**Professor Christian Wolff: American composer of experimental music**

**Christian Wolff**

**12 May 2014
17.00 - 18.30
Chancellor's Hall, Senate House, University of London, Malet Street, London WC1**

**Christian Wolff** was born in 1934 in Nice, France, but has lived mostly in the U.S. since 1941. Academically trained at Harvard as a classicist, Wolff has taught classics at Harvard and from 1971 to 1999 was professor of Classics and Music at Dartmouth College. He studied piano with Grete Sultan and, briefly, composition with John Cage. Though mostly self-taught as a composer, associations with John Cage, Morton Feldman, David Tudor, Earle Brown, Frederic Rzewski and Cornelius Cardew have been important for him. A particular feature of his music has been to allow performers various degrees of freedom and interaction at the actual time of performance. A number of pieces have been used by Merce Cunningham and the Cunningham Dance Company, starting in 1953. Wolff has also been active as a performer and as an improviser - with, among others, Takehisa Kosugi, Steve Lacey, Keith Rowe, William Winant, Kui Dong, Larry Polansky and the group AMM. His writings on music, up to 1998, are collected in the book *Cues: writings and conversations*, published by MusikTexte, Cologne. He has received awards and grants from the American Academy and National Institute of Arts and Letters, DAAD Berlin, the Asian Cultural Council, the Fromm Foundation, the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts and the Mellon Foundation. He is a member of the Akademie der Künste in Berlin and has received an honorary Doctor of Arts degree from the California Institute of the Arts. Professor Wolff's lecture will be followed by a short concert by Apartment House, a chamber ensemble specialising in contemporary classical music (winner of the Royal Philharmonic Society's chamber ensemble prize 2012).

The lecture will be followed by a short concert

**Apartment House**

Bridget Carey (viola), Anton Lukoszevieze (cello), Philip Thomas (piano)

**Christian Wolff**

*Exercises 29 & 30* 3 instruments (UK premiere)

 *Cello Suite Variation* cello

 *Duo 10 (Summer Days)* viola, cello (UK premiere)

 *In Between Pieces* viola, cello, piano

 *Pianist: Pieces (2001)* piano

 *Emma* viola, cello, piano (UK premiere)