BAM concludes 2014 Next Wave Festival with concerts by jazz pianist and composer Vijay Iyer, Dec 18—20

The program illustrates Iyer’s wide-ranging musical scope: a world premiere piano solo, a classical composition, and a film score with simultaneous screening

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**VIJAY IYER: Music of Transformation**

Music by Vijay Iyer
Film by Prashant Bhargava
International Contemporary Ensemble
Conducted by Steven Schick

**BAM Harvey Theater** (651 Fulton Street)
Dec 18—20 at 7:30pm
Tickets start at $20

Brooklyn, NY/Nov 13, 2014—A music polymath and MacArthur fellow, **Vijay Iyer**—one of the most intriguing musicians of his generation—brings his multi-faceted music to BAM, showcasing his abilities as a jazz pianist, a composer, and a collaborator. The program includes a visual and sonic feast—a live performance of his score to accompany the screening of *RADHE RADHE: Rites of Holi*.

“A singular figure in American music” is how *The Chicago Tribune* described Iyer, who is as comfortable playing jazz standards or improvising Michael Jackson’s *Human Nature* as he is leading a classical ensemble in his own composition. These concerts start with Iyer on the piano performing a world premiere commissioned by BAM. He is then joined by a string quartet (Kivie Cahn-Lipman, Kyle Armbrust, Miranda Cuckson, and Michi Wiancko) for a rare public performance of *Mutations I-X*, from his debut ECM recording. Scored for piano, electronics, and a string quartet, the 10-movements suite is built out of cells and fragments to illustrate thematic changes over time. *The Guardian* called it “thoughtful, typically original and unexpectedly very exciting.”

The program concludes with the New York premiere of *RADHE RADHE: Rites of Holi*, a music and film project commissioned to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Stravinsky’s *Rite of Spring*. The film, directed by **Prashant Bhargava**, who collaborated with Iyer on *Still Life with Commentator: An Oratorio* (2006 Next Wave), is a visual ballet of the eight-day Holi festival held in the city of Mathura—the mythic birthplace of Krishna—during which people throw colored powders at one another. Iyer performs his score on-stage with the **International Contemporary Ensemble**, conducted by Steven Schick. This project is
praised by NPR as "one of the most brilliant and exciting commemorations of the 100th anniversary of Igor Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring.*"

**About the Artists**

Grammy-nominated composer-pianist **Vijay Iyer** (pronounced “VID-jay EYE-yer”) was described by *The New Yorker* as one of “today's most important pianists…extravagantly gifted…brilliantly eclectic.” His honors include a 2013 MacArthur fellowship; an unprecedented “quintuple crown” in the 2012 *Down Beat* International Critics Poll (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 (Artist of the Year, Acoustic/Mainstream Group of the Year, Pianist of the Year, and Album of the Year); and the Pianist of the Year Awards for both 2012 and 2013 from the Jazz Journalists Association. A polymath whose career has spanned the sciences, the humanities, and the arts, Iyer received an interdisciplinary PhD in the cognitive science of music from the University of California, Berkeley. In 2014 he began a permanent appointment at Harvard University’s Department of Music, as the Franklin D. and Florence Rosenblatt Professor of the Arts.

**Prashant Bhargava** is an award-winning filmmaker and commercial director known for revealing the extraordinary in the ordinary. Roger Ebert called him “masterful,” “a poet of cinema” who creates work that is “hypnotically beautiful.” His dramatic feature *PATANG (The Kite)* received rave reviews, garnering four stars from Ebert and a *New York Times* Critics’ Pick, who highlighted its “lovely unforced quality.” Acclaimed as “a humanist with real talent” (Michael Phillips, *Chicago Tribune*), he has won praise for his "sure hand with his actors" (Variety) and his ability “to stop and catch the right, fleeting expressions and gestures” (Hollywood Reporter). His films are anthems of the underground, his canvas the fascinating, changing globe, taking us to far-flung places and revealing our shared humanity. Bhargava's filmmaking builds from his pioneering work as a graffiti artist on the south side of Chicago and as a motion designer, spearheading 100 campaigns for HBO.

The **International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE)**, described by *The New York Times* as “one of the most accomplished and adventurous groups in new music,” is dedicated to reshaping the way music is created and experienced. With a modular makeup of 35 leading instrumentalists, performing in forces ranging from solos to large ensembles, ICE functions as performer, presenter, and educator, advancing the music of our time by developing innovative new works and new strategies for audience engagement. ICE redefines concert music as it brings together new work and new listeners in the 21st century. Since its founding in 2001, ICE has premiered over 500 compositions—the majority of these new works by emerging composers—in venues spanning from alternative spaces to concert halls around the world. The ensemble has received the American Music Center’s Trailblazer Award for its contributions to the field, the ASCAP/Chamber Music America Award for Adventurous Programming, and was named Musical America Worldwide's Ensemble of the Year in 2013.

For press information contact David Hsieh at dhsieh@BAM.org or 718.636.4129 x9

**Credits**

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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 a dinner menu prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a bar menu available starting at 6pm.

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: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

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

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