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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 4, 2010**

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

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*“Columbia University’s Miller Theatre has become one of the city’s most popular venues for new music, offbeat ensembles, and adventurous concerts.” —Bloomberg.com*

**MILLER THEATRE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

heats up February with an “impossible” arrangement and a “mad-loose straight ahead diva”:

**Lou Reed: Metal Machine Music (*Composer Portraits* series)**

Fireworks plays a transcription of Lou Reed’s cult classic *Metal Machine Music*  
Friday, February 5, 8:00PM

**The Carla Cook Quintet (*Jazz* series)**

Singer Carla Cook brings her Quintet to Miller Theatre  
Friday, February 12, 8:00PM

Tickets: \$25 • Students w/ ID: \$15

**From Miller Theatre’s Director Melissa Smey:**

“I am proud to present two exciting concerts: Ulrich Krieger’s challenging transcription of *Metal Machine Music*, performed by the adventuresome Fireworks Ensemble, and the Carla Cook Quintet, channeling their headliner’s tremendous talent and daring musical exploration.”

*Composer Portraits*

**LOU REED: METAL MACHINE MUSIC**

**Friday, February 5, 8:00PM**

Lou Reed’s (b. 1942) music written for the Velvet Underground propelled him to rock stardom. His *Metal Machine Music*, a distorted sound wall of guitar feedback, has been called the precursor to punk. Critical rejection at its first release in 1975 led to a cult-like interest. **Ulrich Krieger** has accomplished a feat once deemed impossible by transcribing and arranging *Metal Machine Music* for classical instruments.

**ARTISTS: Fireworks Ensemble**

**Ulrich Krieger**, conductor, saxophone, and musical director

**BIOS:**

In 1996 **LOU REED** was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a founding member of The Velvet Underground. He received the Heroes award from the New York NARAS in 1997, and the French government awarded him the Chevalier Commander of Arts & Letters. In 2001 and 2002 the avant-garde German music collective zeitkratzer performed *Metal Machine Music* and other electronic music written by Reed. Reed spent much of 2003 touring, and in March 2004 released *Animal Serenade*, which was recorded live at the Wiltern Theater in Los Angeles.

**FIREWORKS ENSEMBLE** combines the talents of eight classically-trained but musically omnivorous young virtuosi who pride themselves on being able to play just about anything. Fireworks burst onto the music scene in 2002 with its rock-inspired reinvention of Stravinsky’s masterpiece, *The Rite of Spring*. Since then, the ensemble has developed a national reputation as one of the premiere ensembles of its kind with its acclaimed programs such as *Dance Mix*, *Cartoon*, and its 2007 *Composer Portrait* of iconoclast Frank Zappa at Miller Theatre. In the course of its seven-year history, Fireworks has premiered over 100 new works, promoting emerging composers worthy of wider recognition and commissioning works by established masters.

**ULRICH KRIEGER** studied at the UdK Berlin and the Manhattan School of Music, and is well known as a saxophone player as well as a composer of chamber and electronic music. He was commissioned to write works for Soldier String Quartet, oh-ton ensemble, Ensemble United Berlin, KontraTrio, zeitkratzer, Ensemble Experimente, Seth Josel, intersax, Text of Light, and others. His compositions are widely performed by ensembles in Europe and the United States, and his recent focus lies in the experimental fields and fringes of contemporary pop culture: somewhere in the limbo between noise and heavy metal, ambient and silence. Krieger has received prizes and grants from Kunststiftung Baden-Württemberg and 'Meet-the-Composer Forum of New York.

*Jazz*

## **THE CARLA COOK QUINTET**

**Friday, February 12, 8:00PM**

*JazzTimes* calls **Carla Cook** “a mad-loose straight ahead jazz diva” and the *Chicago Sun-Times* states that “she scatted with a richness and range that is beyond most of her contemporaries.” The Detroit native notes her favorite artists range from Miles Davis and Chaka Khan to Johann Sebastian Bach, and she draws upon all of these influences and more in her music.

ARTISTS: **Carla Cook**, vocals  
**Jon Cowherd**, piano  
**Kenny Davis**, bass  
**Steve Kroon**, percussion  
**Bruce Cox**, percussion

BIOS: **CARLA COOK** is a jazz singer/songwriter who sings standards beautifully, but she doesn't stop there. Cook is willing to put a jazz spin on songs not written by traditional jazz composers. In her native Detroit, Cook started singing when she was a young child. During her formative years, Cook studied voice, piano, and string bass. After leaving Detroit, Cook moved to Boston to attend Northeastern University. While in Boston, she formed the first of several jazz ensembles. In 1990, she moved to New York, where she became active on the Manhattan club scene. By the mid 1990's she was singing on a full-time basis. In 1999, Cook recorded her debut album, *It's All About Love*. The CD enjoyed favorable reviews, received a Grammy nomination in the Best Jazz Vocal Performance category, and it was awarded the AFIM Indie Award for Best Jazz Vocal in 2000. That same year, Cook recorded her second album, *Dem Bones*, and in 2002, she recorded *Simply Natural*.

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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@alebgartner.com](mailto:a@alebgartner.com).

For photos, please contact Christy Pill at 212/854-1488 or [cp2234@columbia.edu](mailto:cp2234@columbia.edu).

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*Major support for contemporary music programming is provided by the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust,  
the Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts, and The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Inc.*

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