



For Immediate Release



PHOTOS OF MEREDITH MONK BY PETER ROSS

‘BEGINNINGS,’ A NEW CD RELEASED BY TZADIK RECORDS, REVEALS EARLY MEREDITH MONK, ALONG WITH A FEW SURPRISES

Did you know that Meredith Monk had been both a rock and folk singer prior to committing her talent to creating trailblazing music?

“Beginnings,” a new CD issued by John Zorn’s Tzadik Records that features Monk’s early musical career gives voice to that little known secret.

The CD features Monk singing the 1584 folk song “Greensleeves” and her own “Nota,” a guitar and chant-like vocal work, which together accompanied her breakthrough 1966 multi-media work, “16-Millimeter Earrings.” Notable also is “Candy Bullets and Moon,” which Monk composed and recorded in 1967 while performing in the rock band The Inner Ear.

Monk’s early music portends her ongoing explorations of the voice as an instrument capable of creating sound, landscape, character, color, texture and range, explorations that established her groundbreaking “extended vocal technique.”

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By calling attention to Monk's music between 1966 and 1980, "Beginnings" reveals the stunning originality that marked even her earliest creations such as "Duet for Voice and Echoplex" (1967); "Trance" (1969); "Epic 1" (1971); "Mill" (1970); "Epic II" (1980); and "Tower" (1971), as well as "Paris" (1972); "Biography" and "The Tale" (1972); "Quarry Weave" and "Quarry Procession" (1976); "Do You Be?" (1970) and "Porch" (1969). Each track is accompanied by Monk's own written commentary on the music's relation to the creative trajectory of her career.

Monk is currently completing a new composition—as yet untitled—for the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, which will receive its world premiere by the Orchestra on March 13 in St. Louis. Composed for chamber orchestra, chorus and two vocal soloists from Monk's Ensemble, the work will be next performed at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles on April 11. It was commissioned by the Grand Center, Inc. and The Los Angeles Master Chorale with support in part from the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information on "Beginnings," go online to www.Tzadik.com. "Beginnings" is part of Tzadik's Oracle series.

About Meredith Monk: Composer, singer, director/choreographer, and creator of new opera, music, theater, films, and installations during her more than 40 year career, Meredith Monk has been acclaimed by audiences and critics as a major creative force in the performing arts. Monk has received numerous awards including the prestigious MacArthur "Genius" Award in 1995, two Guggenheim Fellowships, a Brandeis Creative Arts Award, three OBIE Awards (including one for Sustained Achievement), two Villager Awards, two Bessie awards for Sustained Creative Achievement, the 1986 National Music Theatre Award, the 1992 Dance Magazine Award, and a 2005 ASCAP Concert Music Award. In 2006 she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and named a United States Artists Fellow. Her music has been performed by numerous soloists and groups including The Chorus of the San Francisco Symphony, Musica Sacra, The Pacific Mozart Ensemble, Double Edge, Björk, and the Bang on a Can All-Stars, among others. The New York Times dubbed Monk "a high priestess of enchantment... she invites you to bypass the part of your brain that craves logic and understanding and to respond intuitively to the wondrous qualities of her sounds and images."

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