



David Milnes *Conductor*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY MUSIC DEPARTMENT
AND CENTER FOR NEW MUSIC AND AUDIO TECHNOLOGIES PRESENT
PREMIERE ENSEMBLE-IN-RESIDENCE: ECO ENSEMBLE**

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA – The Eco Ensemble, led by Conductor David Milnes, is a new ensemble-in-residence at UC Berkeley’s Center for New Music and Audio Technologies (CNMAT) and the Department of Music. This premiere group is comprised of prominent Bay Area musicians who are passionate about exploring and performing contemporary works. Its mission is to enrich and serve the Bay Area’s cultural life through the creation, performance, and dissemination of new music by composers from Berkeley and around the world.

Conductor David Milnes is on the teaching faculty of UC Berkeley where he directs its symphony orchestra. Bringing his extensive new music experience to the ensemble, Milnes has assembled a dynamic group of musicians who are “...artists dying for great artistic activity. They love new music, and it is this enthusiasm and passion that we bring into the ensemble.” The Eco Ensemble annually presents a series of concerts that specialize in contemporary works by established and emerging composers. Milnes remarks that the formation of this new ensemble “steps back from the symphony world” to explore “innovative techniques on instruments, rhythm, world music, and the latest research in sound.”

As UC Berkeley’s principal performance outlet for performers and composers of new music, the Eco Ensemble commissions and premieres works from Berkeley’s composers. Members of the ensemble work extensively with undergraduate and graduate musicians in new music studies and are developing a comprehensive program for new music performance.

The Eco Ensemble’s unique collaboration with CNMAT inspires works that are informed by contemporary explorations into the intersection between science and music. The ensemble seeks to expand the possibilities for new music by working with CNMAT faculty, students and researchers to develop new instruments, new applications of technologies for composition and performance, and new modes of expression. With a focus on education for both experienced audiences and novices, the Eco Ensemble’s public outreach efforts include lectures, demonstrations, workshops, and composer residencies.

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