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A Nonesuch Celebration

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House
Apr 1 at 7:30pm

Running time: approx. two hours & 30 minutes, including intermission

Directed by **José Zayas**

Lighting design by **Manuel Da Silva**

Season Sponsor:

**Bloomberg
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*Warner Music Group is the Major Sponsor of
A Nonesuch Celebration.*

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

Featuring

Compositions by

**John Adams Laurie Anderson Timo Andres Louis Andriessen
Donnacha Dennehy Philip Glass Adam Guettel Brad Mehldau
Pat Metheny Nico Muhly Randy Newman Steve Reich**

Performances by

**Laurie Anderson Timo Andres Thomas Bartlett Jeremy Denk*
Rhiannon Giddens* Gilbert Kalish Kronos Quartet k.d. lang Audra McDonald*
Brad Mehldau Natalie Merchant Stephin Merritt Pat Metheny
Mandy Patinkin Chris Thile Dawn Upshaw Caetano Veloso**

Stage manager **Erica Schwartz**

Honoring Bob Hurwitz of Nonesuch Records
in support of the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity

*Performing on video

A Nonesuch Celebration



John Adams



Laurie Anderson



Timo Andres



Louis Andriessen



Thomas Bartlett



Donacha Dennehy



Philip Glass



Adam Guettel



Rhiannon Giddens*



Gilbert Kalish



Kronos Quartet



k.d. lang



Audra McDonald*



Brad Mehldau



Natalie Merchant



Stephin Merritt



Pat Metheny



Nico Muhly



Randy Newman



Mandy Patinkin



Steve Reich



Chris Thile



Dawn Upshaw



Caetano Veloso

Photo credits: Adams: Vern Evans; Anderson: Tim Knox; Andres: Michael Wilson; Andriessen: Francesca Patella; Dennehy: Sophie Dennehy; Glass: Steve Pyke; Giddens: Tanya Rosen-Jones; Kronos: Jay Blakesberg; lang: Jeri Heiden; McDonald: Autumn de Wilde; Mehldau: Michael Wilson; Merchant: Jacob Blickenstaff; Merritt: Marcelo Krasilcic; Metheny: Jimmy Katz; Muhly: Ana Cuba; Newman: Robb Bradley; Patinkin: Andrew Eccles; Reich: Jeffrey Herman; Thile: Brantley Gutierrez; Upshaw: Brooke Irish; Veloso: Fernando Young



Caetano Veloso and Bob Hurwitz. Photo courtesy Nonesuch Records.

When Bob Hurwitz told me more than two years ago that he had begun to plan the next act of his remarkable professional life—which would include teaching, writing, and assembling the archives that documented his 32 years at the helm of Nonesuch Records, as well as continuing to work with many of the artists that he brought to Nonesuch in the first place—I had two immediate concerns. The first was how the label would navigate its future without his day-to-day presence. Almost immediately, the second was how we could pay tribute to all that he has accomplished.

Because Bob has always had an eerie way of anticipating such thoughts, some months later he said: “By the way, don’t even think of organizing anything to mark this moment.”

But it was too late—the planning had already begun.

Tonight’s concert owes a huge debt to many people, most specifically the artists who have so generously contributed their creative resources to make the evening possible. Bob’s great friend John Adams deserves the credit for the idea that forms the core of the evening. He named his new composition for piano “I Still Play” and this is a reference to the fact that Bob is a pianist who has played virtually every day of his adolescent and adult life. Randy Newman once made the ironic comment (and who better to make such a comment) that he trusted Bob because he was the last record company executive to have a piano in his office—and to be able to play it.

John’s early suggestion was to ask the composers who had worked so closely with Bob to write a short piece in his honor, one that an “inspired amateur” like Bob might play. What you will hear tonight is the evidence that every single composer asked said “yes”: I can imagine no better tribute to Bob than their immediate and unanimous consent.

Of course, there also had to be a way for many of the other artists Bob has worked so closely with to take part and they, too, have been incredibly generous with their time and their talent.

I wish to thank them all and to recognize the Nonesuch staff, past and present, who have been so important to the label’s success over the past three decades. And I want to thank our longtime partners at BAM, fellow travelers for many decades.

Most of all, I want to thank Bob. Over four decades of friendship, I have watched him build something at Nonesuch that is, I think, extraordinarily rare. He has created a home for visionary musical artists united by ambition and serious purpose, who have done much to shape our musical culture. Tonight is one small way for all of us to let Bob know how grateful we are.

—*David Bither*
President, Nonesuch Records



ROBERT HURWITZ

Robert Hurwitz served as president of Nonesuch for 32 years, beginning in September 1984. When he took over Nonesuch, it was a classical label and the home of the legendary Explorer series. After he became the head of the label, he redefined its role in contemporary classical music and modern composition, expanded its mission in world music, and began recording and releasing artists from a wide range of musical genres, including jazz, music theater, folk, bluegrass, and rock. Among the artists he has signed or worked with are composers including John Adams, Laurie Anderson, Timo Andres, Louis Andriessen, Donnacha Dennehy, Henryk Gorecki, Philip Glass, Adam Guettel, Nico Muhly, Astor Piazzolla, Steve Reich, Frederic Rzewski, Stephen Sondheim, and John Zorn as well as performers and songwriters including Björk, Devendra Banhart, David Byrne, Jeremy Denk, Bill Frisell, Gipsy Kings, Richard Goode, Tigran Hamasyan, Kronos Quartet, Gidon Kremer, k.d. lang, Lake Street Dive, Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, Audra McDonald, Natalie Merchant, Stephin Merritt (and the Magnetic Fields), Brad Mehldau, Pat Metheny, Mandy Patinkin, Punch Brothers, Randy Newman, Joshua Redman, Chris Thile, Dawn Upshaw, Caetano Veloso, and the World Saxophone Quartet. *The Boston Globe* said, "Under Robert Hurwitz, Nonesuch Records has been an oasis of artistic excitement. When one picks up a Nonesuch CD, there is a sense of occasion, the feeling that the artists in question have been assembled not as an exercise in star power, but as an exercise in artistic exploration." And *The New York Times Magazine* said, "In a business now largely run by accountants and MBAs, Hurwitz is, in the words of Stephen Sondheim, 'one of the few left who practice the making of records as a craft.'" Hurwitz has remained closely involved with Nonesuch's creative activities as an executive producer on a dozen projects a year; he is also the Chairman Emeritus of the company. He has taught at the New School for the past 11 years, and this year began teaching at UCLA as well.

JOHN ADAMS

Composer, conductor, and creative thinker—John Adams occupies a unique position in the world of music. His works stand out among contemporary classical compositions for their depth of expression, brilliance of sound, and the profoundly humanist nature of their themes. Works spanning more than three decades are among the most performed of all contemporary classical music, among them *Harmonielehre*, *Shaker Loops*, *El Niño*, the *Chamber Symphony*, and *The Dharma at Big Sur*. Nonesuch Records has recorded all of Adams' music over the past three decades. The latest release is *Scheherazade.2*, Adams' latest work, a dramatic symphony for violin and orchestra written for Leila Josefowicz. His new opera, *Girls of the Golden West*, an opera about the California Gold Rush, will premiere in November of 2017 in San Francisco.

LAURIE ANDERSON

Laurie Anderson is one of America's most renowned creative pioneers. She is best known for her live shows that range from simple spoken word to elaborate multimedia presentations and innovative use of technology. As a writer, director, visual artist, and vocalist she has created groundbreaking works that span the worlds of art, theater, and experimental music. Anderson has published seven books and her visual work has been presented in major museums around the world. She received the prestigious Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize (2007), the Pratt Institute's Honorary Legends Award (2011), Yoko Ono's Courage Award (2016), and the Wolf Prize (2017).

TIMO ANDRES

Composer/pianist Timo Andres (b. 1985, Palo Alto, CA) grew up in Connecticut, studied at Yale University, and lives in Brooklyn. A Nonesuch Records artist, Andres' works include a string

quartet for the Takács Quartet and *The Blind Banister*, a 2016 Pulitzer Prize finalist that was premiered by the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Jonathan Biss. This season Andres has had premieres with the Boston Symphony and the Britten Sinfonia at the Barbican Centre, and received the City of Toronto Glenn Gould Protégé Prize.

LOUIS ANDRIESSEN

Louis Andriessen is one of Europe's most eminent and influential composers. His music combines propulsive energy, economy of material and distinctive sonorities, often dominated by pungent wind and brass, pianos, and electric guitars. He has explored the subjects of politics, time, velocity, matter, and mortality in five works for large ensemble: *De Staat* (1976), *De Tijd* (1981), *De Snelheid* (1983), *De Materie* (1985—88), and *Trilogy of the Last Day* (1996—97). Stageworks include operas *Writing to Vermeer* (1997—98), *La Commedia* (2004—08), and monodrama *Anaïs Nin* (2009—10). He is the winner of the 2011 Grawemeyer Award.

THOMAS BARTLETT

Thomas Bartlett (born October 13, 1981), also known as Doveman, is an American pianist, singer, film composer, and producer, best known for his work with Sufjan Stevens, Glen Hansard, the National, Sam Amidon, Nico Muhly, The Gloaming, Martha Wainwright, and many more. Born in Vermont, Bartlett moved to New York City in 2001 and quickly established himself as a significant contributor within the downtown and contemporary music circles.

DONNACHA DENNEHY

Born in Dublin, Donnacha Dennehy has had work featured in festivals and venues around the world, including the Edinburgh International Festival, Royal Opera House, Carnegie Hall, the Barbican, BAM, Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, ISCM World Music Days, WNYC's New Sounds Live, Bang on a Can, Ultima Festival, Musica Viva, the Saarbrücken Festival, the Schleswig-Holstein Festival, and the Gaudeamus Festival. Dennehy has been commissioned by Dawn Upshaw, Kronos

Quartet, Alarm Will Sound, Bang on a Can, Third Coast Percussion, Icebreaker, Contact, Orkest de Ereprijs, Percussion Group of the Hague, RTE National Symphony Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, BBC Ulster Orchestra, and San Francisco Contemporary Music Players.

RHIANNON GIDDENS

Singer-songwriter Rhiannon Giddens is the co-founder of the Grammy Award-winning string band Carolina Chocolate Drops, playing banjo and fiddle. Giddens' 2014 Grammy nominated solo debut, *Tomorrow Is My Turn*, blends gospel, jazz, blues, and country, and showcases her dazzling vocal prowess. Giddens' follow-up album *Freedom Highway*, largely comprising original songs, was released to widespread critical acclaim in February. She performed at the Obama White House and duets with country star Eric Church on his powerful anti-racism hit "Kill a Word." Last year she received the BBC Radio 2 Folk Award for Singer of the Year and the Steve Martin Prize for Excellence in Bluegrass and Banjo. Giddens also has a recurring role on the recently revived television drama *Nashville*.

PHILIP GLASS

Born in Baltimore, MD, Philip Glass is a graduate of the University of Chicago and The Juilliard School. By 1974, Glass had created a collection of music for the Philip Glass Ensemble, and the landmark opera *Einstein on the Beach*. Since *Einstein*, Glass' repertoire has grown to include music for opera, dance, theater, orchestra, and film. Glass' Symphony No. 11 premiered on his 80th birthday at Carnegie Hall. Glass holds the Carnegie Hall Richard and Barbara Deb's Composer's Chair for the 2017—18 season.

ADAM GUETTEL

Adam Guettel is a composer/lyricist. His upcoming project, *Millions*, will have its first production in the winter of 2017—18. An opera based on H.G. Wells' *The Invisible Man* will be produced by Houston Grand Opera. His musical, *The Light in the Piazza* (cast album on Nonesuch Records), with book by Craig Lucas, premiered on Broadway at Lincoln Center Theater's Vivian Beaumont Theater in April 2005 and received six 2005 Tony Awards including two for Guettel—



kd lang. Photo: James Minchin III

Best Original Score, Best Orchestrations, and a Grammy nomination for best cast recording, as well as five Drama Desk Awards, including for Best Music and Best Orchestrations. He wrote music and lyrics for *Floyd Collins*, which received the 1996 Lucille Lortel Award for Best Musical and received the Obie Award for Best Music.

GILBERT KALISH

As performer and educator, Gilbert Kalish has become a major figure in American music making. A native New Yorker, he is a frequent guest artist with many of the world's most distinguished chamber ensembles. He was a founding member of the Contemporary Chamber Ensemble, a pioneering new music group that flourished during the 1960s and '70s. His partnerships with other artists include cellists Timothy Eddy and Joel Krosnick, soprano Dawn Upshaw, and, perhaps most memorably, his 30-year collaboration with mezzo-soprano Jan DeGaetani.

k.d. lang

k.d. lang has won four Grammy Awards, eight Juno Awards, a BRIT, an AMA, a VMA, and four awards from GLAAD. In 1996, she received Canada's highest civilian honor, the Order of Canada. In 2013, she was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame at the Juno Awards. She has appeared alongside such musical luminaries as Roy Orbison, Bonnie Raitt, Elton John, Loretta Lynn, and Tony Bennett, who said: "She's the best singer of her generation." This year, she's celebrating the 25th anniversary of her platinum selling breakthrough album, *Ingénue*, which will be re-issued this year on Nonesuch. That album will be the focus of her *Ingénue Redux* tour, taking place in Australia and Canada this summer.

KRONOS QUARTET

For more than 40 years, San Francisco's Grammy-winning Kronos Quartet and its nonprofit Kronos Performing Arts Association have reimagined and redefined the string quartet experience through thousands of concerts, 60 recordings, innumerable collaborations with composers and performers from around the globe, and education programs for emerging

musicians. They have commissioned more than 900 works, including those for their ongoing *Fifty for the Future: The Kronos Learning Repertoire*, which they are distributing for free online: kronosquartet.org/fifty-for-the-future. Scott Fraser: Kronos sound designer; Brian Scott: Kronos lighting director; management for Kronos Quartet: Kronos Performing Arts Association. kronosquartet.org

AUDRA MCDONALD

Audra McDonald is unparalleled in the breadth and versatility of her artistry as both a singer and an actress. The winner of a record-breaking six Tony Awards, two Grammy Awards, and an Emmy Award, she was named one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people of 2015 and received a 2015 National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama. Raised in Fresno, CA, the Juilliard-trained soprano is equally at home on Broadway and opera stages as she is in roles on film and television. Of her many roles, her favorites are those performed offstage: passionate advocate for equal rights and homeless youth, wife to actor Will Swenson, and mother to her children.

BRAD MEHLDAU

One of the most lyrical and intimate voices of contemporary jazz piano, Brad Mehldau has forged a unique path which embodies the essence of jazz exploration, classical romanticism, and pop allure. His forays into melding musical idioms, in both trio (with Larry Grenadier on bass and Jeff Ballard on drums) and solo settings, has seen brilliant reworkings of songs by contemporary songwriters alongside the ever evolving breath of his own significant catalogue of original compositions.

NATALIE MERCHANT

Q has called Natalie Merchant "among the most compelling and distinctive voices of the last decade," while *Vogue* has said she is "one of the most successful and enduring alternative artists to emerge from the Eighties intact and uncompromised." As lead vocalist, lyricist, and sometimes pianist of seminal alternative rock band 10,000 Maniacs, Merchant released six critically acclaimed studio albums. She left

the group in 1993, and in 1995 released her multi-platinum solo debut, *Tigerlily*, followed by the platinum *Ophelia* (1998) and *Motherland* (2001). In 2003 she released an album of traditional and contemporary folk music, *The House Carpenter's Daughter*, which coincided with the birth of her child. In anticipation of a forthcoming career retrospective boxed set on Nonesuch, Natalie Merchant will tour the US this summer, performing songs from across her entire career, with *Natalie Merchant: 3 Decades of Song*.

STEPHIN MERRITT

Stephin Merritt releases albums as the Magnetic Fields, the 6ths, the Gothic Archies, and Future Bible Heroes. Additionally Merritt has composed original music and lyrics for several music theater pieces, including an off-Broadway stage musical of Neil Gaiman's novel *Coraline*, for which he received an Obie Award. In March, 2017, Merritt released his latest Magnetic Fields album, *50 Song Memoir*, on Nonesuch. Additional information on Stephin Merritt can be found at houseoftomorrow.com.

PAT METHENY

Over the course of 40 years as a guitarist and composer, Pat Metheny has released album after album, each one brilliantly documenting another aspect of his unique and nearly uncategorizable musical journey. Metheny earned three gold records, 20 Grammy Awards, and has been inducted into the Downbeat Hall of Fame. He has relentlessly traveled the world playing sold out concerts, becoming one of the most active and popular touring acts of any kind anywhere.

NICO MUHLY

Nico Muhly (b. 1981) is an American composer and sought-after collaborator who has been commissioned twice by the Metropolitan Opera, composed scores for films including the Academy Award-winning *The Reader*, and created arrangements for Sufjan Stevens and Joanna Newsom, among numerous other concert commissions. Born in Vermont, Muhly studied composition with John Corigliano and Christopher Rouse at The Juilliard School. He currently lives in New York City.

RANDY NEWMAN

With songs that run the gamut from heartbreaking to satirical and a host of unforgettable film scores, Randy Newman has created musical masterpieces widely recognized by generations of audiences. In addition to his acclaimed solo recordings—such as *Randy Newman, 12 Songs, Sail Away, Good Old Boys*, and *Harp and Angels*—and regular international touring, Newman composes and scores for films, including *The Natural, Awakenings, Ragtime*, all three *Toy Story* pictures, *Seabiscuit, James and the Giant Peach, A Bug's Life*, and most recently, Disney/Pixar's *Monsters University*, the prequel to *Monsters Inc.* (which he also scored). Newman's many honors include six Grammys, three Emmys, two Academy Awards, and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Additionally, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2013.

MANDY PATINKIN

Mandy Patinkin has had the good fortune of carving out a varied career including five solo albums recorded with Nonesuch, Broadway musicals including *Evita* and *Sunday in the Park with George*, TV series such as *Chicago Hope* and *Homeland*, numerous feature films including *The Princess Bride* and *Dick Tracy*, and theatrical stage concerts including solo shows *Dress Casual* and *Mamaloshen*, along with collaborative concerts with Patti LuPone, another with Nathan Gunn, and recently a vaudeville show with Taylor Mac.

STEVE REICH

Steve Reich has been called "America's greatest living composer" (*Village Voice*), "the most original musical thinker of our time" (*The New Yorker*), and "among the great composers of the century" (*The New York Times*). Reich's music, which has won two Grammy Awards and a Pulitzer Prize, has influenced composers and mainstream musicians all over the world. His two latest works, *Pulse and Runner*—commissioned to celebrate his 80th birthday this season—premiered in November 2016 in New York's Carnegie Hall and London's Royal Opera House, respectively.



Brad Mehldau and Chris Thile. Photo: Michael Wilson

CHRIS THILE

Multiple Grammy Award-winner and MacArthur fellow Chris Thile, a member of Punch Brothers and Nickel Creek, and now the host of *A Prairie Home Companion*, is a mandolin virtuoso, composer, and vocalist. With his broad outlook that encompasses classical, rock, jazz, and bluegrass, Thile transcends the borders of conventionally circumscribed genres, creating a distinctly American canon and a new musical aesthetic for performers and audiences alike.

With Nickel Creek, he released four albums and sold over two million records. As a soloist, Thile released five albums including *Bach: Sonatas and Partitas, Vol. 1*.

DAWN UPSHAW

Joining a rare natural warmth with a fierce commitment to the transforming communicative power of music, Dawn Upshaw has achieved worldwide celebrity as a singer of opera and concert repertoire ranging from the sacred works of Bach to the freshest sounds of today. Her ability to reach to the heart of music and text has earned her both the devotion of an exceptionally diverse audience, and the awards and distinctions accorded to only the most distinguished of artists. In 2007, she was named a fellow of the MacArthur Foundation, the first vocal artist to be awarded the prize, and in 2008 she was named a fellow of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

CAETANO VELOSO

Caetano Veloso is among the most influential and beloved artists to emerge from Brazil, where he began his musical career in the 1960s. He has

over 50 recordings to his credit, including 15 on Nonesuch. Absorbing musical and aesthetic ideas from sources as diverse as The Beatles, concrete poetry, the French Dadaists, and the Brazilian modernist poets of the 1920s, Veloso— together with Gilberto Gil, Gal Costa, Tom Zé, his sister Maria Bethânia, and a number of other poets and intellectuals—founded the Tropicália movement and permanently altered the course of his country's popular music.

JOSÉ ZAYAS

José Zayas (director) has previously worked at BAM on *The Magnetic Fields: 50 Song Memoir*. Credits include: *In the Name of Salome*, *Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter*, *Burundanga*, *The House of the Spirits*, *Your Name Will Follow You Home*, *Barcelo con Hielo*, *La Nena Se Casa*, *Love in the Time of Cholera*, *In the Time of the Butterflies*, *Madre (el drama padre)*, *Besame Mucho*, *Nowhere on the Border*, *Letters to a Mother* (Repertorio Español); *Cancun, Chronicle of a Death Foretold* (Gala Theatre), *Pinkolandia* (INTAR and Two River Theatre), *Father of Lies* and *Vengeance Can Wait* (PS 122); *P.S. Jones and the Frozen City*, *Feeder: A Love Story* (TerraNOVA Collective); *Okay* and *Mrs. Jones and the Man from Dixieland* (EST), *The Idea of Me* (Cherry Lane Mentor Project), *La Isla de Los Hombres Solos* (Teatro Espressivo, Costa Rica), and *Corazon Eterno* (Mixed Blood). Other credits: Drama League Fellow, Lincoln Center Director's Lab, Soho Rep W/D Lab, 2009—11 NEA/TCG Career Development Program for Directors. He received a BA from Harvard University and an MFA from Carnegie Mellon University.