



For Immediate Release

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF MEREDITH MONK, DECEMBER 3-9
WEEK PREVIEWS FUTURE WHILE CELEBRATING THE PAST

The week of December 3 should be called Meredith Monk Week. Each of its events celebrates yet another first for the pioneering artist. On December 4, United States Artists announced that Monk is one of the first recipients of a \$50,000 grant; on December 6, the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts announced that it is the recipient of Monk's archives, which given her multi-disciplinary accomplishments, challenges the Library's traditional cataloguing procedures; and on December 9 at 7:30pm, Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble makes its debut at Montclair State University's Alexander Kasser Theater.

UNITED STATES ARTISTS: Monk was selected as one of 54 American artists working in a wide variety of disciplines and at various career stages to receive a \$50,000 grant from the newly-created United States Artists (USA). The grants have "no strings attached." The winners, who were announced at a press conference in New York City on December 4, were selected by panels of artists, critics, scholars and other arts professionals from an initial pool of 300 artists who had been nominated by 150 anonymous arts leaders around the country. Monk is one of seven performing artists to be named a USA Fellow this year.

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS: After years of thinking and discussion, Monk, renowned as a pioneer of multi-disciplinary art, announced her decision to donate her archives to the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center. The 64-year-old artist, who has challenged audiences' and critics' categorical thinking with her multi-media creations for over 40 years, now takes on the Library's traditional

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cataloguing systems. Where to house the materials of this multi-award-winning composer, choreographer, director and filmmaker? The solution: Centralize the materials in the Music Division, while having them all available for call up through the computers in each of the Library's divisions. The Monk archive marks the Library's first cross-disciplinary collection. The donation includes one-of-a-kind books, scores, recordings, films, performance audio and video, tapes of works in progress, photographs and slides, personal notebooks, correspondence, reviews and program books.

SINGING IN MONTCLAIR: Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble will perform at the Alexander Kasser Theater at Montclair State University on December 9 at 7:30pm. The program features a range of Monk's music from the past 20 years including selections from her 1991 opera "ATLAS," "Facing North," "Quarry" and her award-winning film "Book of Days." The Ensemble is comprised of Monk, Tom Bogdan, Katie Geissinger, Ching Gonzalez, Robert Een, Toby Newman, Robert Osborne and Allison Sniffin. The Montclair State University Singers will join the Ensemble in Monk's "Panda Chant II" and perform the "Astronaut Anthem" and "Quarry Weave II" on its own.

ADDITIONAL RECENT NEWS: Two thousand and six has been a stellar year for Monk, who was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on October 7, and whose most recent work, "impermanence," received its New York City premiere as part of BAM's 2006 Next Wave Festival in November. Her upcoming recording of "impermanence" will mark her eighth CD on the ECM New Series label. Monk will also release a new DVD with remastered versions of her films "Book of Days" (1998) and "Ellis Island" (1981), as well as an interview of the artist by John Killacky.

A fourth generation singer in her family, Monk has been hailed as a "magician of the voice" for her invention of a new vocabulary, including her ululations, multi-phonics, whispers, slides, range skips and hockets, which has expanded the boundaries of traditional vocal music.

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Monk has made more than a dozen recordings, most of which are on the ECM New Series label, including her full-length opera, "ATLAS: an opera in three parts." Her recordings, "Dolmen Music" (ECM New Series) and "Our Lady of Late: The Vanguard Tapes" (Wergo) were awarded the German Critics Prize for Best Records of 1981 and 1986. In July 2000, Monk's music was honored with a three-concert retrospective entitled "Voice Travel" as part of the Lincoln Center Festival. Her recent 40th anniversary celebration culminated in 2005 with a four-hour music marathon at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall.

Created in collaboration with visual artist Ann Hamilton, "mercy," a music theater work, premiered at the American Dance Festival in July 2001 and was performed at BAM's 2002 Next Wave Series, among other venues. Monk's first orchestra piece, "Possible Sky," commissioned by Michael Tilson Thomas for the New World Symphony, premiered in April 2003 in Miami. "Stringsongs," her first composition for string quartet, commissioned by the Kronos Quartet, had its world premiere at the Barbican Center in January 2005. In October 1999, Monk performed a Vocal Offering for His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, as part of the World Festival of Sacred Music in Los Angeles.

Monk's award-winning films include "Ellis Island" (1981) and her first feature, "Book of Days" (1988), which was aired on PBS, released theatrically and shown at the New York Film Festival. Her "16 Millimeter Earrings" (1966) was part of the Whitney Museum's "American Century: Art and Culture, 1950–2000" exhibit.

"Art Performs Life," a major 1998 exhibition of Monk's work at The Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, celebrated her prolific career, as did "Shrines" at Frederieke Taylor/TZ Art Gallery in April 1999 and the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts's major retrospective in 1996. Her work has also been included in the 1991 and 2002 Biennials at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Monk's uncanny brilliance has been recognized with countless awards including a MacArthur "Genius" Award, two Guggenheim Fellowships, a Brandeis

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Creative Arts Award, three Obies (including an award for Sustained Achievement), two Villager Awards, a Bessie Award for Sustained Creative Achievement, the 1986 National Music Theatre Award, sixteen ASCAP Awards for Musical Composition, the 1992 Dance Magazine Award, the 1996 Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award and a 2005 ASCAP Concert Music Award. She graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in 1964 and holds honorary Doctor of Arts degrees from Bard College and the University of the Arts, as well as from The Juilliard School, the San Francisco Art Institute and the Boston Conservatory.

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