



For Immediate Release



LEFT TO RIGHT PHOTOS OF MEREDITH MONK: PORTRAIT BY STEPHANIE BERGER (2007); "EDUCATION OF THE GIRLCHILD, PART II" BY LORENZO CAPELLINI (1975); "SONGS OF ASCENSION" BY CAMERON WITTIG (2009)

## **MEREDITH MONK ON STAGE, CD AND FILM**

***Meredith Monk has a crowded May and June headlined by live performances in two New York venues (The Greene Space on May 18 and 3-Legged Dog, June 7-11), the release of a new CD (May 17) and the showing of a new documentary film (May 22), plus a concert in San Francisco (May 15)***

### **RELEASE OF *SONGS OF ASCENSION* CD, MAY 17**

One of Monk's most spiritually and emotionally profound works, "Songs of Ascension," which premiered in 2008, will receive its CD release on the ECM New Series label on May 17.

Performed by Monk's own group, Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble, which also includes woodwinds (Bohdan Hilash) and percussion (John Hollenbeck), the Todd Reynolds Quartet, as well as The M6, and the Montclair State University Singers, the music radiates with delicate complexity and spiritual purity. The work was last performed in New York as part of the Brooklyn Academy of Music's 2009 Next Wave Festival; its performances at the 2010 Edinburgh Festival were awarded the Scotland Herald Angels Award.

**MORE**

**PERFORMANCE AT THE GREENE SPACE, MAY 18 at 7PM**

To celebrate the record release of “Songs of Ascension,” *New Sounds Live* will present a special live performance of selections from the CD and conversation with Meredith Monk and *New Sounds* host John Schaefer at The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space on Wednesday, May 18 at 7pm. The performers will be Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble and the Todd Reynolds Quartet. Tickets are \$20. The event will also be available as a live video webcast at [www.thegreenspace.org](http://www.thegreenspace.org), and live on Q2 - WQXR's dedicated new music webstream - at [www.wqxr.org/q2](http://www.wqxr.org/q2).

**MEREDITH MONK WITH KITKA WOMENS VOCAL ENSEMBLE AT THE FRIEND CENTER FOR THE ARTS IN SAN FRANCISCO, MAY 15**

Meredith Monk will perform with Kitka Womens Vocal Ensemble at The Friend Center for the Arts in an all-Monk program, which the composer created for the vocal group. The performance takes place in San Francisco on May 15 at 7pm. Committed to performing Eastern European women’s vocal music, Kitka is also well-known for its explorations of contemporary music for female voices. The concert, marking Monk’s first with the eight-member choral group, will include the composer’s music from 1976 to the present highlighted by selections from “Quarry” (1976), “Volcano Songs” (1994), “The Politics of Quiet” (1996), plus excerpts from “ATLAS: An Opera in Three Parts” (1991), “Book of Days” (1990), “Impermanence” (2004), and “The Games” (1984).

**MEREDITH MONK: GIRLCHILD DIARY AT DANCE THEATER WORKSHOP, MAY 22**

A documentary weaving together archival footage of “Education of the Girlchild” reaching back to 1973 and material as recent as 2010 will be shown as a work-in-progress at Dance Theater Workshop on May 22 at 7pm. The hour and twenty minute film features interviews with original cast members and photographs of performances in many of the dramatically different locations and venues in which the site-specific work was performed. The film centers on the 1993 revival of the work at The Joyce Theater, which inspired the reunion of the show’s first cast. Jerry Pantzer is the cinematographer; Joelle Schon, the editor. The film was originally produced by Barbara Dufty and Amy Schatz with Jane Zipp. The music,

**MORE**

choreography and text is by Meredith Monk. Tickets are \$8, and \$7 for seniors and students. Dance Theater Workshop is located at 219 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **EDUCATION OF THE GIRLCHILD REVISITED AT 3-LEGGED DOG, JUNE 7-11**

“Education of the Girlchild Revisited,” which includes the solo from “Education of the Girlchild,” one of Monk’s most startling early works, one that foretold her groundbreaking career and became a major influence on a generation of new theater directors and composers, will be performed at 3-Legged Dog, June 7-11. Over the course of this transformative 1972 piece, the solo section from “Education of the Girlchild,” Monk travels a life cycle of aging in reverse, mutating from a stooped back, old woman to a radiant young girl as she seamlessly and poetically connects life, death, youth, and age through her glorious singing and movement. The program will also include “Shards,” a new weaving of music, images and movement composed during the “Girlchild” era (between 1969 and 1973). Monk modified and recombined the pieces, which include selections from “Key: an album of invisible theater” (1970); “Vessel: an opera epic” (1971) and “Education of the Girlchild” so that the sounds are given new, redefined life and meaning. The performers will be Ellen Fisher, Katie Geissinger, Meredith Monk, and Allison Sniffin. The evening is a Dance Theater Workshop production. Tickets are \$25 and \$20 for seniors and students. They are available online at [dancetheatworkshop.org](http://dancetheatworkshop.org), over the phone at 212-924-0077 or in person at both the DTW and 3-Legged Dog box offices. 3-Legged Dog is located at 80 Greenwich Street. Dance Theater Workshop is located at 219 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

**BACKGROUND ON MEREDITH MONK:** A pioneer in extended vocal technique, internationally acclaimed MacArthur “Genius” Meredith Monk has alternately been hailed as a “magician of the voice” and “one of America’s coolest composers.” Her wordless music embodies an alchemical mixture of technical virtuosity, poignant directness, interpretive suppleness and visceral excitement. All of Meredith Monk’s wide-ranging art is grounded in her profound understanding of the voice’s flexibility and expressive depth. The range and unique character of Monk’s vocal vocabulary is breathtaking —ranging from birdlike microtones, to robust yodels, to insectoid whispers and dusky chants. She writes that the voice is her “soul’s messenger” and has “the power to uncover subtle shades of feeling that exist between what we think of as emotions.”

**MORE**

Meredith Monk is a composer, singer, choreographer, filmmaker, and creator of new opera and music theater works. During a career spanning five decades, she has been acclaimed by audiences and critics as a major creative force in the performing arts. In 1965, she began her innovative exploration of the voice as a multifaceted instrument and subsequently composed and performed many solo pieces for unaccompanied voice and voice/keyboard. In 1978, she formed Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble to further expand her musical textures and forms. Her vocal music is an eloquent language in and of itself, which expands the boundaries of musical composition, creating landscapes of sound that unearth feelings, energies, and memories for which there are no words. In addition to her groundbreaking vocal and music theater pieces (which include *Book of Days*, *Dolmen Music*, *mercy*, *impermanence*, and *ATLAS*), she has created vital new repertoire for orchestra, chamber ensembles, and solo instruments. Her music has also appeared in motion pictures by Jean-Luc Godard and the Coen Brothers, among others. Celebrated internationally, her music has been presented by Lincoln Center Festival, Houston Grand Opera, London’s Barbican Centre, and at major venues in countries from Brazil to Syria.

Meredith Monk’s numerous honors include a MacArthur “Genius” Award, two Guggenheim Fellowships and induction into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. With a discography featuring more than a dozen recordings, mostly on ECM, her CD *impermanence* was nominated for a 2008 Grammy Award. In 2005 her 40th year of performing and creating new music was celebrated by a four-hour marathon at Zankel Hall. Another marathon, *Meredith Monk Music @ the Whitney*, was presented at the Whitney Museum in 2009, followed by the site-specific *Ascension Variations* at the Guggenheim Museum, featuring over 120 performers. Her new music theater work, *Songs of Ascension*, premiered at Stanford University in 2008 and won the 2010 Herald Angel Award at the Edinburgh International Festival. In March 2010, her newest commission, *WEAVE for Two Voices, Chamber Orchestra and Chorus*, had its world premiere with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, followed by an April 2010 West Coast premiere with the Los Angeles Master Chorale at Disney Hall. In June 2010, Monk premiered *Education of the Girlchild Revisited* in Paris. In January 2011 she was named one of NPR’s 50 Great Voices and recently received a Courage Award for the Arts from Yoko Ono Lennon.

###

051011