

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Innovative Label ArpaViva Pairs with “Brilliant and Fearless” Pianist Jenny Q Chai for Third Release**

*California-based music label ArpaViva releases New York Love Songs, featuring the unique piano and vocal talents of Jenny Q Chai.*

LOS ANGELES, California (September 10, 2010) – New music and media label ArpaViva is pleased to announce the release of its new album, *New York Love Songs*, featuring the “brilliant and fearless young performer,” Jenny Q Chai, who plays the part of both pianist and vocalist for this recording. *NYLS* is a conceptual album dedicated to the avant-garde reinterpretation of the solo pianist/vocalist genre, with Victoria Jordanova’s song-cycle *New York Love Songs* as the centerpiece. First on the album are the evergreen songs written by American musical giants John Cage, Charles Ives, and Frederic Rzewski, presented here as the miniature apotheosis of each composer’s style. *NYLS* also spotlights the work of the accomplished young composer Ashley Fu-Tsun Wang, completing Jordanova’s curatorial vision of a melting-pot of forward-thinking artists in tune with the spirit of New York City.

Jordanova’s *New York Love Songs* is a set of six songs for piano and voice, four of which are heard on this album. “I was inspired by lyrics which speak about various kinds of love,” says Jordanova, “and for a performer I had in mind... a spirited and versatile musician with the natural facility to both play the piano and sing.” The songs were conceived as a group of music sketches, in which the performer is also an actor, telling a story as in a short theater piece. In this recording of *New York Love Songs*, Chai changes personae from song to song, altering her voice color and singing-style to depict the specific character of each piece.

Showcasing Chai’s dexterity and versatility, each of the four *New York Love Songs* requires intense coordination and passion, particularly in the sensuously themed “Chinese Laundry Across the Street,” with lyrics by Jordanova herself, which requires Chai to play the harmonica, and “Bite,” which is based on an excerpt from the *Kama Sutra* and finds Chai with jingle-bells attached to her hands. Just as impassioned are “Prayer,” whose lyrics Jordanova wrote in response to the rapture of Bernini’s sculpture, The Ecstasy of Saint Teresa, and “Moon,” which combines lyrics from an 11<sup>th</sup> century Chinese poem with a Classical approach to the piano part.

The five other works on *NYLS* are also based on the theme of love, like Cage’s *The Wonderful Widow of Eighteen Springs*, with lyrics from Joyce’s *Finnegans Wake*, celebrating the beauties of Isobel; or Ives’ *Serenity*, with lyrics from Whittier’s *The Brewing of Soma*, celebrating the peace achieved from union with the eternal through love (and hallucinatory tea). Rzewski’s “Marriage (Mile 58) Section F” from *The Road*, based on Tolstoy’s *Kreutzer Sonata*, tackles the jealous love of a murderous husband, while the title of Wang’s instrumental *Intimate Rejection* is self-explanatory in its brevity. The album ends with Jordanova’s meditative *Loveling* for solo piano, whose title is a neologism, a blend of “lovely” and “loving,” and whose music blends a Baroque-esque chaconne with postmodern nocturne ambience.

(more)

As ArpaViva's third release, *New York Love Songs* continues the label's trend of recording music that uses traditional instruments in innovative ways. ArpaViva proudly presents Jenny Q Chai in her premiere solo album. For more information, visit [www.arpaviva.org](http://www.arpaviva.org).

#### About ArpaViva

ArpaViva's first release, the premiere recording of the monumental *Postcard from Heaven* for 20 harps composed by John Cage and performed by Victoria Jordanova with ossia vocal parts contributed by Pamela Z, was a sensation in its own right and duly reviewed as such in several magazines and e-zines worldwide. *In A Landscape*, Arpaviva's second release, features works for electric harp by Cage, Rochberg, Cox and Jordanova. As a musical homage and response to nature, each work creates its own sound environment: a non-linear landscape for the listener to inhabit, and to contemplate and discover beauty. ArpaViva's new album, *New York Love Songs*, is similar in spirit to the label's first two releases, and features pianist Jenny Q Chai in an extraordinary one-woman show.

ArpaViva Foundation Inc. is a new music and media label, founded in 2003 by composer/performer Victoria Jordanova. ArpaViva is dedicated to recording and publishing contemporary music that features traditional instruments in an innovative way, taking into account 21st century sensibilities, aesthetics, culture, and technology. Through the use of new music technologies, ArpaViva's recordings explore new shades of sound color and depth. ArpaViva Foundation Inc. is a (501) (c) 3 not-for-profit music organization located in Los Angeles.

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