From the moment it formed, the Mobius Trio has been an ensemble dedicated to creating a repertoire representative of the brave new musical world. Working with great composers is not just a facet of their work, it is their focus. They seek to expose the divide they see between the worlds of “guitar ensemble music” and “new music” and subsequently inhabit it. They seek collaboration with composers, performers, and artists of all stripes—nothing is out of bounds.

In a span of two weeks in December, the Mobius Trio premiered six new works composed especially for them. Several of these pieces were included on their program when they performed at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. on April 26 as part of the Conservatory Project. Due to their outstanding musicianship and early success, they were selected to represent the San Francisco Conservatory of Music as part of that concert series. These pieces and others are presented here in Davis along with a work for solo seven-string guitar by Garrett Shatzer, which was commissioned by Mason Fish.

Robert Nance is a graduate student at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and studies with David Tanenbaum. He holds a BA from New York University and has studied with Sergio Assad, Jorge Caballero, and Sharon Isbin. He currently plays guitars by Stephan Connor and Thomas Fredholm.

Mason Fish is pursuing an MM in guitar performance at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, while studying with Sergio Assad. Fish received a BM and a performance certificate from the Eastman School of Music. He has participated in the Aspen Music Festival and School as well as the National Guitar Workshop in Connecticut, took master classes with artists including the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet, Roland Dyens, Sharon Isbin, Eliot Fisk, David Russell, and Paul O’Dette. In 2007 a recording of his appearance on National Public Radio’s From the Top was featured in the HBO documentary The Gates by Antonio Ferrera. In 2008 he won the Eastman Guitar Concerto Competition followed by a performance of Manuel Ponce’s Concierto del sur. Most recently, Fish has become active in San Francisco’s new music scene, performing new works with the San Francisco Guitar Quartet and collaborating with several Bay Area composers.

Matthew Holmes-Linder is an MM student of Sergio Assad at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He graduated with a BA from Wesleyan University where he studied English and literature in addition to music. He has performed throughout the United States and Europe, including festivals in Aspen, Italy, Germany, and Turkey. He has played in master classes with Sharon Isbin, Manuel Barrueco, Odair Assad, Hubert Kappel, and others. He won the 2008 Wesleyan University Concerto Competition.
Composer and pianist Sahba Aminikia is foremost an artist, whose view of the arts as one inseparable entity informs a broad body of work. Born in Tehran, Iran, Aminikia studied music composition in Russia at the St. Petersburg State Conservatory under Boris Ivanovich Tishchenko, a postgraduate student of Dmitry Shostakovich. In his homeland, Aminikia studied under renowned Iranian pianists Safa Shahidi and Gagik Babayan. He was perhaps most influenced by work with his first teacher and renown composer, Dr. Mehran Rouhani, a postgraduate of Royal Academy of Music and former student of Sir Michael Tippett. Aminikia currently lives and studies in the United States, forging a unique creative path through cultural boundaries and continuing to learn from other's musical concepts. He is a student of David Conte and David Garner and also has studied with Conrad Susa at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. In his work, Aminikia draws influence from jazz, Russian contemporary composition and, most important to him, the traditional melodies of Iran and increasingly incorporates these into his original musical language, relying on them to establish a grounded voice in the vast world of contemporary music. He has recently finished working on his third string quartet, “A Threnody for Those Who Remain,” commissioned for Kronos Quartet by the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and Kronos Arts Association.

Matthew Cmiel is a composer, conductor, guitarist, and enthusiastic advocate for new music. He has been featured as a guest composer at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, on the national public radio program From the Top, the Yehudi Menuhin Chamber Music Festival, and the Banff Centre. He has won prizes from ASCAP, the Baltimore Classical Guitar Society, the National Federation of Music Clubs, the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts, the Pacific Musical Society, and the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra and has been nominated for the Presidential Scholars in the Arts Award administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Matthew’s music has been performed by the Berkeley Symphony, Composers Inc., the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, the Del Sol String Quartet, the Marin Symphony Youth Orchestra, the San Francisco Saxophone Quartet, and the Palo Alto Chamber Orchestra.

Cmiel is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, San Francisco School of the Arts High School, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Pre-College Certificate Program, and the Crowden School in Berkeley, California. He currently studies composition at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music with Dan Becker and has learned a great deal from studies with John Adams, Alexis Alrich, Scott Cmiel, Jennifer Higdon, Edwin Outwater, Belinda Reynolds, David Tanenbaum, and Benjamin Verdery.

Garrett Shatzer (b. 1980) is a PhD candidate in composition and theory at UC Davis. Holding degrees from the University of Michigan (BFA, Performing Arts Technology, composition emphasis) and the University of Miami (MM, electronic music composition; MM, music theory), he has also had the privilege of studying at Florida State University, Paris (composer fellow, European American Musical Alliance), Buenos Aires (composer fellow, Laboratory of Research and Music Production), Melbourne (composer fellow, International Composers’ Competition, Italian Institute of Culture), Rome (private student of Luigi Ceccarelli), and Cleveland (composer fellow, Cleveland Composers’ Recording Institute). His principal composition teachers have included Evan Chambers, Erik Santos, Pablo Ortiz, Ross Bauer, Mika Pelo, and Kurt Rohde, and he has had additional lessons with Claude Baker, Narcis Bonet, Francisco Kropfl, and Carlo Forlivesi.

His music has been performed by the Meridien Arts Ensemble, Empyrean Ensemble, Mobius Trio, the Erato Piano Trio, violinist Rolf Schulte, cellist David Russell, and pianist Geoffrey Burleson in venues such as the Mondavi Center, Kennedy Center, and Teatro Colon (Buenos Aires). Past commissions include a solo piece for seven-string guitarist Mason Fish, a guitar trio for the Mobius Trio, and a song for soprano Ann Moss and current commissions, a song for Grammy-winning countertenor Ian Howell, a guitar trio for the Mobius Trio, a piano trio for the Finisterra Piano Trio, and a triple concerto for the Erato Piano Trio.

Clayton Moser, a Charleston, S.C. native, has had a relatively short musical career to date, beginning to study composition in 2007 after learning to read music only a year earlier. He received his BA in music theory and composition from the College of Charleston with studies under David Maves, Edward Hart, and Trevor Weston. Studying with Dan Becker, he will graduate in the spring of 2011 with his MM in composition from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He and his music have been described as having “a fresh musical voice, one filled with personality and wit.” Clayton looks forward to many more collaborations with the Mobius Trio.

Anthony Porter, a San Francisco-based pianist and composer, received a BA in music and education from the University of California, Berkeley and studied composition with John Thow and piano with Michael Seth Orland. He has also studied at the G.B. Martini Conservatory of Bologna, the Department of Art, Music, and Theater of the University of Bologna, and at Mills College in Oakland, California. Porter performs around the Bay Area with New Keys, a piano ensemble dedicated to performing the newest music for piano (newkeysconcert.org). He is currently pursuing an MM in composition at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, studying with Dan Becker.

The Mobius Trio (Matthew Holmes-Linder, Mason Fish, Robert Nance) was founded in San Francisco in late 2010 with the objective of creating a more expansive repertoire for the seldom-utilized guitar trio. In its short existence, the Mobius Trio has premiered more than a half dozen new works by some of the hottest up-and-coming and established composers in the Bay Area and beyond.