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millertheatre.com

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“Invaluable.”

— *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker* about Miller Theatre

MILLERTHEATRE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

**Miller Theatre at Columbia University
School of the Arts**

announces

**New digital initiatives
for the 2020-21 Season**

Miller Theatre has thoughtfully reframed its programming with a focus on giving much-needed creative performance opportunities to musicians and ensembles, and to providing opportunities for the restorative effects of music during a time of great anxiety and hardship.

LIVE FROM COLUMBIA

Pop-Ups in the Lantern

A virtual musical happy hour

November 17, 2020 – February 16, 2021

Co-presented with Columbia University School of the Arts

Miller Theatre continues its popular and free *Pop-Up Concerts* series, offering audiences a virtual front-row seat to four performances filmed live in the Lantern—a stunning venue, part of Columbia University's Manhattanville campus.

Featuring performances by

SIMONE DINNERSTEIN, *piano*

JACK QUARTET

MARIEL ROBERTS, *cello*

BRANDEE YOUNGER, *harp* & DEZRON DOUGLAS, *double bass*

Concerts in the *Live from Columbia* series are filmed live and premiered throughout the 2020-21 season at 7pm, with on-demand streaming available immediately after.

millertheatre.com/live-from-columbia

Plus Coming Soon...

MISSION: COMMISSION

A new six-episode podcast

Miller's mission to create new works takes center stage in this exciting new podcast.

Details to be announced soon.

And Previously Announced...

MORNINGSIDE LIGHTS

A video celebration of community art-making

October 26 at 7pm

The beloved tradition that connects community through art began in September with free distribution of "make-your-own" lantern kits. With amazing participation, including 100% kits distributed and 1,000+ content submissions, Miller Theatre concludes this year's *Morningside Lights* with a video celebration featuring user-generated content of the public's handmade lanterns. **Tune in at morningside-lights.com.**

**From Melissa Smey, Executive Director
Arts Initiative and Miller Theatre:**

"While in-person music programming may be on pause, Miller Theatre's mission is not. When thinking about how we could successfully and purposefully pivot to the digital stage, I wanted to explore ways to get artists working again, to facilitate the creation of new work, and to foster community around it. I also missed being on campus at Columbia University every day. And from these fragments, the idea of *Live from Columbia* began. I am thrilled to partner with the School of the Arts to bring Columbia to you, and to share the power of live music with a worldwide audience."

LIVE FROM COLUMBIA

Pop-Ups in the Lantern

Co-presented with Columbia University School of the Arts



*Clockwise from top:
Brandee Younger, Simone Dinnerstein, Mariel Roberts, JACK Quartet, Dezron Douglas*

Miller Theatre's celebrated, fun and free *Pop-Up Concerts* resume, with a change of venue. Filmed live in the awe-inspiring Lantern (the top floor venue in the Lenfest Center for the Arts, with sweeping views of Manhattan), Miller invites the public to take a virtual front-row seat for exciting performances by world-class musicians. Miller brings Columbia to audiences around the world through these unique digital concert experiences showing the breadth of Miller's programming, from Bach to jazz to living composers, while highlighting the iconic beauty of the campus of Columbia University.

In previous *Pop-Up Concerts*, audiences sat on on the Miller stage and enjoyed a free drink during hour-long weeknight concerts, mingling with the musicians and fellow concertgoers after the show. While this season's iteration features a change in setting, it offers the same up-close opportunity to experience music—virtually.

**Viewers can tune in to millertheatre.com/live-from-columbia
to watch and learn more.**



The Lantern at Columbia University. Photo by Frank Oudeman.

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Video premiere

Tuesday, November 17, 7pm

Mariel Roberts, cello

“Listeners should come running,” declares WQXR regarding the work of gifted cellist Mariel Roberts. For this solo recital, she performs a diverse and thrilling program, including one of her own compositions and excerpts from the beloved sixth **Cello Suite** by **J.S. Bach**.

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Video premiere

Tuesday, December 15 at 7pm

Simone Dinnerstein, piano

Simone Dinnerstein's “majestic originality of vision” (*The Independent*) has made her one of today's most sought-after pianists. The frequent Miller collaborator performs a solo recital highlighting her thoughtful interpretation and signature expressive elegance.

•

Video premiere

Tuesday, January 19 at 7pm

Brandee Younger, harp & Dezron Douglas, double bass

The duo of harp and bass may be an uncommon combination, but this particular duo makes one wish it was a regular occurrence. Genre-defying harpist Brandee Younger and the in-demand bassist Dezron Douglas join together for an incredible evening of inspired jazz works.

•

Video premiere

Tuesday, February 16 at 7pm

JACK Quartet

The very first public performance by the acclaimed JACK Quartet featured **Helmut Lachenmann**'s string quartet *Grido*, and it's been a constant for them ever since. The mastering of this technically demanding piece shows their incredible talent, but their expressive interpretation reveals their brilliance as an ensemble. Hear them perform this work, alongside two other solo pieces by Lachenmann which explore nontraditional techniques and sounds.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Maribel Roberts

marielroberts.com

American cellist Maribel Roberts is widely recognized not just for her virtuosic performances, but as a “fearless explorer” in her field (*Chicago Reader*). Her appetite for collaboration and experimentation as an interpreter, improviser, and composer have helped create a body of work that bridges avant-garde, contemporary, classical, improvised, and traditional music. Roberts is widely recognized for her “technical and interpretive mastery” (*I care if you listen*) and for performances which seethe with “excruciating intensity” (*The Whole Note*).

Roberts has appeared as a soloist and chamber musician across four continents, most

notably as a member and co-director of the Wet Ink Ensemble (named “The Best Classical Music Ensemble of 2018” by *The New York Times*), as well as with the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), Mivos Quartet, Bang on a Can All Stars, and Ensemble Signal. She performs regularly on major stages for new music such as the Lincoln Center Festival (NY), Wien Modern (Austria), Lucerne Festival (Switzerland), Cervantino Festival (Mexico), Klang Festival (Denmark), Shanghai New Music Week (China), Darmstadt Internationalen Ferienkurse für Neue Musik (Germany), and Aldeburgh Music Festival (U.K.). Roberts has been featured in a wide variety of outstanding recordings, including titles on Innova Records, Albany Records, New World Records, New Amsterdam, Carrier Records, New Focus, and Urtext Records. Roberts’ compositions have been performed at venues such as Merkin Hall and Miller Theatre at Columbia University.

Roberts has released two solo albums of new works commissioned for her. The first, *Nonextraneous Sounds* (2012), was noted for its “technical flair and exquisite sensitivity” (*Composers Forum*). In 2017, the release of *Cartography* solidified Roberts’ position as “one of the most adventurous figures on New York’s new music scene—one with a thorough grounding in classical tradition but a ravenous appetite for and tireless discipline in new work” (*Bandcamp*).

Her close collaborators have spanned a wide range of genres and include some of the most important figures on the contemporary and experimental scene, such as George Lewis, Alex Mincek, Tim Hecker, Nate Wooley, M. Lamar, Patrick Higgins (Zs), Ingrid Laubrock, Jeffrey Mumford, Sam Pluta, Eric Wubbels, and Ambrose Akinmusire.

JACK Quartet

jackquartet.com

Hailed by *The New York Times* as the “nation’s most important quartet,” the JACK Quartet is one of the most acclaimed, renowned, and respected groups performing today. JACK has maintained an unwavering commitment to performing and commissioning new works, giving voice to underheard composers, and cultivating an ever-greater sense of openness toward contemporary classical music. In 2018, they were selected as *Musical America’s* “Ensemble of the Year,” named to WQXR’s “19 for 19 Artists to Watch,” and awarded an Avery Fisher Career Grant. Additional awards include Lincoln Center’s Martin E. Segal Award, New Music USA’s Trailblazer Award, and the CMA/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming. JACK has performed to critical acclaim at leading venues and festivals around the world.

Comprising violinists Christopher Otto and Austin Wulliman, violist John Pickford Richards, and cellist Jay Campbell, JACK is focused on new work, working with artists such as Julia Wolfe, George Lewis, Chaya Czernowin, Helmut Lachenmann, Caroline Shaw, and Simon Steen-Andersen, with upcoming and recent premieres including works by Tyshawn Sorey, Sabrina Schroeder, John Luther Adams, Clara Iannotta, Philip Glass, Catherine Lamb, Lester St. Louis, and John Zorn. JACK also recently announced JACK Studio, an all-access initiative to commission six artists each year, who will receive money, workshop time, mentorship, and resources to develop new work to be performed and recorded by the quartet.

Operating as a nonprofit organization with a commitment to education, JACK is the Quartet-in-Residence at the Mannes School of Music, which will host JACK's new Frontiers Festival, a multi-faceted festival of contemporary music for string quartet. JACK also has a long-standing relationship with the University of Iowa String Quartet Residency Program. They also teach at New Music on the Point, a contemporary chamber music festival in Vermont for young performers and composers, the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, numerous universities including Columbia, Harvard, NYU, Princeton, and Stanford, as well as the Lucerne Festival Academy, of which the four members are all alumni.

Simone Dinnerstein

simonedinnerstein.com

American pianist Simone Dinnerstein is known for her “majestic originality of vision” (*The Independent*) and her “lean, knowing, and unpretentious elegance” (*The New Yorker*). Her self-produced recording of Bach’s Goldberg Variations in 2007 brought her considerable attention. It reached No. 1 on the U.S. Billboard Classical Chart in its first week of sales and was named to many “Best of 2007” lists including those of *The Los Angeles Times*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times*, which called her “a unique voice in the forest of Bach interpretation.” She has gone on to make ten albums since then with repertoire ranging from Beethoven to Ravel, all of which have topped the Billboard Classical charts. Her most recent album, *A Character of Quiet*, was recorded from her home and released this past September.

The New York-based pianist’s performance schedule has taken her around the world. She has performed at venues including the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Vienna Konzerthaus, Berlin Philharmonie, Sydney Opera House, Seoul Arts Center, and London’s Wigmore Hall; festivals that include the Lincoln Center Mostly Mozart Festival, the Aspen,

Verbier, and Ravinia festivals; and performances with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, Dresden Philharmonic, Staatskapelle Berlin, RAI National Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic, Danish National Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, and many others. Additionally, she has performed in correctional facilities for the Piatigorsky Foundation, an organization dedicated to bringing classical music to non-traditional venues.

Recent highlights include Dinnerstein's recital at the Kennedy Center; her debut with the London Symphony Orchestra; touring of Piano Concerto No. 3, a piece that Philip Glass wrote for her as a co-commission by twelve orchestras; *Circles*, her world premiere recording of the concerto with A Far Cry; participating in the premiere of André Previn and Tom Stoppard's *Penelope* with Renée Fleming and the Emerson String Quartet at Tanglewood, Ravinia, and Aspen music festivals; and a residency in San Francisco with the New Century Chamber Orchestra, among others. Most recently, she created her own string ensemble, Baroklyn, which she directs from the keyboard.

Dedicated to her community in Brooklyn, Dinnerstein founded Neighborhood Classics in 2009, a concert series that raises funds for music education programs in New York City schools, and Bachpacking, a music program for elementary schools. A graduate of The Juilliard School and the Manhattan School of Music, Dinnerstein is on the faculty of the Mannes School of Music.

Brandee Younger

brandeeyounger.com

Brandee Younger is a classically trained musician who plays in the avant-garde tradition of Dorothy Ashby and Alice Coltrane and is known for expressive interpretations of traditional harp repertoire as well as her continued work with a diverse cross-section of musical talents. As an educator, event curator, performer, and leader of The Brandee Younger Quartet, she delivers a consistently fresh take on the instrument.

As a classical musician, Younger has been a soloist with The Harlem Chamber Players and North Shore Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Impulse Artist Series. She has also performed with an array of ensembles including the Eastern Connecticut Symphony, Waterbury Symphony, Soulful Symphony, Ensemble Du Monde, Camerata New York, and the Red Bull Artsehero. She has worked and recorded with a number of jazz luminaries including Jack DeJohnette, Pharoah Sanders, Christian McBride, Ravi Coltrane, Wycliffe Gordon, Charlie Haden, Rashied Ali, Butch Morris, Jeff "Tain" Watts, Kenny Garrett, and

Bill Lee. Her work in R&B and hip-hop has found her sharing studios and stages with John Legend, Common, Drake, Salaam Remi, and Lauryn Hill.

Since the debut of her seminal album *Prelude EP* (2011), she has produced an impressive body of work including *Brandee Younger Live @ The Breeding Ground*, a breakthrough performance on Revive Music's *Supreme Sonacy Vol. 1* (2015), the critically acclaimed *Wax & Wane* (2016), a 2018 appearance as a featured artist on *A Day in the Life: Impressions of Pepper*—the Impulse tribute to The Beatles, and her most recent album *Soul Awakening* (2019).

Younger earned undergraduate degrees in Harp Performance and Music Business from The Hartt School of the University of Hartford and attended graduate school at New York University. She has taught at Adelphi University, Nassau Community College, The Hartt School Community Division of the University of Hartford, and currently is a private instructor and teacher at Greenwich House Music School. She also serves as Symphonic and Jazz Harp Artist in Residence at the Cicely L. Tyson Community School of Performing and Fine Arts. Younger recently served as curator of the weekly Harp On Park lunchtime concert series for Arts Brookfield.

Dezron Douglas

Known for his musical versatility, bassist Dezron Douglas is one of the most in demand young bassists in jazz today. As a composer, educator, and bandleader, Dezron has established himself as a musician's musician, respected not only for his talent but also for his dedication to the authenticity of the music.

Born and raised in Hartford, Douglas studied at the Jackie McLean Institute of African American Music at the Hartt School of Music (University of Hartford). While in college, he co-founded The New Jazz Workshop of Hartford. In the following years, he has performed and recorded with Michael Carvin, Pharoah Sanders, Cyrus Chestnut, Abraham Burton/Eric McPherson, Louis Hayes, Rene McLean, Al Foster, Ravi Coltrane, Billy Drummond, Steve Davis, Winard Harper, Lewis Nash, Kevin Mahogany, Carla Cook, Kenny Garrett, Willie Jones III, Jeremy Pelt, Eric Reed, Papo Vazquez, and The Marsalis Brothers. Douglas is a long-standing member of the Cyrus Chestnut Trio and Papo Vazquez and the Mighty Pirates.

He has recorded four albums as a leader: *Walkin' My Baby Back Home* and *Ganbare Nippon* on Venus Records (Japan); *Underground* by the New Jazz Workshop and, most

recently, *Dezron Douglas, Live at Smalls* on the Smalls Live label.

Columbia University School of the Arts

arts.columbia.edu

Columbia University School of the Arts awards the Master of Fine Arts degree in Film, Theatre, Visual Arts, and Writing and the Master of Arts degree in Film and Media Studies; it also offers an interdisciplinary program in Sound Art. The School is a thriving, diverse community of talented, visionary, and committed artists from around the world and a faculty comprised of acclaimed and internationally renowned artists, film and theatre directors, writers of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction, playwrights, producers, critics, and scholars. In 2015, the School marked the 50th Anniversary of its founding. In 2017, the School opened the Lenfest Center for the Arts, a multi-arts venue designed as a hub for the presentation and creation of art across disciplines on the University's new Manhattanville campus. The Lenfest hosts exhibitions, performances, screenings, symposia, readings, and lectures that present new, global voices and perspectives, as well as an exciting, publicly accessible home for Columbia's Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery.

Miller Theatre

millertheatre.com

Miller Theatre at Columbia University is the leading presenter of new music in New York City and one of the most vital forces nationwide for innovative programming. In partnership with Columbia University School of the Arts, Miller is dedicated to producing and presenting unique events, with a focus on contemporary and early music, jazz, opera, and multimedia performances. Founded in 1988, Miller Theatre has helped launch the careers of myriad composers and ensembles over the years, serving as an incubator for emerging artists and a champion of those not yet well known in the United States. A four-time recipient of the ASCAP/Chamber Music America Award for Adventurous Programming, Miller Theatre continues to meet the high expectations set forth by its founders—to present innovative programs, support the development of new work, and connect creative artists with adventurous audiences.

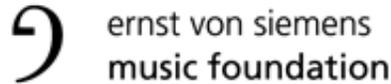
Miller Theatre 's 2020-21 season is supported by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and by the Howard Gilman Foundation.



Support for contemporary music is provided by the Aaron Copland Fund for Music.

The Aaron Copland
Fund for Music 

The Helmut Lachenmann concert is presented with the friendly support of the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation.



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 further information, press tickets, photos, and to arrange interviews, please contact Aleba & Co. at 212/206-1450 or [alebaco.com](mailto:aleba@alebaco.com).

For photos, please contact Lauren Bailey Cognetti, lrb2113@columbia.edu.



PR for musical trailblazers



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