



MEDIA RELEASE

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Unique Zeitgeist Concerts Celebrate “Converging Traditions” Concerts Held May 29–June 6; Lowertown Listening Session May 31

St. Paul, Minn. – Seeking to expand the boundaries and sounds of new music, Zeitgeist offers a rare concert experience in Converging Traditions. In this concert of world premieres, composers Paul Elwood, a renowned banjo player, and Chinese pipa player Gao Hong will strum along with Zeitgeist. Come together for a unique concert that finds the common ground between traditional Chinese music and the bluegrass sounds of Appalachia.

Performances include:

- **Converging Traditions: May 29, 30, June 4, 5, 6, 8 p.m.:** Come together for unique sounds of bluegrass, the music of China and more as Zeitgeist brings together the best of music from across the world. \$10
- **Lowertown Listening Session: May 31, 2 p.m.:** In this intimate afternoon session, Elwood will jam on banjo with Zeitgeist. \$5

A banjo champion, Colorado-based Paul Elwood regularly performs in the realms of bluegrass, free improvisation and new music. Gao Hong is a member of the Carleton College music faculty and is a master of the Chinese pipa, a pear-shaped lute.

“Through new music, Converging Traditions will give audiences the opportunity to discover common ground between two musical traditions developed worlds apart,” said Heather Barringer, managing director and percussionist for Zeitgeist. “We are thrilled that both Paul and Gao will join us, so the audience can really connect and come together with our composers.”

Converging Traditions is made possible, in part, through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and donations to the Zeitgeist Commissioning Collective. Seasons was developed through The Zeitgeist Composer Workshop, funded by the Jerome Foundation, and a forty-four smokeless was commissioned with support from the American Composers Forum Jerome Foundation Commissioning Program.

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Founded in 1977, Zeitgeist is a new music chamber ensemble consisting of two percussion, piano and woodwinds, and is one of the oldest and most successful new music groups in the country. Based in St. Paul, Minn., the group presents an annual concert series and delivers a wide variety of community-based performance programs for residents of the Twin Cities and the surrounding areas. Our mission is to enliven today’s music and expand its public with performances that engage, stimulate and hearten. Members are: Heather Barringer, percussion; Patti Cudd, percussion; Pat O’Keefe, woodwinds; Shannon Wettstein, piano. For more information, please visit [HYPERLINK “http://www.zeitgeistnewmusic.org”](http://www.zeitgeistnewmusic.org) www.zeitgeistnewmusic.org.