

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**FOURTH COAST ENSEMBLE PRESENTS CHICAGO PREMIERE OF *songSLAM*,
EMCEE'D BY COMPOSER LORI LAITMAN**

**Unique Opportunity for Composer/Performer Teams to Compete for Cash Prizes
Feat. Performance of Laitman's Music by Fourth Coast Ensemble, Andrew Rosenblum, and Maria
Sumareva**

Sunday, April 14, 2019 at 6:00pm
The Promontory in Hyde Park
5311 S Lake Park Ave W, Chicago, IL 60615
Tickets: \$15 GA, \$25 Premium (on sale Feb 11)

CHICAGO – Fourth Coast Ensemble will present the Chicago premiere of *songSLAM*, an art song competition created by Sparks & Wiry Cries, on Sunday, April 14, 2019 at The Promontory. This lively event will be emcee'd by celebrity composer Lori Laitman, described by Fanfare Magazine as “one of the most talented and intriguing of living composers.”

Ten teams (pianist/singer/composer) will present a new song of no more than 5 minutes for voice and piano in any language for the voting audience, who—in the poetry slam tradition—will then vote on their favorites and award \$2,000 in prize money. Fourth Coast Ensemble will perform music by Lori Laitman during the ballot counting, accompanied by pianists **Andrew Rosenblum** and **Maria Sumareva**.

Sparks & Wiry Cries – The *songSLAM* competition was first created by Sparks & Wiry Cries in New York City in 2017. Now in its third season, the competition has expanded to 9 cities and 3 countries. Sparks & Wiry Cries promotes the advancement and preservation of art song. sparksandwirycries.org.

Lori Laitman – Lori Laitman has composed multiple operas and choral works, and over 250 songs, setting texts by classical and contemporary poets. Her music is widely performed, internationally and throughout the United States and has generated substantial critical acclaim. artsongs.com.

Fourth Coast Ensemble – Founded in 2013, Chicago's Fourth Coast Ensemble is a vocal chamber quartet dedicated to performing creative and accessible programs of vocal chamber music. Fourth Coast Ensemble is Sarah van der Ploeg, soprano; Bridget Skaggs, mezzo-soprano; Zachary Vanderburg, tenor; and David Govertsen, bass-baritone. fourthcoastensemble.com.

To learn more about Chicago *songSLAM* competition enrollment or to purchase tickets, please visit:
Website: fourthcoastensemble.com/songslam; Facebook Event: facebook.com/fourthcoastensemble

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