

For Immediate Release
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Laitman *Distinguished Guest Composer* At St. Petersburg's Conservatory Festival

"Her songs represent outpourings of great beauty."
Fanfare Magazine

Acclaimed American composer **Lori Laitman** travels to St. Petersburg, Russia, as the **Distinguished Guest Composer** of St. Petersburg's International Conservatory Week Festival (October 22-29, 2010). Laitman arrives at the prestigious festival at the invitation of Lidia Volcheck (Assistant Professor of Piano Pedagogy at St. Petersburg Conservatory), and Russian-American pianist Vera Danchenko-Stern, a faculty member of The Peabody Institute and Founder and Artistic Director of The Russian Chamber Art Society.

Laitman will be joined by soprano Jennifer Edwards and mezzo-soprano Yun Kyong Lee, two young vocalists from The Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University. Together they will present a selection of art songs and an aria from Laitman's dramatic opera, *The Scarlet Letter*, (www.scarletletteropera.com) in **two concerts** on October 25th and the 27th. Lee and Danchenko-Stern will continue on to **Moscow** and present Laitman's music in joint recitals at The Moscow Conservatory and The Gnessin Academy of Music on October 30th and November 2nd, 2010. Laitman will also present a **master class** on composing for the voice to the young composers of the St. Petersburg Conservatory.

Lori Laitman is one of America's most prolific and widely performed composers of vocal music. She has composed two operas, an oratorio and over 200 songs, setting the words of classical and contemporary poets. Since launching her career in 1991, her music has been performed frequently in the U.S. and abroad by some of the world's most gifted musicians.

Recent highlights of Lori Laitman's activities include selection as a **Featured Composer** on Thomas Hampson's authoritative online resource, **Song of America**, in February 2010; a retrospective concert of her music at **SongFest** in California last June, and a showcase of her music on **Opera America's Salon Series** in September 2010. Her moving Holocaust-themed oratorio, *Vedem*, a commission by Music of Remembrance, saw its **world premiere** in Seattle, WA in May 2010 and is scheduled for a May 2011 release on Naxos. In addition, Laitman has recently completed a new commission for Austrian baritone **Wolfgang Holzmair**; countertenor **Brian Asawa** will perform Laitman's *The Silver Swan* with pianist Rudolf Jansen at The Concertgebouw in Amsterdam on October 31st, 2010, and soprano **Elizabeth Futral** will perform Laitman's *Sunflowers* in recital with pianist William Billingham on November 16th, 2010 at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama.

Lori Laitman's **discography** continues to grow with releases on Albany Records, Naxos, Channel Classics and other labels. Her latest solo CD, *Within These Spaces* (2009), is receiving exceptional praise: "*One hundred years hence, when critics look back at the art songs of our era, there will be many fine composers to laud and applaud, but few will deserve higher praise than Lori Laitman.*" (The Journal of Singing); "*This is music of depth and richness that connects with the soul.*" (American Record Guide); "*Her affinity for the voice...is beyond doubt...her songs represent outpourings of great beauty.*" (Fanfare Magazine).

Laitman graduated magna cum laude from Yale College and received her Master of Music degree in flute performance from The Yale School of Music. Her recordings are available on her website, www.artsongs.com, and on Amazon and iTunes.

Concert Schedule:

- October 25, 2010, 7:00 pm- Glazunov Hall, The St. Petersburg Conservatory, St. Petersburg, Russia
- October 27, 2010, 7:00 pm - Catherine the Great Hall, Pushkin, Russia
- October 30, 2010, 3:00 pm - The Moscow Conservatory, Moscow, Russia
- November 2, 2010, 12:00 pm - The Gnessin Academy of Music, Moscow, Russia

Lori Laitman is represented by Jona Rapoport Artist Management.

For media inquiries, interview requests and complete press kits, please contact Jona Rapoport at jona@jonarapoport.com