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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

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*"Columbia University's Miller Theatre roams more widely than any other presenter in town." —The New York Observer*

**MILLER THEATRE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

presents three genre-spanning concerts in early February:

**Georg Friedrich Haas**

**Friday, February 6, 8:00PM** (*Composer Portraits*)

U.S. premiere of *In Vain*, his intense 75-minute tour-de-force for 24 players

**James Carter Organ Trio**

**Saturday, February 7, 8:00PM** (*Jazz*)

Virtuoso saxophonist and guests match their sounds to those of the Hammond B3 organ

**Jefferson Friedman**

**Thursday, February 12, 8:00PM** (*Composer Portraits*)

Arrangements for rock band Crom Tech and a world premiere for Indie-rocker Craig Wedren

Tickets: \$25 • Students: \$15

*Composer Portraits*

**GEORG FRIEDRICH HASS**

**Friday, February 6, 8:00PM**

*Onstage discussion with Georg Friedrich Haas*

Austrian composer **Georg Friedrich Haas** (b. 1953) truly experiments with sound. His extraordinary constructions of micro-intervals and pure harmonics create beautiful and opalescent soundscapes that move in ways that seem at once mysterious and obscure. *In Vain*, his 75-minute tour-de-force for 24 players, has never been performed in the United States. The work is played from memory, with hall lights dimmed, as if to leave both performers and audience in the dark. The **Argento Chamber Ensemble** makes its Miller debut.

PROGRAM: *In Vain* (2000) (U.S. premiere)

ARTISTS: **Argento Chamber Ensemble**  
**Michel Galante**, conductor

BIOS: **GEORG FRIEDRICH HAAS**, who has risen to become one of the most important Austrian composers internationally, felt limited by the established system of equal temperament. Notes shaded by microtonal deviations have thus been determining factors in his compositions. Haas studied at the Musikhochschule in Graz and at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna, and has attended and lectured at the Darmstadt Summer Courses. In the 1980s and 1990s, he participated in IRCAM and was awarded a fellowship for the Salzburg Festival. More recent awards include an International Rostrum of Composers prize, a City of Vienna Prize for Music, and the Großer Österreichischer Staatspreis award of Austria. He was also a featured composer at both the Klangspuren Festival in Austria and the Borealis Festival in Norway.

**ARGENTO CHAMBER ENSEMBLE** is the performance arm of the Argento New Music Project. Consisting of nine members, the ensemble expands to perform and record chamber orchestra works of up to 30 musicians. The ensemble has toured widely in the United States and abroad in festivals including the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, the International Festival of Spectral Music in Turkey, the American Festival of Microtonal Music in New York, and the International Festival of Electro-acoustic music. The group has worked with leading composers such as Pierre Boulez, Tania Leon, Tristan Murail, Elliott Carter, Philippe Hurel, and Philippe Leroux, and has collaborated with young emerging composers internationally.

The ensemble's first recording, featuring the music of Tristan Murail, was released in January of 2007 and received critical acclaim worldwide.

**MICHEL GALANTE** has performed as principal, guest, and assistant conductor with orchestras and ensembles in the United States, Canada, and Europe. He is a doctoral candidate in composition at Columbia University. His composition awards include Hertz, Fulbright, and Mellon fellowships, and prizes from ASCAP and the Composer's Guild.

### *Jazz*

## **JAMES CARTER ORGAN TRIO**

### **Saturday, February 7, 8:00PM**

The *Los Angeles Times* called him "the Jimi Hendrix of the saxophone," and *JazzTimes* described him as "one of the most exciting young virtuosos in contemporary music." With such accolades, numerous recordings, and stellar collaborations, **James Carter** has made a name for himself. He made his New York debut with Lester Bowie's Organ Ensemble, and fittingly comes to Miller with his organ trio, featuring drummer Leonard King and Gerard Gibbs on the Hammond B3, and special guest vocalist Miché Braden.

ARTISTS: **James Carter**, saxophones  
**Gerard Gibbs**, Hammond B3 organ  
**Leonard King**, drums  
*with special guest vocalist Miché Braden*

BIOS: A powerful force in today's jazz scene, **JAMES CARTER's** playing is rooted in 20th-century Afro-American culture. Described as "one of the brightest stars in jazzdom" by the *Detroit News*, his latest album, *Present Tense*, opens a new chapter in Carter's career, which since his stunning debut on *J.C. On the Set* from 1993 has seen a string of acclaimed albums. A multiple *Downbeat* poll winner, in 2004 Carter received one of America's highest cultural awards: The Dr. Alaine Locke Award, given to individuals who have provided exemplary service and leadership in the promotion of African American culture. Carter has a variety of groups with which he tours extensively, including a traditional quartet, an electric group, and an organ trio. He is a frequent visitor to Europe and can be seen substituting in the World Saxophone Quartet.

### *Composer Portraits*

## **JEFFERSON FRIEDMAN**

### **Thursday, February 12, 8:00PM**

*Onstage discussion with Jefferson Friedman*

At the age of 34, **Jefferson Friedman** has already established himself with an impressive array of compositional styles, creating music of intense emotion, frenetic energy, and funky rhythms. This Portrait explores his varying range, from wild arrangements of songs by the rock band Crom Tech to a world premiere performance by **Craig Wedren**, former singer of Shudder to Think.

PROGRAM: *String Quartet No. 2* (1999)  
*String Quartet No. 3* (2005)  
*Eight Songs* (2004) (Crom Tech/Jefferson Friedman)  
*Love Songs* (2008) (world premiere, co-commissioned by The Greenwall Foundation and Miller Theatre)

ARTISTS: **Chiara String Quartet**  
**Yesaroun' Duo**  
**American Contemporary Music Ensemble (ACME)**  
**Craig Wedren**, voice

BIOS: American composer **JEFFERSON FRIEDMAN** was born in 1974 in Massachusetts. His work has been performed at The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, and the American Academy in Rome. Friedman has been commissioned three times by Leonard Slatkin and the National Symphony Orchestra. In addition to his works for orchestra, Friedman has written three string quartets for the Chiara Quartet. His *String Quartet No. 2* was recently featured with new choreography by Brian Reeder as part of Miller Theatre's opening night in 2006.

Friedman's honors and awards include the Rome Prize, the ASCAP Leo Kaplan Award, the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award, and the Palmer-Dixon Prize. He received a master's degree in music composition from The Juilliard School and a bachelor of arts degree from Columbia University.

**CHIARA STRING QUARTET** reaches from concert hall into clubs, bars, and galleries, expanding the places to hear live classical music while returning chamber music to intimate spaces. The quartet was named the Blodgett Artists-in-Residence at Harvard University, a post they begin in the fall of 2008, in addition to their ongoing residency at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The quartet's other honors include the Guarneri Quartet Residency Award by Chamber Music America and a top prize at the Paolo Borciani International Competition. Internationally, the Chiara Quartet has performed at the American Academy in Rome and completed an eight-city tour of Sweden. Other highlights of the current season include a performance in the Jefferson Friedman Composer Portrait and several concerts as part of Miller Theatre's *Lunchtime Concerts* series in Philosophy Hall.

Between 1999 and 2004, the **YESAROUN' DUO** commissioned and premiered 26 new works for saxophone and percussion and were featured in recitals in the northeast United States, Cuba, and Italy. Yesaroun' has been featured as soloists with the New England Conservatory Composers Orchestra in NEC's Jordan Hall and performed as part of the Walden School Ensemble in Residence series, the Princeton Marimba Festival, New York City Day of Percussion, the 54th annual Cantors Assembly Convention, Juilliard Summer Percussion Seminar, the Society of Composers Region 1 Conference, New England Conservatory Composers series, and Brandeis Composers series. Previous collaborations include those with composers Shawn Crouch, Adam B. Silverman, Roshanne Etezady, Dennis Desantis, Ken Ueno, Danielle Schindler, Rebekah Griffin, Cody Wright, Pamela Madsen, and Shawn Michalek.

**AMERICAN CONTEMPORARY MUSIC ENSEMBLE (ACME)** is dedicated to the outstanding performance of contemporary masterworks of the 20th and 21st centuries. The ensemble aims to present cutting edge contemporary literature by living composers alongside the "classics" of the contemporary. Since its founding in 2004, ACME has performed works by John Adams, Louis Andriessen, John Cage, George Crumb, Charles Ives, Donald Martino, Olivier Messiaen, Nico Muhly, Terry Riley, Frederic Rzewski, Kevin Volans, Charles Wuorinen, and Iannis Xenakis. ACME does not subscribe to one stylistic movement or genre; its concerts present all genres of contemporary literature in the same light and with the same conviction. ACME programs are created from a sonic and dramatic perspective with the audience's live experience as the central motivating factor and inspiration.

**CRAIG WEDREN** began his career as the singer/song writer of Shudder To Think, a band that started out in the "hard core" only to challenge the aesthetics of the then-emerging genre. After breaking indie music tradition by signing with Epic Records, the group released three major label offerings; toured widely with Smashing Pumpkins, Fugazi, and Pearl Jam; and had their videos featured in regular rotation on MTV. While growing as a composer, Wedren is developing a career as a solo artist. In 2005 he released his first solo album, *Lapland*. He has continued to perform with artists including OK GO, Nina Persson, Joan as Police Woman, and The Citizens Band. Wedren is now developing his second solo release and a multi-media musical film project, "WAND," as well as participating in Shudder To Think reunion performances.

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*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 [www.millertheatre.com](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](mailto:a@alebagartner.com).

For photos, please contact Lauren Bailey at 212/854-2382 or [lrb2113@columbia.edu](mailto:lrb2113@columbia.edu).

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