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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Quietest of Whispers

music by Evan Ware

with the **ÆPEX Contemporary Performance**

Sunday, March 31 | 7:30 pm

Staples Family Concert Hall

Central Michigan University

Dr. Evan Ware, Assistant Professor of Composition at Central Michigan University, writes music of angular, bristling energy, with moments ranging from clamorous sublimity to reverent tenderness. Through his works, he frequently confronts themes of alienation, trauma, and power while seeking to transform them through acceptance, compassion, and recognition of innate beauty.

Ware writes:

“An exploration of my own healing from childhood sexual abuse, *The Quietest of Whispers* is meant to open conversation around the issue of male survivors. Often at a great disadvantage in healing due to societal assumptions about masculinity, the piece seeks to shatter the silence by speaking to the full range of a survivor’s experiences from extremes of vulnerability, confusion, guilt, fear, rage, and sorrow, to eventual balance, acceptance, and compassion for self.

“Picking up where the first left off, *Symphony No. 2* is dedicated to the survivors of the gymnastics doctor at Michigan State University. Despite the grim satisfaction of his conviction, however, I knew all too well that, for survivors, the long struggle to healing was, in many cases, just beginning. As I reflected on this, I realized that one important thing missing from his own youthful struggles to heal was a knowing that all things which begin also end. My pain was transient, there was life, joy, beauty, love, all beyond measure, all still possible. If I could go back and give that scared, lonely child the reassurance of what I now know, I would not hesitate. But that, of course, is impossible. All I have is now. Therefore, what I can do—what I must do—is give this reassurance to others, those in our immediate midst here at CMU and MSU, but beyond as well”

Ann Arbor-based **ÆPEX Contemporary Performance** specializes in performances of rarely performed works or underrepresented composers of twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Approaching concert presentation in a modular way with room for both a regular concert series and partnerships in the artistic community, **ÆPEX** is a profoundly collaborative organization. The organization has presented programs of solo, chamber, and choral music as well as opera in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Kalamazoo, and Detroit. **ÆPEX** has received funding from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Ann Arbor Awesome Foundation.

The **School of Music** is a vibrant community of artist/teachers serving approximately 400 undergraduate and graduate music majors, thousands of general university students, and the mid-Michigan region. Through rigorous degree programs, insightful scholarly and creative activity, professional service, and outreach to the schools and community, the School of Music is the nexus of a cultural/music network that extends from the elementary general music classroom to the concert stage; from mid-Michigan to the nation and beyond.