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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



WHAT: THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF SUBWAYS (CD release concert)

WHO: Amy X Neuburg & the Cello ChiXtet

Featuring cellists Jessica Ivry, Elaine Kreston and Elizabeth Vandervennet

With **Zoë Keating** opening

WHEN: Thursday, June 4, 2009 @ 8:00pm show (doors open 7:30pm)

WHERE: Great American Music Hall (859 O'Farrell St. San Francisco)

TICKETS: \$15 general admission; \$39.95 dinner and admission

BOX OFFICE: (888) 233-0449 and gamhtickets.com

(San Francisco, CA – May 12, 2009) On June 4, **Amy X Neuburg & the Cello ChiXtet** launch the CD release of [THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF SUBWAYS](#) with a concert at the Great American Music Hall. Renowned looping cellist **Zoë Keating** will open the show.

THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF SUBWAYS will be released on Paul Drescher's **MinMax label**, which specializes in new adventurous vocal and music-theater works.

Amy describes **THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF SUBWAYS** as “an ‘avant-cabaret’ song cycle about the inane and perpetually unfinished businesses of love and war—and New York.” A classically trained singer with a 4-octave range, Amy is known for her performances for voice, electronic drums and live looping in which she creates a chorus of layered voices. The recording has been two years in the making; the songs range from intimate art-song ballads to electronics-based pop to Dada-ist meanderings to symphonic arrangements.

She explains: “*The idea of a song cycle for voice and cello trio began in 2003 when I fell in love with the expressive voice-like quality, enormous pitch range and dramatic look of the cello and felt I had found a sort of instrumental kindred spirit to my own voice. I then conceived of most of these songs while sitting on the subway during a 3-year period when I lived part-time in New York—inspired by the rhythmic lull of the train, the fragmented meanderings of my thoughts, the dramas of recent world and personal events, and the deluge of sensory input that is New York itself.*”

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For **THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF SUBWAYS** Amy composed intricate songs of interlocking cello layers that are recorded and overdubbed live on stage, turning three cellos into a full string orchestra.

At times she processes the trio with electronic effects, at other times the rich expressive sounds of the cellos are the only accompaniment. The result is music that is at once emotionally engaging, challenging and highly entertaining. While developing the song cycle Amy and the ChiXtet perfected **THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF SUBWAYS** onstage in live performances that were met with standing ovations nearly every time.

"The whole thing was amazing, even triumphant... Ambitious and soaring." (C. Matsumoto, [KZSU-fm](#))

Since their premiere at Dance Mission two years ago—documented on KQED TV's *Spark* program—Amy X Neuburg & The Cello ChiXtet have opened for **The Tubes** at The Independent, sold out the Freight & Salvage, and received rave reviews for their theatrical run at Project Artaud. Music critic Joshua Kosman wrote in the [SF Chronicle](#), *"A wonderful composer-performer... Neuburg's songs channel the rhythms of urban life through the seriocomic sensibility of a born entertainer... Her musical inventiveness proves a delight throughout."*

THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF SUBWAYS CD was recorded and co-produced by **Bruce Kaphan**, who is known for capturing the richness of string instruments by way of multiple microphones. The CD has an unusually bold and present sound, with the cellos clearly expressing the driving rhythms, layered counterparts, poignant harmonies and manic explosions that constitute Amy's uncategorizable, multi-genre music.

Bay Area cellists **Jessica Ivry**, **Elaine Kreston** and **Elizabeth Vandervennet** each bring to the project a wide variety of experience in classical, experimental, improvisational and rock styles, and they have contributed enormously to its realization—in their compositional suggestions, their lively performance personas, and their many hours of dedication in putting this complex music together.

CDs will be available at the show, through MinMax, and through amyxneuburg.com, soon to be distributed by Starkland Records.

The CD release concert for **THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF SUBWAYS** will be performed on **June 4, 8pm at Great American Music Hall**. Opening the show will be the incomparable **Zoë Keating**, a one-woman orchestra who uses a cello and a foot-controlled laptop to create beautiful and otherworldly music.

To schedule an interview with Amy Neuburg & the Cello ChiXtet, or to reserve your spot at the show, please contact [NEQA/Communications](#).

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

AMY X NEUBURG (composer / vocalist / live electronics performer) has developed a unique career bridging the boundaries between classical, experimental and popular music. Her 'avant-cabaret' songs combine her interests in poetry and language, expressive use of music technology (with an emphasis on live looping) and exploration of multiple genres using the many colors of her wide vocal range. As soloist she has performed at venues as diverse as the **Other Minds** and **Bang on a Can** new music festivals, the **Berlin International Poetry Festival**, the **Wellington and Christchurch Jazz Festivals** (NZ),, electronic music festivals, colleges, rock clubs and concert halls throughout the U.S. and abroad. As composer, commissions include works for voices and chamber ensembles, often with looping electronics (**Robin Cox Ensemble, Present Music, Santa Cruz New Music Works, Solstice** vocal ensemble, **Christchurch Arts Centre chorus**), She has also composed extensively for theater and visual media, including Mondomedia's irreverent **Piki & Poko** web animations and numerous onstage collaborations with modern dancers. As vocalist, Amy has been featured in contemporary operas and recordings including works by **Robert Ashley, Culture Clash** and **Guillermo Galindo**. Throughout the '90s she sang and played electronic drums with her art-rock band **Amy X Neuburg & Men**. Amy received degrees in linguistics and voice from Oberlin College and Oberlin Conservatory and an MFA in electronic music from the Mills College CCM. Her many grants and honors include Arts International, Zellerbach Family Fund, The William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, Meet the Composer, The U.S. Embassy New Zealand, LEF, SF Friends of Chamber Music, Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Kappa Lambda.

JESSICA IVRY is a member of the improvising world-music ensemble **Real Vocal String Quartet**. She has played and toured with singer/songwriter **Vienna Tang**, composer **Beth Custer** and the Balkan women's choir **Kitka**, recorded on the Grammy nominated **BLUEPRINT OF A LADY** by Jazz vocalist **Neena Freelon**, and played with legendary Goth band **Bauhaus** at the Fillmore.

ELAINE KRESTON has performed and recorded throughout the U.S. and Europe with a variety of musicians from **Rod Stewart** to **Frederica von Stade** and was principal cellist for the **United Nations 60th Anniversary Celebration**. She is a founding member of the classical **Maybeck Trio** and the cello/poetry duo **RumiCello**, and has improvised and recorded with **Krishna Das, Adyashanti, Eckhart Tolle**, and the meditative duo **Translucent**.

ELIZABETH VANDERVENNET is principal cellist of the **Vallejo Symphony** and a member of the Oakland, Santa Rosa, and Marin symphonies. She has toured Japan, Europe, and the U.S. with a number of ensembles including her pagan lounge band **Rosin Coven**, and chamber ensembles including the Sartory and Lake String Quartets. She co-founded **The Sequoia Trio**, specializing in women's music, and the wonderfully original **Luna Nova Quartet**.

Opening artist **ZOË KEATING** is a one-woman orchestra who uses a cello and a foot-controlled laptop to create beautiful and otherworldly music. Her self-produced album **ONE CELLO X 16: NATOMA** has four times been #1 on the iTunes classical and electronica charts. From 2002 to 2006 Zoë was a member of the cello-rock trio **Rasputina** and she is featured on the albums of countless artists including **DJ Shadow** and **Amanda Palmer**. Zoë has composed and recorded scores for the films **THE DEVIL'S CHAIR, GHOST BIRD, DIARY OF A SEX ADDICT** and **FROZEN ANGELS**, performed on Mark Isham's score for **THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES**, appeared on Jay Leno with Paolo Nutini, and has been on five tours with the Grammy-nominated songstress **Imogen Heap**.

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