

BAM

2017 NEXT WAVE FESTIVAL

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC PETER JAY SHARP BUILDING 30 LAFAYETTE AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11217—1486

BAM presents John Cale's 50th Anniversary of *The Velvet Underground & Nico* on Nov 16 and 17, and John Cale's 75th Birthday Celebration on Nov 18

50th Anniversary of *The Velvet Underground & Nico*

Curated by John Cale

Members of the Wordless Music Orchestra

Plus special guests

-and-

John Cale's 75th Birthday Celebration: A Live Audio-Spectrum from Dissonance to Deconstruction

Music by John Cale

Wordless Music Orchestra

BGV Music Choral Group

Plus special guests

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave)

Nov 16 & 17 at 8pm (50th Anniversary of *The Velvet Underground & Nico*)

Nov 18 at 8pm (John Cale's 75th Birthday Celebration)

Presented in Association with Wordless Music

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

Nov 10, 2017/Brooklyn, NY—In a unique multi-night engagement featuring two productions, John Cale returns to BAM to curate a 50th anniversary celebration of the groundbreaking 1967 album *The Velvet Underground & Nico* with members of the Wordless Music Orchestra and special guests on November 16 and 17. In celebration of the 50th birthday of this musical masterpiece, only three performances of the album in its entirety were planned—earlier performances in Paris and Liverpool, and now the sole US performance at BAM.

On November 18, Cale celebrates his 75th birthday, performing career-spanning works with the Wordless Music Orchestra and BGV Music Choral Group. John Cale invites the audience to experience a genre-bending audio-visual journey as he develops bespoke arrangements of some of his classics and rarely heard songs, as well as a glimpse into the future with unreleased material.

On all three nights, Cale is joined by his band—Dustn Boyer (guitars), Deantoni Parks (drums), and Joey Maramba (bass). And he has invited the following very special guests to help him

celebrate these milestones: **Animal Collective, MGMT, Tunde Adebimpe** (TV on the Radio), **Connan Mockassin, Caroline Polachek** (Chairlift), **Thee Oh Sees, Kurt Vile, and Sky Ferreira.**

Welsh violist, pianist, composer, singer, producer, and visual artist **John Cale's** singular career began in contemporary classical music, where he was mentored by Aaron Copeland and worked with John Cage and minimalists Terry Riley and La Monte Young in the 60s. In 1965 he co-founded the influential band Velvet Underground along with Lou Reed. In addition to his recordings with Velvet Underground, Cale has released many solo albums, including *Paris 1919*—an orchestral pop landmark, *Fragments of a Rainy Season*, *Music for a New Society*, and *Vintage Violence*. He has also produced seminal recordings including the Stooges' 1969 debut, Patti Smith Band's *Horses*, Squeeze's 1978 debut, and albums by Siouxsie & the Banshees, Jesus Lizard, and Modern Lovers, among many others. Cale composed film scores for *American Psycho* and *Basquiat*, and his cover of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah" was featured in the film *Shrek*. He has collaborated with electronic artists including Danger Mouse, LCD Soundsystem, Animal Collective, Actress, Maria Minerva, and Tim Hecker. In 2016 Cale re-released 1982's *Music for a New Society* with the new recording *M:Fans*, which featured new versions of *New Society's* songs. Cale plans to release a new album this fall. He most recently appeared in BAM's 2012 Next Wave Festival with *John Cale: When Past & Future Collide*, an engagement featuring *Paris 1919* and *Life Along the Borderline: A Tribute to Nico*. Cale also performed as part of the 1989 Next Wave Festival in *Songs for 'Drella—A Fiction*, a co-production with Arts at St. Ann's.

Wordless Music Orchestra is the house band of New York City's Wordless Music series, which was founded by non-musician Ronen Givony in 2006 and has since presented concerts in museums, churches, nightclubs, and outdoors, pairing artists from the worlds of classical, electronic, and rock music. Comprising some of New York's most omnivorous young musicians and members of groups such as Alarm Will Sound, ACME, and Ensemble Signal, the orchestra has performed at the Sydney Opera House, Lincoln Center, BAM, MoMA, Guggenheim Museum, and Library of Congress, and collaborated with artists such as Jonny Greenwood, Paul Thomas Anderson, Jónsi Birgisson, Mica Levi, Max Richter, Jóhann Jóhannsson, Stars of the Lid, Tyondai Braxton, MONO, Goldfrapp, Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster, and William Basinski. wordlessmusic.org

BGV Music Choral Group/BGV Music, Inc.

Rasul A-Salaam is the CEO of BGV Music, Inc. a small business he founded in 2007 which provides an array of services with a focus on arranging, producing, and background vocals as well as contracting and managing background vocalists and solo artists alike.

A native New Yorker, A-Salaam has been in love with singing since the tender age of three years old. By age seven, he was known for lending his vocal talents and critical ear to various choirs and ensembles, as a supporting vocalist, soloist and even as a teacher. A-Salaam officially began his adult career in 2005, touring the world singing background and sharing stages with a plethora of artists; Shirley Caesar, Lyle Lovett, and Fantasia Barrino to name a few. In 2013 he was a featured soloist in "Abyssinian Mass—A Gospel Celebration." This project was conceived and manifested by composer, jazz trumpeter, and bandleader of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra (JLCO), Wynton Marsalis, and commissioned by the historical Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem for its bicentennial celebration in 2009. "Abyssinian Mass—A Gospel Celebration" is a two-hour concert of original jazz/choral music based on the movements of a traditional Catholic mass. Seventy vocalists from all over the country & abroad and the 15-piece JLCO toured the East Coast, Midwest & Southern US for a month, concluding

with three performances in the Rose Theatre at Jazz At Lincoln Center. A-Salaam led the movement "Scripture" in Act II of "Abyssinian Mass—A Gospel Celebration".

Leading pop experimentalists formed in Baltimore, MD in 2003, **Animal Collective** is a rotating collective comprised of Avery Tare, (David Portner), Panda Bear (Noah Lennox), Deakin (Josh Dibb), and Geologist (Brian Weitz). Dedicated to restless studio experimentation, complex counter-rhythmic beats, and a rich exploration of vocal harmonies, it released *Here Comes the Indian* in 2003. *Sung Tongs*, which drew on influences including early American field recordings and polyphonic campfire songs, brought the group greater acclaim and international audiences. In 2009, the band released its most commercially successful album, *Merriwether Post Pavillion*, regarded as a landmark career-defining album. The latest release, *Painting With*, has been critically lauded as reinforcing their rightful place at the head of the experimental psychedelic table. Over 15 years, 10 studio records, and three live records, the musicians have largely worked as a collective with different members in and out of albums and tours.

Deftly dodging any easy categorization, the duo of Andrew VanWyngarden and Ben Goldwasser, known as **MGMT**, first blasted into the global conscience in 2007 with their smash-hit album, *Oracular Spectacular*. However a startlingly original, EP *Metanoia* was also released that year, evidence that MGMT would not be content to meet fan-base expectations. Returning with *Congratulations 2010* produced by Sonic Boom, and a self-titled *MGMT 2013*, the band has charted its own unique path. The release of their latest, *Little Dark Age*, is imminent, with producer David Fridmann returning.

Tunde Adebimpe is a musician, actor, director, and visual artist best known as the lead singer of the critically acclaimed band TV on the Radio. In addition to releasing the band's most recent record *Seeds*, he collaborated with Brooklyn's Kayrock Screenprinting to release *Tour Sketch Journos 2003-2014*, a patchwork collection of drawings and writing from sketchbooks and journals kept during his years on the road with TVOTR from its inception to the present day. Earlier this year, he created and performed *A Warm Weather Ghost* at the Walker Art Center's Liquid Music Series, a psychedelic fever dream he created of song, story, and animation.

Born and raised in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand, **Connan Mockassin** moved to London and was quickly a regular feature in London's pubs and clubs performing as Connan and the Mockassins. In 2011, *Forever Dolphin Love* was released on Erol Akan's Phantasy label which showcased Mockassin's unique guitar work and beguiling helium vocals. His playful image and experimental whimsy has won new international audience following the release of his 2nd album, *Caramel*. In 2012, he composed and appeared on the Charlotte Gainsbourg's song "Out of Touch" before touring New Zealand in support of Radiohead. He also collaborated with James Blake on his album, *The Colour In Anything*, with Dev Hynes (Blood Orange) on an EP called *Feeling Lovely*, and Sam Dust on a side project called Soft Hair. His third album's release is imminent.

Caroline Polachek formed **Chairlift** in Boulder, CO with Patrick Wimberly. Following a move to Brooklyn, the band built a reputation for well-crafted, slickly-produced pop that connected with both indie and dance audiences. Its first release, a single entitled "Evident Utensil," featured a remix by MGMT. The group's debut full-length was released in 2008, melding the band's space rock influences with a pop aesthetic. The album received widespread attention when the song "Bruises" appeared in an iPod commercial. A second album, *Something*,

released in 2012, elevated the band's kaleidoscopic pop to a grander scale. Polachek collaborated with Beyoncé on her 2013 album, *Beyoncé*. In 2014, Polachek released her first solo album, *Arcadia*, under the name Ramona Lisa, marking an intriguing musical departure from her band's sound. Following its third album, Chairlift announced it would disband with a final tour in 2017.

Hailing from San Francisco, **Thee Oh Sees** have been releasing albums since 1997 under various names including the OCS and Ohsees. While renowned for their fierce live show, Thee Oh Sees have produced a diverse array of albums covering garage, psychedelic, avant-folk, rock, experimental noise, and punk. Under the leadership of primary songwriter and core member John Dwyer, the band has achieved a reputation for being one of the world's great live bands. Brigid Dawson joined Thee Oh Sees in 2006 and in 2015 left the band to return to painting. After a year-long break, in 2015, Dawson returned with his next studio album, *Mutilator Defeated At Last*, and began touring with two drummers. Touring extensively, this lineup recorded the band's much-lauded 17th and 18th studio albums, *A Weird Exits* and *An Odd Entrances*.

Singer-songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and record producer, **Kurt Vile** first came to public attention as the lead guitarist of the War on Drugs, but he'd already been recording and releasing records under his own name. Vile left that band to focus on his solo career releasing a collection of consistently intriguing albums with his band, The Violators. *Smoke Ring for My Halo* brought the Pennsylvania-native greater acclaim. Drawing on diverse influences, Vile has carved out his own unique terrain on the vast stretch of Americana. In 2015, Vile released his sixth studio album, *b'lieve I'm goin down*. In 2017, Vile and Courtney Barnett teamed-up for the collaborative album *Lotta Sea Lice*, released on October 13, 2017.

Sky Ferreira is a critically lauded musician, actress, and model. Her debut album *Night Time, My Time* was released in 2013 to widespread acclaim from media including *The New York Times*, *Pitchfork*, NPR, *The Guardian*, *Rolling Stone*, and others. She has appeared in films by Eli Roth, and Alex and Benjamin Brewer and makes an appearance in the breakout 2017 hit movie *Baby Driver*. Ferreira is also in the reboot of *Twin Peaks* and has performed for the David Lynch Foundation at several occasions in the past few years. Her much anticipated sophomore album *Masochism* is coming soon.

For press information contact Sandy Sawotka at ssawotka@BAM.org or 718.636.4190

Credits:

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Support for the Signature Artist Series provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation.

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Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation; The Wall Street Journal.

Major support for Discounted Ticket Initiatives provided by the Jerome L. Greene Foundation.

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Your tax dollars make BAM programs possible through funding from the City of New York Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. The BAM Next Wave Festival is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. The BAM facilities are owned by the City of New York and benefit from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with support from Mayor Bill de Blasio; Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl; the New York City Council including Council Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito, Finance Committee Chair Julissa Ferreras, Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, Councilmember Laurie Cumbo, and the Brooklyn Delegation of the Council; and Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams. BAM would like to thank the Brooklyn Delegations of the New York State Assembly, Joseph R. Lentol, Delegation Leader; and New York Senate, Senator Velmanette Montgomery.

General Information:

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers varied light fare and bar service prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater)
D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM
Car: Limited commercial parking lots are located near BAM. Visit BAM.org for information.

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.

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