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Tickets & Information: 212/854-7799; www.millertheatre.com

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"Miller Theatre is New York's happiest haven of musical adventure—a place where progressive impulses are presented without apology or condescension, without a sense of painful duty or artificial sweetening." —***The Financial Times***

MILLER THEATRE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

closes November with two special concerts spotlighting young formidable artists:

Composer Portraits: Jason Eckardt

Ensemble 21 and guests perform the world premiere of his song cycle "Undersong"
Thursday, November 20, 8:00PM

Jazz: Robert Glasper Trio

This progressive jazz pianist's trio makes its Miller Theatre debut
Saturday, November 22, 8:00PM

Tickets: $25 • Students w/ ID: $15

Composer Portraits

JASON ECKARDT

Thursday, November 20, 8:00PM

Onstage discussion with Jason Eckardt

As a rock 'n' roll guitarist, **Jason Eckardt** (b. 1971) was guided and shaped by the music of Frank Zappa; then he heard the music of Webern for the first time. That seminal moment compelled him to become a composer. Influenced by the New Complexity school, his music is fiendishly difficult and brimming with rhythmic energy. This Portrait features the world premiere of his cycle ***Undersong***, which includes a Miller Theatre commission. Eckardt's own group **Ensemble 21** performs under the baton of **James Baker**.

"What holds your attention in his music is not its ingenuity but its relentless energy and drive…The musicians of Ensemble 21 play this music sizzlingly." ***—Allan Kozinn, The New York Times,*** *July 2008*

PROGRAM: *Undersong* (world premiere)
A way [tracing] (2006)
16 (2003)
Aperture (2007)
The distance (this) (2008) (world premiere, Miller Theatre commission)

ARTISTS: **Tony Arnold**, soprano
David Fedele, flute
Christopher Finckel, cello
Ensemble 21
James Baker, conductor

BIOS: **JASON ECKARDT** (b. 1971) has been recognized through commissions from Tanglewood, the Fromm Foundation at Harvard University, the New York State Music Fund, Meet the Composer, and the Oberlin Conservatory. Major festivals have programmed his works, including Festival d'Automne a Paris, IRCAM-Resonances, and Musik im 20. His recent recording, *Out of Chaos*, is available on Mode. Other recordings include *Echoes' White Veil*, *Transience*, *Sweet Creature*, and *Multiplicities*. As an active new music promoter, Eckardt co-founded and serves as the executive director of Ensemble 21. Eckardt received a doctorate in composition from Columbia University. In 1992, Eckardt graduated cum laude from Berklee College of Music.

Founded in 1993, **ENSEMBLE 21** is a cooperative of young musicians dedicated to bringing new music to new listeners. Ensemble 21 has since established a record of excellence in performance and demonstrated a commitment to today's composers. Ensemble 21 presents concerts annually at major New York venues such as Merkin Concert Hall, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Guggenheim Museum, and Miller Theatre. While priority is given to programming the music of emerging American composers, the ensemble also performs works by Europeans rarely heard in this country and 20th-century masterpieces. The group provides opportunities not only for its listeners, but also for composers and performers: the ensemble maintains an active commissioning program.

JAMES BAKER is the director and conductor of the Composers Conference at Wellesley College and the director of the percussion ensemble at the New School/Mannes College of Music. He regularly leads the New York New Music Ensemble and Speculum Musicae and has conducted the Cygnus and DaCapo ensembles. Last season he led performances of *Pli Selon Pli* by Pierre Boulez and works by David Felder and Peter Maxwell-Davies. Baker is also in demand for seminars in composition and performance, having led readings and recordings at universities including Rice University, University of California, Brigham Young, and the Beijing Conservatory. Additionally, for a number of years he conducted on Broadway shows, including *Oklahoma* and *Sound of Music*.

Jazz

ROBERT GLASPER TRIO

Saturday, November 22, 8:00PM

The young progressive jazz pianist **Robert Glasper**'s music is filled with flowing harmonies, emotional reverence, and hip-hop intensity. His variety of musical energy is exemplified in a diverse list of collaborators—he has worked with such stars as Bruce Hornsby, Stevie Wonder, and Mos Def. He made his major label debut in 2005 with *Canvas* on Blue Note Records. This "Rising Star of Acoustic Piano" (2007 *Downbeat* magazine's critics's poll) and his trio make their Miller Theatre debut.

ARTISTS: **Robert Glasper**, piano
Alan Hampton, bass
Chris Dave, drums

BIOS: Not long after the arrival of pianist **ROBERT GLASPER** on the New York City jazz scene, Ben Ratliff of *The New York Times* declared that Glasper's trio "deserves comparison with the best of the newer piano trios." So it is fitting that Glasper has decided to feature his trio exclusively on *In My Element*, his ravishing sophomore release for Blue Note Records. Glasper's trio has also headlined the famed Village Vanguard numerous times and toured extensively throughout the United States and Europe. As deeply involved in the hip-hop world as Glasper is—he's worked with Mos Def, Common, Talib Kweli, the Roots, and Slum Village—he is also a student of the jazz piano tradition. Glasper can play any standard, but he favors compact harmonic units and off-kilter rhythms.

Columbia University's Miller Theatre is located north of the Main Campus Gate at 116th St. & Broadway on the ground floor of Dodge Hall.

For tickets, the public should call the Miller Theatre Box Office at 212/854-7799, M–F, 12–6PM.
Tickets can also be purchased online at www.millertheatre.com.

For further information, press tickets, and to arrange interviews,
please contact Aleba Gartner Associates at 212/206-1450 or a@alebagartner.com.

For photos, please contact Lauren Bailey at 212/854-2382 or lrb2113@columbia.edu.

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