

## wexner center for the arts

For immediate release: March 18, 2005

Media contacts: Erik Pepple, 614 688-3261 or [epepple@wexarts.org](mailto:epepple@wexarts.org); Karen Simonian, 614 292-9923 or [ksimonian@wexarts.org](mailto:ksimonian@wexarts.org)

### HAUNTING SONGS OF TIBETAN BUDDHIST NUN FRAMED BY MUSIC OF VANGUARD GUITARIST

**“Like being present at the creation of something fragile and miraculous.”—*Philadelphia Inquirer***

Tibetan Buddhist nun **Chöying Drolma** and Minneapolis-based vanguard guitarist **Steve Tibbetts** perform their luminous, ambient music at the **Thurber Theatre at Drake Center** on **Thursday, April 7 at 8 pm** in a show presented by the Wexner Center. Drolma, from the remote

monastery of Nagi Gompa in Nepal, sings haunting songs that have been passed down in an unbroken living tradition for hundreds of years.

Guitarist Tibbetts, who has recorded a series of remarkable releases for ECM Records over the years, frames her

voice with elegantly restrained arrangements, supported in concert by percussionist Marc Anderson. Their joint releases for Six Degrees Records, *Chö* and, most recently, *Selwa*, are serenely superlative examples of cross-cultural collaboration at its best. Together they will bring Chöying Drolma’s profoundly spiritual ancient chants and songs to new heights and new audiences.



**Chöying Drolma (left) and Steve Tibbetts**

### CHÖYING DROLMA AND STEVE TIBBETTS

Born in 1971 in Nepal, **Chöying Drolma** entered the Nagi Gonpa nunnery at age 13, where she was educated in Buddhist meditation, chants, rituals, and ceremonies, and quickly advanced to the position of chant master in 1996. There, Chöying was inspired to create more opportunities for nuns to study and to develop their own personal capacities. After founding the Nuns' Welfare Foundation of Nepal in 1998, Chöying began a mission to set up a school for nuns, raising funds through her international performances and recordings of traditional "Chö" chants and hymns. In 2000, the Arya

Tara School opened its doors to its first batch of students. For more information on the Arya Tara School and Ani Chöying Drolma: [www.choying.com](http://www.choying.com).

Guitarist **Steve Tibbetts**'s music reflects his own interest in everything from 1970s progressive rock to ambient electronica to world music, evident on his acclaimed albums on ECM Records. His more recent collaborations with Chöying Drolma on *Chö* and *Se/wa* highlight his ambitious exploration into ambient textures and surreal soundscapes triggered by his six-string acoustic guitar. For more information on Steve Tibbetts: [www.frammis.com](http://www.frammis.com).

### **EVENT SUPPORT**

The Wexner Center's 2004–05 music season is presented by National City.

Major support for the Wexner Center's 2004–05 performing arts season is provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Additional season support is provided by the Ohio Arts Council and the Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation.

### **CALENDAR INFORMATION for CHÖYING DROLMA and STEVE TIBBETTS**

**Description:** Tibetan Buddhist nun Chöying Drolma and vanguard guitarist Steve Tibbetts perform an evening of spiritual, ambient music.

**Date and time:** Thursday, April 7, 8 pm

**Location:** Thurber Theatre at Drake Center, 1849 Cannon Drive

**Tickets:** \$15 general public, \$13 members & students

**Ticket outlets:** Wexner Center Ticket Office, 614 292-3535 or Ticketmaster, 614 431-3600 (or [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com)).

**Public information:** 614 292-3535 and [www.wexarts.org](http://www.wexarts.org).

**Media contact for information or images:** Erik Pepple, [epepple@wexarts.org](mailto:epepple@wexarts.org) or 614 688-3261.

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.