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american composers orchestra

SONiC – Sounds of a New Century
A Festival of 21st Century Music by Composers Age 40 and Under
Produced by American Composers Orchestra

October 15-23, 2015

9 days of new music by more than 80 composers;
at least 24 world premieres, 7 U.S. premieres, and 22 New York premieres
performed by 14 ensembles at venues throughout New York City

Concerts will be available for on-demand streaming at Q2Music.org

www.SONiCfestival.org

New York, NY (July 15, 2015, updated September 9, 2015) — Heralded in its inaugural edition in 2011 as “a brilliant and unpretentious showcase for music in the new millennium” (*The Guardian*), **SONiC (Sounds of a New Century)** is a festival of 21st century music by more than 80 composers age 40 and under. SONiC returns to New York from Thursday, October 15 through Friday, October 23, 2015. Produced by **American Composers Orchestra**, SONiC events range from a daylong marathon to late-night AfterHours concerts, from a free, all-world-premiere symphony concert by American Composers Orchestra at the Winter Garden at Brookfield Place to collaborations between emerging choreographers and composers. SONiC concerts take place at venues throughout New York City, and include performances by 14 extraordinary ensembles featuring at least 24 world premieres, seven U.S. premieres, and 22 New York premieres. SONiC is curated by ACO Artistic Director **Derek Bermel** (main stage concerts) with Associate Curator **Anna Clyne** (AfterHours concerts), and is presented in collaboration with **Carnegie Hall, Arts Brookfield, National Sawdust, Kaufman Music Center, Le Poisson Rouge, Roulette, ShapeShifter Lab, DRoM**, and **Americas Society**, with lead support from the **Fromm Music Foundation** and major support from the **Howard Gilman Foundation**. **Q2 Music**, the new music online stream of WQXR, is the digital media partner for SONiC.

SONiC launches on October 15 with **SONiC Boom! Cultivate** at **The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space at WQXR** presented by **Q2 Music**, WQXR’s contemporary classical online channel. The evening will be hosted by WQXR’s **Terrance McKnight** and webcast live at www.q2music.org, and will feature music performed by **Music from Copland House** by the emerging composers of Copland House’s Cultivate

institute, including **Reena Esmail, Steven Snowden, Viet Cuong, Michael Gilbertson, Dan Visconti,** and **Gity Razaz.**

On October 16, ACO gives its free-for-the-public, all-world-premiere, season-opening concert **American Composers Orchestra: New York Stories**, presented by **Arts Brookfield** and **WNYC's New Sounds Live** at the **Winter Garden at Brookfield Place**. The concert, led by ACO Music Director **George Manahan**, includes music by four up-and-coming composers: **Angélica Negrón**, ACO's Van Lier Fellow, whose new piece *Me He Perdido (I've Gotten Lost)* for ACO will incorporate robotic instruments; **Andy Akiho**, winner of ACO's 2014 Underwood Emerging Composer Commission; **Alex Mincek**, whose new piece *Continuo* is a concerto for **JACK Quartet** and ACO; and **Judd Greenstein**, whose *My City* is an ode to New York based on Walt Whitman texts and features new music chamber choir **The Crossing** with vocalist **DM Stith**. The concert will be hosted by WNYC's **John Schaefer** and recorded for later broadcast on WNYC's *New Sounds Live*.

At **ShapeShifter Lab** on October 17, composers who collaborate with high-tech inventors will showcase new robotic instruments in **Machine Music**, featuring music for viols and Dervish Robots by **Molly Herron** and **Andy Cavatorta**; the **Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble** and theremins by **Fjóra Evans** and **Merche Lasco**; pianos, bicycle and electronics by **Ruby Fulton**; tactile speakers by **Albert Behar**; and a pitch-bending new instrument for the iPhone called iLophone and singers by **Levy Lorenzo**.

Other highlights of SONiC include Grammy winners **Roomful of Teeth** led by Brad Wells in the world premieres of **Anna Clyne's Pocket Book VIII** and **Ted Hearne's Coloring Book** plus music by **Missy Mazzoli, William Brittelle, Eric Dudley,** and **Caleb Burhans** at Williamsburg's newest venue **National Sawdust** on October 17; and **Alarm Will Sound** led by Alan Pierson at **Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Music Center** on October 22 performing New York premieres by **Texu Kim, Jeremy Podgursky,** and **John Orfe**, and music by **Charlie Piper** and **Kate Soper**.

Los Angeles' new music phenomenon **wild Up**, led by Christopher Rountree, will make its New York debut at **Roulette** on October 20 with a program of all New York premieres by **Julia Holter, Chris Kallmyer, Andrew Tholl, Andrew McIntosh, Jen Hill,** and **Nick Deyoe**. **wild Up** has been Orchestra in Residence at the Hammer Museum, and Public Engagement Ensemble in Residence with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. In the 2013-14 season, **wild Up** made their Los Angeles Philharmonic debut as part of the Philharmonic's *Brooklyn Festival*.

Providing context for the new American works on the festival, SONiC presents two rarely heard international ensembles – Holland's **Nieuw Amsterdams Peil** at **Le Poisson Rouge** on October 19 in U.S. premieres by **Joey Roukens, Reza Namavar, Edmund Finnis,** and New York premieres by **Molly Joyce** and **Carl Schimmel**; and Mexico's leading new music group, the innovative and virtuosic **Onix Ensemble**, presented by **Americas Society** on October 21 in U.S. premieres by **Juan Pablo Contreras, Francisco Cortés Álvarez, Charles Halka, Víctor Ibarra,** and a New York premiere by **Travis Alford**.

SONiC showcases the breadth and depth of emerging composers working today in **JACK Out of the Box**, a 6-hour marathon event from 3-9pm on Sunday, October 18 at **Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman**

Music Center. JACK Quartet plays the role of host ensemble, with performances interspersed throughout the day, among appearances by other leading new music ensembles and performers including **So Percussion, Face the Music's Quartet This Side Up, Duo Cortona, Derek Bermel, Rachel Calloway, Caroline Shaw,** and **Ken Thomson** in music by **Elbis Álvarez** (world premiere), **Caroline Shaw** (New York premiere), **Jeff Myers, Carolina Heredia** (New York premiere), **Jason Treuting, Cenk Ergün, Loren Loiacano** (New York premiere), **Ken Thomson, Christopher Trapani, Brendon Randall-Myers, Jeremy Gill, Kerrith Livengood, Jeremy Rapaport-Stein** (world premiere), **Amadeus Regucera,** and **Tristan Perich,** plus the world premieres of new double quartets for Face the Music by **Justine F. Chen** and **Paris Lavidis.**

SONiC culminates on Friday, October 23 with ACO in **Orchestra Underground: 21st Firsts** presented by **Carnegie Hall at Zankel Hall** and led by ACO Music Director George Manahan. Another all-world premiere concert, the program includes **Nina C. Young's** *Out of whose womb came the ice* featuring baritone **David Tinervia,** **Hannah Lash's** *Concerto for Harp and Chamber Orchestra* featuring the composer as soloist with the orchestra, **Michael-Thomas Foumai's** *The Spider Thread,* **Conrad Winslow's** *Joint Account* and **Melody Eötvös' Red Dirt / Silver Rain.** All of the composers featured on the program were participants in ACO's Underwood or EarShot New Music Readings.

In addition to the main stage performances, SONiC includes several **SONiC: AfterHours** concerts featuring dance collaborations, electronic music composers and DJs, composers who also take the stage as performers, and musicians who work at the intersection of jazz and classical music. **Visualizing Music** (October 17 at National Sawdust) features multimedia collaborations between composers, filmmakers, video and digital artists, with music by **Paola Prestini, Chris Cerrone,** and **Bora Yoon** and visuals by **S. Katy Tucker, Mark DeChiazza,** and **Joshue Ott.** **New Sounds – New Moves** (October 20 at Roulette) features world premiere collaborations between emerging composers and choreographers with music by **Peter Evans** and **Sam Pluta, Dana Jessen** and **Paula Matthusen,** and **Tyshawn Sorey** and new dance by **Jacob Slominski, Biba Bell,** and **Abigail Levine.** **Hybridity** (October 21 at DRoM) explores the border between jazz and concert music and features **Clarice Assad's** band **Off the Cliff** as well as **Marie Incontrera's** 15-piece **Eco-Music Big Band.**

Of the focus on composers under age 40, SONiC Curator Derek Bermel said, “We wanted to present a snapshot of the younger generation of music-makers, to showcase the richness, vitality, and diversity of the music being created right now – under our very noses here in New York and throughout the world.” He explains, “Emerging composers today have much greater access to different traditions and influences, and we are celebrating music in a multiplicity of styles, movements, and manifestations. We want to bring more public awareness to the many directions contemporary music is moving in, and to reaffirm that composers are here and thriving.”

Associate Curator Anna Clyne adds, “This year's SONiC: AfterHours shows focus on collaboration, bringing together some of today's most imaginative and innovative composers, choreographers, ensembles, instrument makers, sound installation artists, visual artists and film-makers. From the world premiere of three new works for music and dance at Roulette, to new works for music, film and live visuals at National

Sawdust, these eclectic shows explore a wide variety of ways that composers are interacting with other media and art forms.”

Carol Oja, Fromm Music Foundation Director, says, “The Fromm Music Foundation, which has been supporting new music in the United States since 1952, is thrilled to be part of the SONiC festival, believing that young composers point our ears towards the future.”

For ACO, SONiC represents the culmination of many years of planning, coalescing the work the orchestra does with emerging composers, and creating a dynamic and focused series of events that emphasize the creation of new opportunities for these artists. “We wanted to create a ‘big umbrella’ that would celebrate these composers and bring together the many young innovative ensembles that are doing fantastic work, by collaborating with a wide range of venues and presenters from across New York City,” said ACO President Michael Geller. Many of the composers featured during SONiC have been discovered through one of ACO’s composer development programs, such as the Underwood New Music Readings for Emerging Composers or EarShot – the National Orchestral Composition Discovery Network that ACO has spearheaded in collaboration with symphony orchestras around the country.

SONiC: Interact

SONiC will extend beyond the concert hall and into the virtual world with several initiatives allowing audiences to interact and engage directly with the music.

SONiC will feature **SONiC:Variant** for smart phone and tablet users, available free via the App store. The app features a mobile audiovisual world of texture, movement, line and tone. SONiC:Variant is a special free version of the Variant apps created by Kenneth Kirschner and Joshue Ott of Interval Studios. The software was used to create SONiC’s animated logo on www.SONiCfestival.org. The app will also be on display at select events during the festival. *Read about SONiC:Variant on ACO’s SoundAdvice blog: <http://acosoundadvice.blogspot.com/2015/06/sonic-fest-2015-q-with-app-designers.html>.*

Through **Re:Sound**, audience members will have the opportunity to comment and vote online or via mobile phone for the piece they would most like to hear again. Q2 Music will webcast recordings of the pieces that receive the most votes during a special program dedicated to SONiC.

For updates, behind-the-scenes scoops, and dialog with several of the composers and ensembles, audiences can follow SONiC on Facebook (www.facebook.com/SONiC.SoundsOfANewCentury), Twitter (www.twitter.com/SONiC_Fest), and Instagram (www.instagram.com/sonic_fest), and can participate in the conversation using the hashtag **#SONiCfest**.

SONiC Composers (Subject to Change)

*** = World Premiere; + = US Premiere; ^ = New York Premiere**

Andy Akiho *, Travis Alford ^, Livio Almeida, Elbis Álvarez *, Francisco Cortés Álvarez, Thiago Amud, Clarice Assad, Albert Behar *, William Brittelle, Caleb Burhans, Christopher Cerrone *, Justine F. Chen *, Anna Clyne *, Juan Pablo Contreras, Viet Cuong ^, Frederico Demarca, Nick Deyoe ^, Eric Dudley, Melody Eötvös *, Cenk Ergün, Reena Esmail ^, Fjóla Evans, Peter Evans *, Edmund Finnis +, Michael-Thomas

Foumai *, Renato Frazão, Ruby Fulton, Jeremy Gill *, Michael Gilbertson ^, Judd Greenstein *, Ted Hearne ^, Charles Halka, Carolina Heredia ^, Molly Herron *, Jen Hill ^, Julia Holter ^, Victor Ibarra, Marie Incontrera, Dana Jessen *, Molly Joyce ^, Chris Kallmyer ^, Texu Kim ^, Hannah Lash *, Paris Lavidis *, Gabriel Levy, Kerrith Livengood, Loren Loiacono ^, Levy Lorenzo, Andrew McIntosh ^, Paula Matthusen, Albert Marques, Missy Mazzoli, Alex Mincek *, Jeff Myers, Reza Namavar +, Angélica Negrón *, Adam O'Farrill *, Zack O'Farrill, John Orfe ^, Carol Panesi, Tristan Perich, Charlie Piper, Sam Pluta, Jeremy Podgursky ^, Paola Prestini, Brendon Randall-Myers, Jeremy Rapaport-Stein *, Gity Razaz ^, Amadeus Regucera, Joey Roukens +, Carl Schimmel ^, Caroline Shaw ^, Steven Snowden ^, Kate Soper, Tyshawn Sorey *, Andrew Tholl ^, Ken Thomson, Christopher Trapani, Jason Treuting, Dan Visconti, Conrad Winslow *, Bora Yoon *, and Nina C. Young *, and more

SONiC Ensembles & Performers (Subject to Change)

American Composers Orchestra, Alarm Will Sound, The Crossing, Duo Cortona, Eco-Music Big Band, Face the Music, JACK Quartet, Music from Copland House, Nieuw Amsterdams Peil, Off The Cliff, Onix Ensemble, Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, Roomful of Teeth, So Percussion, wild Up, clarinetist Derek Bermel, mezzo-soprano Rachel Calloway, electric bassoonist Archie Carey, accordionist Melissa Elledge, harpist Hannah Lash, percussionist Ian David Rosenbaum, percussionist Jason Treuting, violinist/vocalist Caroline Shaw, percussionist Tyshawn Sorey, vocalist DM Stith, clarinetist/saxophonist Ken Thomson, baritone David Tinervia, pianist Richard Valitutto, baritone saxophonist Brian Walsh, cellist Jeff Zeigler, and more

Ticket Information

Tickets to SONiC concerts are now available. Tickets range from FREE to \$50. SONiC Festival Passes are available for \$25 and provide discount codes to allow for the purchase of tickets discounted by at least 20% to all concerts. The SONiC Festival Pass also provides preferred seating at the free events along with other free items and perks. Available at www.SONiCfestival.org.

SONiC: Sounds of a New Century Schedule (Subject to Change)

More information available at www.SONiCfestival.org. Programs subject to change.

Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 7pm

The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space at WQXR (44 Charlton St., New York, NY)

SONiC Boom! Cultivate

Music from Copland House

REENA ESMAIL: *Tasveer* (New York Premiere)

STEVEN SNOWDEN: *Steam Man of the Prairies* (New York Premiere)

VIET CUONG: *Wax and Wire* (New York Premiere)

MICHAEL GILBERTSON: *Low-Hanging Fruit* (New York Premiere)

DAN VISCONTI: *Lonesome Roads*

GITY RAZAZ: *A Prayer for the Abandoned* (New York Premiere)

Friday, October 16, 2015 at 8pm

Winter Garden at Brookfield Place (230 Vesey St., New York, NY)

American Composers Orchestra: New York Stories

Presented by Arts Brookfield

WNYC New Sounds Live - an all-world premiere concert

George Manahan, Music Director & Conductor

JACK Quartet; DM Stith, vocals; The Crossing, Donald Nally, director
ANGÉLICA NEGRÓN: *Me He Perdido (I've Gotten Lost)* (World Premiere. ACO/Van Lier Commission)
ANDY AKIHO: *Tarnished Mirrors* (World Premiere. ACO/Underwood Commission)
ALEX MINCEK: *Continuo, Concerto for JACK Quartet* (World Premiere. ACO/NYSCA Commission)
JUDD GREENSTEIN: *My City* (World Premiere. ACO Co-Commission)

Saturday, October 17, 2015 at 2pm

ShapeShifter Lab (18 Whitwell Place, Brooklyn, NY)

Machine Music: Acoustic & Robotic Instruments

Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

MOLLY HERRON (composer) and Andy Cavatorta (instrument maker): *Stellar Atmospheres* (World Premiere)

– vocal quartet, viol consort and dervishes robot

FJÓLA EVANS (composer) and Merche Blasco (instrument maker): *Whirlpool* - three singers and four theremins

RUBY FULTON (composer): *Cycle Loops* – piano, electronics, bike

ALBERT BEHAR (composer and instrument maker): *Sound Orb* (World Premiere) – tactile speaker system

LEVY LORENZO (composer and instrument maker): *Inside Voice* - iLophone and four singers

Saturday, October 17, 2015 at 7:30pm

National Sawdust (80 N. 6th St., Brooklyn, NY)

Roomful of Teeth

TED HEARNE: *Coloring Book* (World Premiere)

ANNA CLYNE: *Pocket Book VIII* (World Premiere)

MISSY MAZZOLI: *Vesper Sparrow*

WILLIAM BRITTELLE: *High Done No Why To*

ERIC DUDLEY: *Suonare/to sound*

CALEB BURHANS: *Beneath*

Saturday, October 17, 2015 at 10pm

National Sawdust (80 N. 6th St., Brooklyn, NY)

SONiC AfterHours: Visualizing Music: Composers & Video Artists

CHRISTOPHER CERRONE (composer) MARK DECHIAZZA (film): *Memory Palace* (World Premiere w/ film)

PAOLA PRESTINI (composer) S. KATY TUCKER (film projections): *Listen Quiet* with Jeff Zeigler, cello and Ian David Rosenbaum, percussion

BORA YOON (composer/vocalist/electronics/found objects) Joshue Ott (live video): *Sons Nouveaux* (World Premiere)

Sunday, October 18, 2015 from 3-9pm

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Music Center (129 W 67th St., New York, NY)

JACK Out of the Box: A Marathon Event

JACK Quartet with special guests So Percussion, Duo Cortona, and Face the Music's Quartet This Side Up with Rachel Calloway, mezzo-soprano; Caroline Shaw, vocals; Derek Bermel, clarinet; Ken Thomson, bass clarinet; and Jason Treuting, percussion

EBLIS ÁLVAREZ: *Cinco temas para películas* (World Premiere)

CHRISTOPHER TRAPANI: *Visions and Revisions*

CAROLINE SHAW: *By & By* (New York Premiere)

JEFF MYERS: *Requiem Aeternam* (excerpts)

CAROLINA HEREDIA: *Lus in Bello* (New York Premiere)

JASON TREUTING: *Oblique Music for 4 plus (blank)*

CENK ERGÜN: *Comfort Dream Queen Memory*

LOREN LOIACONO: *Eidolon* (New York Premiere)

KEN THOMSON: *Perpetual*

JUSTINE F. CHEN: *Measuring Force and Distance* for double quartet (World Premiere)

PARIS LAVIDIS: *Dinner for Eight* for double quartet (World Premiere)

BRENDON RANDALL-MYERS: *Nausea*
JEREMY GILL: *New Work* (World Premiere)
KERRITH LIVENGOOD: *In Hot May*
JEREMY RAPAPORT-STEIN: *Music* (World Premiere)
AMADEUS REGUCERA: *If only after you then me*
TRISTAN PERICH: *Sequential*

Monday, October 19, 2015 at 7pm

Le Poisson Rouge (158 Bleecker St., New York, NY)

Nieuw Amsterdams Peil (Netherlands)

JOEY ROUKENS: *Shadows and Bells* (U.S. Premiere)
REZA NAMAVAR: *In de Magmakamer* (U.S. Premiere)
EDMUND FINNIS: *In Three Parts* (U.S. Premiere)
MOLLY JOYCE: *Amplify* (New York Premiere)
CARL SCHIMMEL: *An Illustrated Ontogeny of the Flower Snark* (New York Premiere)

Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 7pm

Roulette (509 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, NY)

West

wild Up (New York debut)
Christopher Rountree, conductor; Archie Carey, electric bassoon; Brian Walsh, baritone saxophone; Richard Valitutto, piano
FEAR: *New York's alright if you like saxophones* (New York Premiere)
CHRIS KALLMYER: *this nest, swift passerine* (New York Premiere)
ANDREW THOLL: *Three Meditations on California Girls and corpus callosum* (New York Premieres)
JULIA HOLTER: *Endless Song for the End of Summer* (New York Premiere)
JEN HILL: *In Memoriam My Liver...* (New York Premiere)
MISFITS: *Where Eagles Dare* (New York Premiere)
ANDREW McINTOSH: *Yelling Into the Wind* (New York Premiere)
NICK DEYOE: *A New Anxiety* (New York Premiere)

Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 10pm

Roulette (509 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, NY)

SONiC AfterHours: New Sounds – New Moves: Composers & Choreographers

Music by PETER EVANS with SAM PLUTA; Choreography by JACOB SLOMINSKI (World Premiere)
Music by DANA JESSEN with PAULA MATTHUSEN; Choreography by BIBA BELL (World Premiere)
Music by TYSHAWN SOREY; Choreography by ABIGAIL LEVINE (World Premiere)

Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 7pm

Americas Society (680 Park Ave., New York, NY)

Onix Ensemble

JUAN PABLO CONTRERAS: *Silencio en Juárez* (U.S. Premiere)
FRANCISCO CORTÉS ÁLVAREZ: *Callejones Virtales (Virtual Alleys)* (U.S. Premiere)
CHARLES HALKA: *Por la fuerza las tierras* (U.S. Premiere)
VÍCTOR IBARRA: *Química del Agua* (U.S. Premiere)
TRAVIS ALFORD: *Cycles* (New York Premiere)

Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 10pm

DROM (85 Avenue A, New York, NY)

SONiC AfterHours: Hybridity – Composers Exploring Jazz & Concert Music

Eco-Music Big Band, Marie Incontrera, bandleader; Off The Cliff; and Melissa Elledge, accordion

Eco-Music Big Band

ZACK O'FARRILL: *Foggy Conscience*
LIVIO ALMEIDA: *Action and Reaction*

ADAM O'FARRILL: *New Work* (World Premiere)

MARIE INCONTRERA: *Seven Generations*

ALBERT MARQUES: *IDN*

Off The Cliff

Music by CLARICE ASSAD, THIAGO AMUD, CAROL PANESI, RENATO FRAZÃO, GABRIEL LEVY, FREDERICO DEMARCA

Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 8pm

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Music Center (129 W 67th St., New York, NY)

Alarm Will Sound

Alan Pierson, conductor

TEXU KIM: *Bounce* (New York Premiere)

CHARLIE PIPER: *Zoetrope* with a film by Max Freeman and Margaret Singer

JEREMY PODGURSKY: *MINDJOB* (New York Premiere)

KATE SOPER: *I Was Here I Was I* (excerpts)

JOHN ORFE: *Dowland Remix* (New York Premiere)

Friday, October 23, 2015 at 7:30pm

Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall (881 7th Ave., New York, NY)

American Composers Orchestra

Orchestra Underground: 21st Firsts (an all-world premiere concert)

George Manahan, Music Director & Conductor; Hannah Lash, harp; David Tinervia, baritone; Paul Lieber, projections

NINA C. YOUNG: *Out of whose womb came the ice* (World Premiere. ACO/Jerome commission)

MELODY EÖTVÖS: *Red Dirt/Silver Rain* (World Premiere. ACO/Toulmin commission)

HANNAH LASH: *Concerto for Harp and Chamber Orchestra* (World Premiere. ACO/Carnegie Hall/Cheswatyr commission)

CONRAD WINSLOW: *Joint Account* (World Premiere. ACO/Carnegie Hall commission)

MICHAEL-THOMAS FOUMAI: *The Spider Thread* (World Premiere)

About Derek Bermel, ACO Artistic Director & SONiC Curator

Derek Bermel is American Composers Orchestra's Artistic Director—the senior composer in ACO's artistic and programming leadership. Previously, Bermel served as ACO's Artistic Advisor, helping to launch ACO's innovative Orchestra Underground series. Bermel is also Director of Copland House's emerging composers institute Cultivate, served as Composer-in-Residence at the Mannes College of Music, and served for four years as Artist-in-Residence at Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study.

A Grammy-nominated composer and clarinetist, Bermel has been widely hailed for his creativity, theatricality, and virtuosity. His engagement with other musical cultures has become part of the fabric and force of his compositional language. He's recognized as a dynamic and unconventional curator of concert series that spotlight the composer as performer, and his work has been performed by major artists across the globe. He has received commissions from the Pittsburgh, National, Saint Louis, New Jersey, and Pacific Symphonies, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg's New Century Chamber and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestras, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, WNYC Radio, eighth blackbird, the Guarneri and JACK String Quartets, Music from Copland House and Music from China, De Ereprijs (Netherlands), Midori, ASKO/Schoenberg Ensemble and Veenfabriek (Netherlands), among others. ACO has commissioned and premiered many of his orchestral works, including *Elixir*, *The Migration Series*, *Voices*, and *A Shout*, *A Whisper*, *A Trace*, and Bermel is an alumnus of ACO's New Music Readings program.

His many honors include the Alpert Award in the Arts, Rome Prize, Guggenheim and Fulbright Fellowships, American Music Center's Trailblazer Award, and an Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters; commissions from the Koussevitzky and Fromm Foundations, Meet the Composer, and Cary Trust; and residencies at Yaddo, Tanglewood, Aspen, Banff, Bellagio, Copland House, Sacatar, and Civitella Ranieri. His discography features three critically-acclaimed discs: an all-Bermel orchestral recording that includes the Grammy-nominated performance of his clarinet concerto *Voices*, (BMOP/sound); *Soul Garden*, his small ensemble/solo music (New World/CRI); and his most recent disc, *Canzonas Americanas*, with Alarm Will Sound (Cantaloupe). For more information visit www.derekbermel.com.

About Anna Clyne, SONiC Associate Curator

Anna Clyne is a Grammy-nominated composer of acoustic and electro-acoustic music, combining resonant soundscapes with propelling textures that weave, morph, and collide in dramatic explosions. Her work, described as “dazzlingly inventive” by *Time Out New York*, often includes collaborations with cutting edge choreographers, visual artists, filmmakers, and musicians worldwide. Clyne is an alumna of ACO's annual new music readings for emerging composers. Her piece *Tender Hooks*, for orchestra, electronics and computer-generated graphics, was commissioned by ACO as part of its inaugural Playing It UNsafe R&D lab for experimental new music.

Highlights for the 15-16 season include a new work for 100 cellos, commissioned by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, to be premiered at the Hollywood Bowl; *This Lunar Beauty* for the Britten Sinfonia with soprano Anna Dennis; *This MidnightHour*, to be premiered by L'Orchestre National d'Ile de France at Philharmonie de Paris and with a U.S. premiere by the Seattle Symphony; and a new orchestral ballet for the Cabrillo Festival with conductor Marin Alsop. Other recent premieres include *Masquerade*, a BBC Radio 3 commission, which had its world premiere on the famed Last Night of the Proms by the BBC Symphony Orchestra; *The Violin*, a multimedia collaboration with artist Josh Dorman and violinists Cornelius Dufallo and Amy Kauffman; and *A Wonderful Day* for the Bang on a Can All-Stars. Appointed by Music Director Riccardo Muti, Clyne served as a Mead Composer-in-Residence for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra from 2010-2015, and is currently Composer-in-Residence for the Orchestre National d'Ile de France. Other commissions include works for Carnegie Hall, Houston Ballet, London Sinfonietta, Metropolis Ensemble, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, and the Southbank Centre.

She is the recipient of several prestigious awards including a Charles Ives Fellowship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, awards from Meet the Composer, the American Music Center, the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, the Jerome Foundation, and prizes from ASCAP and SEAMUS, and was recently nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Classical Composition, for her double violin concerto, *Prince of Clouds*. Clyne holds a first-class Bachelor of Music degree with honors from Edinburgh University and a Master of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music where she studied with Marjan Mozetich, Marina Adamia, Julia Wolfe, and Nils Vigeland. Her music is published by Boosey & Hawkes.

About SONiC Ensembles

Alarm Will Sound

"As close to being a rock band as a chamber orchestra can be" (*The New York Times*), Alarm Will Sound is a 20-member touring ensemble led by Artistic Director Alan Pierson that commissions, performs, and records innovative works by established and emerging composers, especially works that incorporate theatrical and multimedia elements by choreographers, visual artists, designers, and directors. Its wide-ranging artistic vision looks beyond genre—electronic vs. acoustic, high-modernist vs. pop-influenced, conventional classical concert vs. multimedia experience. ASCAP recognized their contributions to new music with a 2006 Concert Music Award for "the virtuosity, passion and commitment with which they perform and champion the repertory for the 21st century." Their performances have been described as "equal parts exuberance, nonchalance, and virtuosity" by the *London Financial Times* and as "a triumph of ensemble playing" by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. www.alarmwillsound.com

The Crossing

The Crossing is a professional chamber choir dedicated to new music and conducted by Donald Nally. Originally formed by a group of friends in 2005, the ensemble "has made a name for itself in recent years as a champion of new music." (*The New York Times*) The Crossing has presented over 40 world premieres, performing at the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and at home in Philadelphia. The ensemble is frequently invited to collaborate with the world's most imaginative composers and creative ensembles, including ICE, PRISM, eighth blackbird, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and ACO. www.crossingchoir.com

Eco-Music Big Band

The Eco-Music Big Band is a 15-piece professional big band that spans many generations and includes some of the nation's most acclaimed jazz musicians. By adding violin and cello to the standard big band cohort, the Eco-Music Big Band performs a dynamic and exclusive repertoire that fuses virtuosic free-jazz with heavy metal, hip hop, and modern post-classical influence. Founded by composer and baritone saxophone virtuoso Fred Ho before his death in 2014, the Eco-Music Big Band is now led by Marie Incontrera, his final composition/bandleading protege. Hailed as "...music and activism at its finest" (*DooBeeDooBeeDoo*), the Eco-Music Big Band regularly commissions and performs works by younger and emerging composers, including its band members Livio Almeida, Marie Incontrera, Albert Marques, and Zack and Adam O'Farrill. During the 2015-2016 season, the Eco-Music Big Band will be recording and releasing its first studio album, *COLORS OF RESISTANCE*. <http://scientific-soul.squarespace.com/ecomusicbigband>

Face the Music

The only youth ensemble in the U.S. dedicated to the creation and performance of music by living composers, the 200+ member Face the Music has taken its place as a full-fledged player in New York City's vibrant contemporary classical scene, rapidly becoming what Allan Kozinn of the *New York Times* has called "a force in the New York new-music world." In residence at Kaufman Music Center and directed by Dr. Jenny Undercofler, NYC's favorite teen new music ensemble performs at venues across the city and beyond, including Merkin Concert Hall, Carnegie Hall, Le Poisson Rouge, BAMcafé, Queens Museum, Roulette and

WNYC's The Greene Space. Face the Music is the only youth group among the Legacy Partners for Kronos Quartet's exciting new commissioning initiative "Fifty for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire." The recipient of the 2011 ASCAP Aaron Copland Award, Face the Music has been featured in *Chamber Music Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Daily News* and on NPR's "All Things Considered." www.kaufmanmusiccenter.org/mch/series/face-the-music/

JACK Quartet

The JACK Quartet electrifies audiences worldwide with "explosive virtuosity" (*Boston Globe*) and "viscerally exciting performances" (*The New York Times*). David Patrick Stearns (*Philadelphia Inquirer*) proclaimed their performance as being "among the most stimulating new-music concerts of my experience." *The Washington Post* commented, "The string quartet may be a 250-year-old contraption, but young, brilliant groups like the JACK Quartet are keeping it thrillingly vital." The recipient of 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 Carnegie Hall (USA), Lincoln Center (USA), Wigmore Hall (United Kingdom), and many other venues worldwide. Comprising violinists Christopher Otto and Ari Streisfeld, violist John Pickford Richards, and cellist Kevin McFarland, JACK operates as a nonprofit organization dedicated to the performance, commissioning, and spread of new string quartet music.

www.jackquartet.com

Music from Copland House

Music from Copland House is the acclaimed resident ensemble at the award-winning creative center for American music at Aaron Copland's National Historic Landmark home in Westchester County, NY. Hailed by *The New York Times* for performances that are "bracing, beguiling, and incisive," MCH occupies a special place on the U.S. musical scene for its exclusive focus on 150 years of America's rich musical landscape. The ensemble has been engaged by Carnegie Hall, the Library of Congress, Miller Theatre, Monday Evening Concerts in Los Angeles, the Bard, Cape Cod, Caramoor and Ecstatic Music Festivals, and many other leading presenters in the U.S. and Mexico. MCH has collaborated with NPR and Euro-Radio on a special concert of American music aired in over 20 countries, records for the Arabesque, Koch International, and Copland House Blend labels, and is regularly featured on Copland House's popular main-stage series at the historic Merestead estate in Mount Kisco, NY. www.coplandhouse.org

Nieuw Amsterdams Peil (NAP)

Nieuw Amsterdams Peil (NAP) is a group of several like-minded musician who strive to open our ears to the diversity and richness of chamber music by composers of widely divergent musical trends, with a particular emphasis on the 20th-21st century repertoire, while also shedding light on composers and their sources of inspiration, or – in a wider focus – by defining their place within the context of music history. The collective, formed by violinist Heleen Hulst and pianist Gerard Bouwhuis in 2005, consists of specialists in the performance of new music. Because of this commitment they receive regular offers from composers who would like to write for them. Pieces were created for NAP by Martijn Padding, Guus Janssen, and Rob Zuidam. NAP also co-operates with other disciplines in art like dance, film, visual arts and even scent.

www.nieuwamsterdamspeil.com

Off the Cliff

Off the Cliff is Clarice Assad's four piece ensemble that mixes jazz, classical, avant garde, Brazilian and world music. They perform with a rich variety of instruments in different combinations. A visionary composer and virtuoso pianist who draws on Heitor Villa-Lobos and Hermeto Pascoal in equal measure, and an overall practitioner of vocalese, Brazilian native Clarice Assad is as comfortable performing with a symphony orchestra as with her ancient-to-future unit Off The Cliff. Her music transcends boundaries as she is equally heralded for her compositions and performances in the realms of jazz, classical, ballet, theater and world music. www.clariceassad.com

Onix Ensemble

Onix Ensemble is one of Mexico's leading new music groups, widely recognized for its virtuosity and innovative musical interpretations. Led by flutist Alejandro Escuer and including clarinetist Fernando Domínguez, cellist Edgardo Espinosa, violinist Abel Romero, and pianist Edith Ruiz, Onix celebrates its twentieth anniversary this season with concerts in Mexico and international tours. The group's repertoire spans a wide musical spectrum, ranging from the most recent trends in new music to classics of the 20th century. Onix has released five albums and premiered numerous pieces written expressly for them. www.onixensemble.com

Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

With the precision and flexibility of modern chamber musicians, Quince Contemporary Vocal Ensemble specializes in experimental repertoire that is changing the paradigm of contemporary vocal music. Described as "a new force of vocal excellence and innovation" by *The Brooklyn Rail*, Quince continually pushes the boundaries of traditional vocal ensemble literature. As dedicated advocates of new music, Quince regularly commissions new works, providing a wider exposure for the music of living composers, and supports the efforts of concert series and universities who strive to incorporate contemporary repertoire into their programming. Quince has recently been seen on Vicky Chow's Contagious Sounds Series, a.per.io.dic's John Cage Festival in Chicago and the Philip Glass: Music with Friends benefit concert at the Issue Project Room in Brooklyn. Comprised of vocalists Elizabeth Pearse, Kayleigh Butcher, Amanda DeBoer Bartlett, and Carrie Henneman Shaw, Quince thrives on unique musical challenges and genre-bending contemporary repertoire. www.quince-ensemble.com

Roomful of Teeth

Roomful of Teeth is a GRAMMY-winning vocal project dedicated to mining the expressive potential of the human voice. Through study with masters from singing traditions the world over, the eight-voice ensemble continually expands its vocabulary of singing techniques and, through an ongoing commissioning process, forges a new repertoire without borders. Founded in 2009 by Brad Wells, the band gathers annually at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA), where they've studied Tuvan throat singing, yodeling, belting, Inuit throat singing, Georgian singing, Sardinian cantu a tenore, Hindustani music and Persian classical singing with some of the world's top performers and teachers. Upcoming projects include *The Colorado*, a music driven documentary film that explores water, land and survival in the Colorado River Basin (featuring former Kronos Quartet cellist Jeffrey Zeigler and Wilco's Glenn Kotche); concerts with the

Seattle Symphony performing Berio's *Sinfonia*; and collaborations with NOW Ensemble and ACME.
www.roomfulofteeth.org

So Percussion

So is Eric Cha-Beach, Josh Quillen, Adam Sliwinski, and Jason Treuting. For over a decade, So Percussion has redefined the modern percussion ensemble as a flexible, omnivorous entity, pushing its voice to the forefront of American musical culture. Praised by *The New Yorker* for their “exhilarating blend of precision and anarchy, rigor and bedlam,” So’s adventurous spirit is written into the DNA passed down from composers like John Cage and Steve Reich, as well as from pioneering ensembles like the Kronos Quartet and Nexus Percussion. So Percussion’s career now encompasses 16 albums, touring throughout the USA and around the world, a dizzying array of collaborative projects, several ambitious educational programs, and a steady output of their own music. www.sopercussion.com

wild Up

wild Up is the Los Angeles contemporary music ensemble heralded as “Searing. Penetrating. And thrilling...” by Fred Child of *Performance Today* and “Magnificent” by Mark Swed of the *Los Angeles Times*. Led by Artistic Director Christopher Rountree, the 24-piece group blurs the borders between classical music, rock and performance art, believing music is a catalyst for shared experience, and that a concert venue is a place to excite, challenge and provoke a community of listeners. Since forming in 2010, wild Up has collaborated with orchestras, rock bands and cultural institutions around the world. wild Up has been Orchestra in Residence at the Hammer Museum, and Public Engagement Ensemble in Residence with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. In the 2013-14 season, wild Up made their Los Angeles Philharmonic debut as part of the Philharmonic’s *Brooklyn Festival*, premiered on Walt Disney Concert Hall’s mainstage at the *Minimalist Jukebox Festival*. www.wildup.org

About ACO

Founded in 1977, American Composers Orchestra is the only orchestra in the world dedicated to the creation, performance, preservation, and promulgation of music by American composers. ACO makes the creation of new opportunities for American composers and new American orchestral music its central purpose. Through concerts at Carnegie Hall and other venues, recordings, internet and radio broadcasts, educational programs, New Music Readings, and commissions, ACO identifies today’s brightest emerging composers, champions prominent established composers as well as those lesser-known, and increases regional, national, and international awareness of the infinite variety of American orchestral music, reflecting geographic, stylistic, and temporal diversity. ACO also serves as an incubator of ideas, research, and talent, as a catalyst for growth and change among orchestras, and as an advocate for American composers and their music.

To date, ACO has performed music by more than 700 American composers, including 300 world premieres and newly commissioned works. In addition to SONiC, orchestra’s innovative programs have included Sonidos de las Américas, six annual festivals devoted to Latin American composers and their music; Coming to America, a program immersing audiences in the ongoing evolution of American music through the work of immigrant composers; Orchestra Tech, a long-term initiative to integrate new digital technologies in the symphony orchestra; Improvise!, a festival devoted to the exploration of

improvisation and the orchestra; coLABoratory: Playing It UNsafe, a new laboratory for the research and development of experimental new works for orchestra; and Orchestra Underground, ACO's entrepreneurial cutting-edge orchestral ensemble that embraces new technology, eclectic instruments, influences, and spatial orientation of the orchestra, new experiments in the concert format, and multimedia and multi-disciplinary collaborations.

Composer development has been at the core of ACO's mission since its founding. In addition to its annual Underwood New Music Readings and Commission, ACO also provides a range of additional educational and professional development activities, including composer residencies and fellowships. In 2008, ACO launched EarShot, a multi-institutional network that assists orchestras around the country in mounting new music readings. Recent and upcoming Earshot programs have included the Detroit, Berkeley, La Jolla, Nashville, Memphis, Colorado, San Diego Symphonies, the New York Philharmonic, New York Youth Symphony, and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. For more information visit www.EarShotnetwork.org. The Jazz Composers Orchestra Institute, launched in 2010 and continuing in 2015, supports jazz artists who desire to write for the symphony.

Among the honors ACO has received are special awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and from BMI recognizing the orchestra's outstanding contribution to American music. ASCAP has awarded its annual prize for adventurous programming to ACO 36 times, singling out ACO as "the orchestra that has done the most for American music in the United States." ACO received the inaugural MetLife Award for Excellence in Community Engagement, and a proclamation from the New York City Council. In 2015, ACO was awarded the Champion of New Music Award by American Composers Forum.

ACO recordings are available on ARGO, CRI, ECM, Point, Phoenix USA, MusicMasters, Nonesuch, Tzadik, New World Records, InstantEncore.com, Amazon.com and iTunes. ACO's digital albums include *Playing It UNsafe* (March 2011), *Emerging Composers Series: Vol. 1* (February 2012), *Orchestra Underground: X10D* (June 2012), and *Orchestra Underground: Tech & Techno* (July 2014). ACO has also released *Orchestra Underground: A-V*, a groundbreaking album of multimedia works available for free streaming at www.vimeo.com/channels/orchestraunderground. *SONiC: Double Live*, an album of all world premieres from the inaugural SONiC festival, will be released this fall. More information about American Composers Orchestra is available online at www.americancomposers.org.

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american composers orchestra

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