**Sound Icon** is a Boston-based, sinfonietta-sized ensemble dedicated to performing groundbreaking works of contemporary music that are not often heard in Boston. Led by artistic director and conductor Jeffrey Means, Sound Icon continues its mission to bring exceptional performances of legendary works to Boston in its first full season. Their mission is to perform works that have redefined our understanding of music. Well-known ensembles abroad, such as the Ensemble Modern, Ensemble InterContemporain, the London Sinfonietta and others have been trailblazers for this instrumental grouping, which offers the colors of a full orchestra together with the precision and flexibility of a chamber ensemble. Sound Icon brings this sound, so integral to many contemporary masterworks, to audiences in Boston and elsewhere through concerts and academic residencies. Sound Icon is committed to groundbreaking repertoire that requires the color and precision of a sinfonietta-sized ensemble. Each Sound Icon concert will feature one landmark work that is not often heard live in the United States. Sound Icon attempts to engage audiences in a dialogue about what progressive music really is - music that redefines rules, experiences and boundaries.

*This performance of In Vain is a co-production with the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston and Sound Icon, and is made possible in part by the friendly support of the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation.*

### **New Music Now**

New Music Now is a series of creative music concerts at the ICA/Boston presenting some of the world's most adventurous musicians and composers. Organized with renowned composer and saxophonist Ned Rothenberg, New Music Now showcases artists who challenge musical convention and genres.

### **About the ICA**

An influential forum for multi-disciplinary arts, the Institute of Contemporary Art has been at the leading edge of art in Boston for 75 years. Like its iconic building on Boston's waterfront, the

ICA offers new ways of engaging with the world around us. Its exhibitions and programs provide access to contemporary art, artists, and the creative process, inviting audiences of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the excitement of new art and ideas. The ICA, located at 100 Northern Avenue, is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. —5 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. —9 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. —5 p.m. Admission is \$15 adults, \$13 seniors and \$10 students, and free for members and children 17 and under. ICA Free Admission for Youth is sponsored by State Street Foundation. Free admission on ICA Free Thursday Nights, 5—9 p.m. Free admission for families at ICA Play Dates (2 adults + children 12 and under) on the last Saturday of the month. For more information, call 617-478-3100 or visit our Web site at [www.icaboston.org](http://www.icaboston.org).

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