

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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**Hermitage North @ New College**

**International Contemporary Ensemble:**

**"Words and Music"**

**Friday, February 1, 2 p.m., at New College of Florida**

*The International Contemporary Ensemble is a New York-based artist collective that’s transforming the way music is created and experienced. In this presentation, ICE founder Claire Chase collaborates with a poet and composer. ICE’s director Rebecca Sigel will join the group for a Q&A with audience.*

(Sarasota County) The Hermitage North @ New College series continues with the founder of the celebrated International Contemporary Ensemble, Claire Chase, in a performance collaboration with composer and instrumentalist, Suzanne Farrin, and poet Laura Mullen, in “Words and Music,” Friday, February 1, 2 p.m., at Mildred Sainer Pavilion, 5313 Bayshore Road, Sarasota. *Reservations for this free series are required and can be requested at www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org. For more information about the Hermitage, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.*

Claire Chase is a flutist, collaborative artist, curator and advocate for new and experimental music. A MacArthur Fellow and recipient of the 2017 Avery Fisher Prize, she is also the founder of the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), an artist collective that is transforming the way music is created and experienced. As performers, curators, and educators, ICE explores how new music intersects with communities across the world. The ensemble’s 35 members are featured as soloists, chamber musicians, commissioners, and collaborators with the foremost musical artists of our time. Four ICE members and two collaborators will be in residence at the Hermitage in February.

In “Words and Music,” Chase and Farrin will perform a work based on a poem by Emily Dickinson using flute and an early electronic musical instrument called an “ondes martenot.” Chase will also perform a piece for bass flute and electronics based on the poetry of Rumi. Poet Laura Mullen will read new poems written during her residency at the Hermitage. All three will also perform a work by Pauline Oliveros based on Oliveros’s poetry. They will be joined by ICE director, Rebecca Sigel, for a Q & A about contemporary music following the performance.

“In addition to the planned program, we might be the first people in the world to hear some of the music they write at the Hermitage,” says Patricia Caswell, the Hermitage’s co-founder and program director. “It’s as thrilling as seeing a beautiful newborn baby for the first time!”

Funding for this event is made possible, in part, through a multi-year grant to New College of Florida from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Award-winning creators of all artistic disciplines are invited to live and work at the Hermitage Artist Retreat in Englewood. During their residencies, they share their talents with the community. Hermitage North @ New College is the most recent iteration of this outreach. This free series encompasses artist talks and readings, glimpses of the creation of works-in-progress, and live performances of music, theater, poetry and more.

*All programs are subject to change. Please check the Hermitage website or Facebook page to check program status. For more information about the Hermitage, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.*

**About New College of Florida:**

Located in Sarasota, New College of Florida has educated intellectually curious students for lives of great achievement since its founding in 1960. As the State of Florida’s designated honors college, New College provides an exceptional education that transforms students’ intellectual curiosity into personal accomplishment. The 110-acre bayfront campus is home to more than 800 students and 80 full-time faculty engaged in interdisciplinary research and collaborative learning. New College offers nearly 40 areas of concentration for undergraduates and a master’s degree program in Data Science.

**About the Hermitage Artist Retreat:**

The Hermitage is a nonprofit artist retreat located in Englewood, Sarasota County, Florida. It invites accomplished artists in all disciplines for residencies on its beachfront campus which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its artists, who are asked to interact with the community, touch thousands of Gulf Coast residents and visitors with unique and inspiring programs. Hermitage fellows have included Pulitzer, Tony, Emmy, Grammy and MacArthur Fellowship award winners. The Hermitage awards the $30,000 Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, and the Aspen Music Festival awards the annual Hermitage Prize in Composition. For more information about The Hermitage Artist Retreat, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

**The Hermitage is supported by:**

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