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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 22, 2008**

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

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*“Miller Theatre has become iconic through the consistent audacity and inspiration of its musical offerings.” — Time Out New York*

**MILLER THEATRE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

presents the first of this season’s nine premiere-filled *Composer Portraits*:

**Peter Lieberson**

**Saturday, September 27, 8:00PM**

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

**From Executive Director George Steel, “the imaginative New York impresario who made Columbia University’s Miller Theatre a hip new-music destination” (*The Boston Globe*):**

“Peter Lieberson is one of my favorite composers, so being able to open the *Composer Portraits* series for our 20th Anniversary is an especial pleasure. An all-star line up of musicians will perform a program of his extraordinary music. *Composer Portraits* will continue from strength to strength, with four world premiere Miller Theatre commissions this year, a major U.S. Premiere, and even larger ensemble works. It will be a landmark season for us.”

**Composer Portraits**

The *Composer Portraits* series, now in its ninth season, remains the heart of Miller Theatre’s programming. Each concert investigates the work of a single composer by offering a prismatic view of their *oeuvre*.

**Saturday, September 27, 8:00PM**

**PETER LIEBERSON (b. 1946)**

*Onstage discussion with Peter Lieberson*

**Peter Lieberson** is one of America’s most important composers, and this long-awaited Portrait offers a chance to hear a wide range of his chamber works. His sparkling and astringent early music shows his admiration for the beauties of Stravinsky’s late serial masterpieces. In more recent work, his predilection for color, clarity, and precision is suffused with an inner warmth that invokes his longtime involvement in Tibetan Buddhism. **Jeffrey Milarsky** conducts a top-notch group of players that includes **William Purvis, Fred Sherry, Stephen Gosling, and Tara Helen O’Connor**.

PROGRAM: *Concerto for Four Groups of Instruments* (1972-73)

*Lalita Variations* (1984)

*Flute Variations* (1971)

*Piano Variations* (1996)

*Variations for Violin and Piano* (1993)

*Ziji* (1987)

ARTISTS: **The Garuda Ensemble**

**Tara Helen O’Connor**, flute

**Stephen Taylor**, oboe

**Moran Katz**, clarinet

**Peter Kolkay**, bassoon

**William Purvis**, horn

**Eric Poland**, percussion

**June Han**, harp

**Rieko Aizawa**, piano  
**Judith Gordon**, piano  
**Stephen Gosling**, piano  
**David Fulmer**, violin  
**Jesse Mills**, violin  
**Richard O'Neill**, viola  
**Fred Sherry**, cello  
**Kurt Muroki**, bass  
**Jeffrey Milarsky**, conductor

**BIOS:** **PETER LIEBERSON**'s works came to national attention in 1983 with the premiere of his *Piano Concerto*, composed for pianist Peter Serkin and commissioned by Seiji Ozawa and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Lieberson's most recent orchestral work, *Neruda Songs*, a setting of sonnets by Pablo Neruda for mezzo-soprano and orchestra, was commissioned by the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Boston Symphony for Lorraine Hunt Lieberson. Recent concert works include *Piano Concerto No. 3* for Serkin and the Minnesota Orchestra; *Piano Quintet* for Serkin and the Orion Quartet; *Ah* for the Cleveland Orchestra; and *Six Realms* for Yo-Yo Ma and the Toronto Symphony. Lieberson is the son of the late Goddard Lieberson, former president of Columbia Records, and the ballerina Vera Zorina. Lieberson's principal teachers were Milton Babbitt, Charles Wuorinen, Donald Martino, and Martin Boykan. Among his awards are those from the National Institute of Arts & Letters and a Brandeis Creative Arts Award.

Conductor, percussionist, professor, and music director, **JEFFREY MILARSKY** has created a unique international career. He has premiered and recorded works by many composers, including Charles Wuorinen, Milton Babbitt, Elliott Carter, Luigi Nono, and Wolfgang Rihm. He has led such groups as the American Composers Orchestra, the New York New Music Ensemble, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Columbia Sinfonietta, Sinfonietta Moderna, Speculum Musicae, and the New York Philharmonic chamber music series. Milarsky is a professor in music at Columbia University, where he is the music director/conductor of the Columbia University Orchestra. Recently, he has joined the faculty of The Manhattan School of Music as artistic director and conductor of the percussion ensemble.

**Upcoming 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season *Composer Portraits* at Miller Theatre:**

Single Tickets: \$25 • Subscription: \$180; \$100 for 5 concerts

<b>Milton Babbitt: Complete String Quartets</b>	<b>Wednesday, November 5</b>
<b>Jason Eckardt</b>	<b>Thursday, November 20</b>
<b>Marc-André Dalbavie</b>	<b>Friday, December 5</b>
<b>Messiaen at 100</b>	<b>Saturday, December 13</b>
<b>Leon Kirchner: 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration</b>	<b>Saturday, January 24</b>
<b>Georg Friedrich Haas</b>	<b>Friday, February 6</b>
<b>Jefferson Friedman</b>	<b>Thursday, February 12</b>
<b>Arlene Sierra</b>	<b>Friday, March 13</b>

*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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