

aleba gartner associates
134 henry street • new york, ny 10002
tel: 212/206-1450 • e-mail: a@alebagartner.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 20, 2010

Tickets & Information: 212/854-7799; millertheatre.com

Press Contacts:

Aleba Gartner, 212/206-1450; a@alebagartner.com
Charlotte Landrum, 212/854-2380; cl2867@columbia.edu

“For 10 years now, the Composer Portraits have enticed young people who are curious about all kinds of extreme contemporary music to take chances on living classical composers.”—The New York Times

MILLER THEATRE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

opens the 11th season of its renowned *Composer Portraits* with

Matthias Pintscher

ICE performs a variety of works by this exciting young talent
Thursday, October 21, 8:00PM

Single Tickets: \$25 • Students \$15 with valid ID

From Miller Theatre Director Melissa Smey:

“The first concert of this year’s *Composer Portraits* series marks a true milestone: Matthias Pintscher will be the 100th composer profiled at Miller. The season is also special because, in addition to being the first I have curated as Miller’s new director, it will also be the first in which all of the composers featured will be present at their Portraits—working with the ensembles, speaking to the audience. It’s an unprecedented opportunity to get to know some of today’s most important musical voices in a very intimate way.”

Composer Portraits

The *Composer Portraits* series—now in its 11th season—remains the heart of Miller Theatre programming. Each concert investigates the work of a single composer by offering a prismatic view of their *oeuvre*. This year features a fascinatingly diverse group of composers from around the world, including three who are closely associated with Columbia University.

Thursday, October 21, 8:00PM

Matthias Pintscher (b. 1971)

Still only in his thirties, the German-born, New York-based composer **Matthias Pintscher** has been hailed by leading conductors and critics for his fresh compositional voice and dynamic conducting. The chamber works showcased in this program spring from diverse influences: E. E. Cummings’s minimalist poetry, Cy Twombly’s abstract paintings, and the natural wonder of a total eclipse. **International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE)**, “one of the most adventurous and accomplished groups in new music” (*The New York Times*) performs.

ARTISTS: **International Contemporary Ensemble**
Matthias Pintscher, conductor
Tony Arnold, soprano
Ethan Hughes, baritone

PROGRAM: a twilight’s song (1997)
on a clear day (2004)
Un Despertar (2008)
Sonic Eclipse (2009-2010) (U.S. premiere)
I. celestial object I
II. celestial object II
III. occultation

BIOS: **Matthias Pintscher** was born in Marl in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, and studied composition with Giseler Klebe and Manfred Trojahn. His awards include first prize in the Hitzacker Composition Competition (1992), the Rolf Liebermann Prize and the Opera Prize from the Körber Foundation Hamburg (1993 and 1996), and the Hindemith Prize from the Schleswig Holstein Music Festival (2000). Pintscher came to international attention with the opera *Thomas Chatterton*, at the Semper Opera, Dresden (1998), and later with his second opera, *L'espace dernier*, at the Opéra National de Paris (2004). Since then he has made his name with significant works for leading interpreters and orchestras throughout the world. He was composer-in-residence with the Cleveland Orchestra in 2002, the following season at the Konzerthaus Dortmund, at the Lucerne Festival in 2005, with the Radio Symphony Orchestra Saarbrücken from 2006 to 2007, at the Philharmonie, Cologne from 2007 to 2008 and at the RSO Stuttgart from 2008 to 2009. From 2010 onwards Pintscher is "Artist-in-Association" at the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. As a conductor, Matthias Pintscher works regularly with leading orchestras and ensembles in Europe and the United States. From 2007 to 2009 he was Professor of Composition at the University of Music and Performing Arts Munich and since 2010 at the New York University.

International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE) was founded in 2001, and over the past nine years has established itself as one of the leading musical ensembles of its generation as well as one of the most innovative young arts organizations in the United States. Winner of the 2010 Trailblazer Award from the American Music Center and the 2010 ASCAP/CMA Award for Adventurous Programming, ICE has created a pioneering performer/presenter model that sets a bold new standard for the future of music in the 21st century. ICE performs more than 50 concerts a year throughout the United States and abroad, has commercially released six acclaimed albums, and produced eight large-scale music festivals. ICE has given more than 400 world premieres by composers under the age of 35. Highlights of the current season include headline performances at the Lincoln Center Festival, BAM, Miller Theatre, Darmstadt Festival, and the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.

Tony Arnold has received praise for her performances with the International Contemporary Ensemble, Chicago Symphony Orchestra's MusicNOW, Los Angeles Philharmonic New Music Group, Ensemble 21, eighth blackbird, Chicago Chamber Musicians, June in Buffalo, and many others. Arnold has been a frequent guest at international festivals and she tours regularly with the George Crumb Ensemble. In 2006-2007 Arnold toured Armenia and the west coast of the United States with violin virtuoso Movses Pogossian in Kurtág's monumental *Kafka Fragments*. Recently she premiered Philippe Manoury's *Cruel Spirals* with ICE, and was the featured soloist in a concert of the complete chamber songs of Igor Stravinsky at The Morgan Library and Museum. Arnold's recordings include a 2006 Grammy-nominated performance of George Crumb's *Ancient Voices of Children*; Berio's *Sequenza III*; and, recently released, the music of Saariaho.

Evan Hughes is in his first year of the Lindemann Young Artist Development Program at the Metropolitan Opera. A champion of 20th century music, Hughes recently performed Elliott Carter's *Syringa* at Carnegie Hall with the MET Chamber Ensemble, under the baton of James Levine, as well as at the Tanglewood music festival. This season, he was a part of a State Department festival entitled *Ascending Dragon* held in Los Angeles and Hanoi, Vietnam where he performed Carter's *On Conversing with Paradise*. After winning the Marilyn Horne Foundation Competition, he gave recitals in New York City for the *On Wings of Song* series and for *The Song Continues Gala*, making his Carnegie Hall debut. He recently completed his master's degree at the Curtis Institute of Music. Upcoming engagements include performances with the San Diego Symphony, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, and Opera Grand Rapids.

Upcoming *Composer Portraits* at Miller Theatre:

Single Tickets: \$25 • Subscription: \$140; \$100 for 5 concerts

Fred Lerdahl

Pierre Boulez: 85th Birthday Celebration

Julia Wolfe

Mario Davidovsky

Chaya Czernowin

Joan Tower

Friday, November 19

Monday, December 6

Thursday, February 3

Friday, March 4

Friday, April 15

Thursday, May 5

*Columbia University's Miller Theatre is located north of the Main Campus Gate
at 116th St. & Broadway on the ground floor of Dodge Hall.*

For tickets, the public should call the Miller Theatre Box Office at 212/854-7799, M-F, 12-6PM.
Tickets can also be purchased online at <http://www.millertheatre.com/>.

For further information, press tickets, and to arrange interviews,
please contact Aleba Gartner Associates at 212/206-1450 or a@alebagartner.com.

For photos, please contact Charlotte Landrum at 212/854-2380 or cl2867@columbia.edu.

*Major Support for Miller Theatre is provided by the Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts.
Support for the Pierre Boulez Composer Portrait is provided by the French-American Fund for Contemporary Music.
Support for the Joan Tower Composer Portrait is provided in honor of Columbia University Trustee Gerry Lenfest (Law '58).*

#