

## Yael Weiss

Performs the world premiere of Joel Feigin's Concerto for Piano  
and Chamber Orchestra

*"As one would expect, she excelled."*

### Three nights in Auer Hall: [www.heraldtimesonline.com](http://www.heraldtimesonline.com)

By Peter Jacobi  
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Never say the Bloomington music scene lacks variety.

On Thursday evening

The New Music Ensemble's opening concert in Auer Hall featured the world premiere of Joel Feigin's Concerto for Piano and Chamber Orchestra, an upbeat, witty composition commissioned by the Fromm Music Foundation. Quite unlike what the Fromm folks tend to support and different from what the New Music Ensemble usually takes on, the piece turned out to be a gentle parody of, as well as homage to, Mozart concertos. The score contains amusing twists and turns-about to the originals, but the stylistic lineage persists, of a small-scaled orchestra and pianist spinning attractive themes and developments as of old. David Dzubay led a pristine performance. His soloist was the gifted faculty colleague Yael Weiss. As one would expect, she excelled. Composer Feigin, on the University of California at Santa Barbara faculty, was present to receive warm applause.

So was another guest composer, New York University professor Louis Karchin whose Chamber Symphony, written in 2009, proved a parade of provocative and refreshingly colorful sonic effects for fourteen players.

The program opened with "Gymnopedies," George Tsontakis' inventive set of four compact expositions — a couple of them delicate, almost hushed; the others, brash — designed to dramatize the contrasting sounds of the utilized instruments: flute, piccolo, soprano saxophone, horn, harp, piano, violin, cello and percussion. Also performed was Bernd Alois Zimmermann's austere, squeaking, scraping, plucking Sonata, splendidly played, every technical hurdle of it, by violist Sarah Bass. It and the entire concert was dedicated to the memory of violist Omar Hernandez-Hidalgo, a Jacobs School alum and former New Music Ensemble member who was murdered in Mexico earlier this year, victim of the violence currently gripping that nation.

<http://www.heraldtimesonline.com/stories/2010/10/04/scene.qp-2080084.sto>