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“Through Pauline Oliveros and Deep Listening, I finally know what harmony is...It’s about the pleasure of making music.”
— John Cage, 1989

Columbia University School of the Arts

announces that electronic music pioneer

PAULINE OLIVEROS

is the 2009 recipient of the

William Schuman Award

Columbia’s MILLER THEATRE hosts concert and award ceremony
Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 8:00PM

From Carol Becker, Dean, Columbia University School of the Arts:

“The School of the Arts is thrilled to present the William Schuman Award to Pauline Oliveros, a truly adventurous artist, who has contributed so much to redefining the boundaries and potentialities of contemporary music.”

Columbia University School of the Arts honors composer **PAULINE OLIVEROS** with the **WILLIAM SCHUMAN AWARD**, a major recognition given periodically over the past twenty-eight years.

Named for its first recipient William Schuman, the award, in the form of a direct, unrestricted grant of \$50,000, is one of the largest to an American composer. In the language of the gift establishing the prize, the purpose of the William Schuman Award is “to recognize the lifetime achievement of an American composer whose works have been widely performed and generally acknowledged to be of lasting significance.” It is awarded by the Dean of the School of the Arts at Columbia University. The award was established in 1981 by the Bydale Foundation. Previous winners have included Schuman, David Diamond, Gunther Schuller, Milton Babbitt, Hugo Weisgall, Steve Reich, and, most recently in 2006, John Zorn.

“I am delighted that Pauline Oliveros has been chosen to receive the Schuman Award for 2009,” says Professor Aaron A. Fox, Chair of the Department of Music at Columbia University. “Ms. Oliveros is undoubtedly one of the most distinguished and innovative American composers of her generation, and her music is both beautifully compelling and of lasting importance. On behalf of the Columbia University Department of Music, I extend warm congratulations to Ms. Oliveros for this well deserved recognition of her extraordinary career, and welcome her to Columbia, where she has many fans, for the celebratory performance at Miller Theatre.”

Pauline Oliveros—composer, performer, and humanitarian—is an important pioneer in American music. For four decades she has explored sound, forging new ground for herself and others, to international acclaim. Through improvisation, electronic music, ritual, teaching, and meditation, she has created a body of work with such breadth of vision that it profoundly affects those who experience it. Whether performing at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. in an underground cavern, or in the studios of West German Radio, Oliveros’s commitment to interaction with the moment is unchanged. Through Deep Listening Pieces and earlier Sonic Meditations, Oliveros introduced the concept of incorporating all environmental sounds into musical performance. To make a pleasurable experience of this requires focused concentration, skilled musicianship, and strong improvisational skills, which are the hallmarks of Oliveros’s form. She now serves as Distinguished Research Professor of Music at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Darius Milhaud Composer in Residence at Mills College.

Miller Theatre will host a concert and awards ceremony for the Schuman recognition on Saturday, March 27, 2010 (concert details to be announced).

About Columbia University School of the Arts: Columbia University School of the Arts (SoA) awards the Master of Fine Arts degree in Film, Theatre Arts, Visual Arts, and Writing. SoA is a thriving, diverse community of artists from around the world who have the talent, vision, and commitment to become exceptional artists. The faculty is comprised of acclaimed and internationally renowned artists, film and theatre directors, writers of poetry, fiction and nonfiction, playwrights, producers, critics, and scholars. Every year SoA presents exciting and innovative programs for the public including performances, exhibitions, screenings, symposia, a film festival, and numerous lectures, readings, panel discussions, and talks with artists, writers, critics, and scholars.

School of the Arts' faculty and alumni are recipients of numerous Academy Awards, Tony Awards, Pulitzer Prizes, MacArthur Fellowships, National Book Awards, and more in all of the disciplines we offer. SoA Visual Artists exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum, Guggenheim, Whitney Museum for American Art; Theatre Arts faculty and graduates produce and direct plays on and off-Broadway; Film directors, screenwriters and producers garner international prizes from festivals such as Venice, Berlin, and Sundance; and our Writers' new books regularly grace the cover of the New York Times Book Review. Among our luminous faculty are James Schamus (producer, *Brokeback Mountain*, *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*); Richard Howard (Pulitzer Prize-winning poet); Anne Bogart (director, SITI Company and recipient of a Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's Leading for the Future grant); Sarah Sze (MacArthur Fellowship winner); and Kara Walker (solo retrospective at the Whitney Museum of American Art).

About Columbia University: Founded in 1754 as King's College, Columbia University in the City of New York is the fifth oldest institution of higher learning in the United States and today is one of the world's leading academic and research institutions. For more information about Columbia University, visit www.columbia.edu.
