



For Immediate Release

NEW SOUNDS FROM JAZZ COMPOSER/PIANIST VIJAY IYER AT PEAK PERFORMANCES, OCTOBER 4 & 5

VIJAY IYER AND HIS 20-PIECE BAND INTRODUCE WORLD PREMIERE OF “OPEN CITY”

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One of the most adventurous jazz composers and interdisciplinary musical innovators of his generation, pianist Vijay Iyer is taking an extraordinary leap outside of his comfort zone with his largest work to-date, “OPEN CITY,” which receives its world premiere at Peak Performances, October 4 and 5.

The new work, which is performed in a “big band” format, marks a radical departure for the artist who typically performs as a soloist or with his trio. Borrowing its title from Teju Cole’s culture-rich novel of the same name, “OPEN CITY” features a 20-person band with Cole and poet/rapper Himanshu Suri serving as “occasional” narrators. “OPEN CITY” calls upon the singular musical gifts of the multi-generational ensemble to create the tension between the creativity of the individual musicians and the innovation of the group as a whole. The result is a collaborative effort that simultaneously celebrates the distinct and differing components of a full ensemble.



sax; Elena
trombone,
viola; Okkyung
Harish Raghavan,
kanjira.

The all star line-up of musicians features Vijay Iyer, piano; Fender Rhodes, electronic; Ambrose Akinmusire trumpet; Jonathan Finlayson trumpet; Adam O’Farrill, trumpet; Graham Haynes, cornet, flugelhorn; Steve Coleman, alto sax; Hafez Modirzadeh, alto and tenor sax; Mark Shim, tenor; Pinderhughes, flute and vocals; Josh Roseman, bass tuba; Tyshawn Sorey, trombone, percussion; Mat Maneri, Lee, cello; Patricia Franceschy, vibraphone; Rafiq Bhatia, guitar; bass; Marcus Gilmore, drums; Rajna Swaminathan, mrudangam,

BACKGROUND

Vijay Iyer, a Grammy-nominated composer-pianist, has received much recognition for his original talent that most recently includes an unprecedented “quintuple crown” in the 2012 DownBeat International Critics Poll (winning Jazz Artist of the Year, Pianist of the Year, Jazz Album of the Year, Jazz Group of the Year, and Rising Star Composer categories), a “quadruple crown” in the JazzTimes extended critics poll (winning Artist of the Year, Acoustic/Mainstream Group of the Year, Pianist of the Year, and Album of the Year), Pianist of the Year Awards for both 2012 and 2013 from the Jazz Journalists Association, and the 2013 ECHO Award (the “German Grammy”) for best international pianist.

Iyer has released 17 albums as lead musician, including Accelerando (2012), voted #1 Jazz Album of the Year for 2012 in three critics’ polls, and Historicity (2009), a 2010 Grammy nominee for Best Instrumental Jazz Album and named #1 Jazz Album of 2009 by various media and critics’ polls.

MORE

Other honors include the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award, the Greenfield Prize, the Alpert Award in the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship, and numerous composer commissions.

Iyer also received an interdisciplinary PhD in the cognitive science of music from the University of California, Berkeley, and has published in numerous journals and anthologies. He has taught at Manhattan School of Music, New York University, and The New School and is the director of The Banff Centre's International Workshop in Jazz and Creative Music. In January 2014 he will join the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University as the first Franklin D. and Florence Rosenblatt Professor of the Arts.

Vijay Iyer will be leading Montclair State University's seventh annual public forum on the state of the arts as viewed by contemporary artists and prominent thinkers on October 2 at 7PM. The discussion reconsiders our relationship to music as an active experience that draws on a complex of physical, social, and cultural awareness, and will be free to the public, but requires tickets for admission.

WHERE TO GO

The Alexander Kasser Theater at Montclair State University is located at 1 Normal Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey 07043. Tickets are \$20, and are available at the box office, www.peakperfs.org, or by calling 973-655-5112. The performance will take place at 7:30PM on Friday, October 4, and 8:00PM on Saturday, October 5.

Charter bus service is provided from New York City's Port Authority Bus Terminal – arcade on 41st Street between 8th and 9th Avenues – to the Alexander Kasser Theater (\$10 per person, roundtrip) for all Saturday and Sunday performances. Bus reservations may be made by calling 973-655-5112 or by visiting www.peakperfs.org. For train service, available only on weekdays, go online to www.njtransit.com or call 973-275-5555.

For restaurants close to the Alexander Kasser Theater, visit www.destinationmontclair.com.

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“OPEN CITY” is commissioned by Peak Performances at Montclair State University (NJ). Programs in this season are made possible in part by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts; the New Jersey State Council for the Arts/Dept. of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment of the Arts; Discover Jersey Arts; the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation; and the National Dance Project (NDP) of the New England Foundation for the Arts.