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American Composers Orchestra Releases
Third Digital Album
Orchestra Underground: X10D

Recordings of extreme music for extended instruments by Keeril Makan, Evan Ziporyn, Fred Ho, Ned McGowan, and Neil Rolnick

Now Available from iTunes, Amazon.com, InstantEncore & other major retailers

For more information: www.americancomposers.org

New York, NY – American Composers Orchestra (ACO) announces the release of its third digital album, Orchestra Underground: X10D. Following the March 2011 release of the orchestra’s inaugural digital album, Playing It UNsafe, and the February 2012 release of Emerging Composers Series: Vol. 1, this new album features live recordings of music performed by ACO between 2006 and 2008 as part of Orchestra Underground, ACO’s cutting-edge orchestral series at Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall, and recorded later. By making available never-before-recorded orchestral music, ACO goes beyond the concert hall, reaching new listeners and gaining greater exposure and visibility for the composers it showcases on its recordings. In fall 2012, ACO will release its fourth digital album – a collection of multimedia works featuring both audio and video.

Orchestra Underground: X10D (X10D stands for “extended”) explores the extremes that become possible when featured soloists play atypical – in some cases bizarre – instruments with the orchestra. The album includes Keeril Makan’s Dream Lightly for electric guitar and orchestra, with Seth Josel as soloist; Evan Ziporyn’s Big Grenadilla featuring the composer on bass clarinet; composer/baritone saxophonist Fred Ho’s When the Real Dragons Fly!; Ned McGowan’s Bantammer Swing featuring the composer as the contrabass flute soloist; and Neil Rolnick’s iFiddle Concerto featuring Todd Reynolds as soloist on a “cyborg” violin.

Three of these pieces explore and gather their power from the extreme low register. Evan Ziporyn demonstrates the virtuosic possibilities of the bass clarinet, integrating his own ideas with influences ranging from Balinese Gamelan to jazz to Stravinsky, in Big Grenadilla. Fred Ho makes “real dragons fly” in a tour-de-force and call-to-action for baritone saxophone and orchestra that combines Chinese folk song with an avant-jazz perspective. Perhaps the most unusual instrument on this album is the seldom-heard contrabass flute, an
instrument that, in the hands of Ned McGowan, is capable of everything from near breathless calm to driving bass riffs that propel the orchestra forward.

The other two works on the album partner electric instruments with the orchestra. Keeril Makan’s *Dream Lightly* features the electric guitar of Seth Josel. There are no amped-up power chords here, only the most delicate and ethereal of guitar harmonics, making the piece an almost anti-concerto. Finally, Neil Rolnick, a pioneer in electronic music, introduces us to the cyborg-fiddle he created with soloist Todd Reynolds, an instrument that seamlessly takes us from flashy Pagagini-esque pyrotechnics to cyberspace.

Each of the five pieces was commissioned and premiered by ACO for Orchestra Underground, its entrepreneurial ensemble and concert series at Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall that seeks to re-invent and re-imagine the orchestra with unusual instruments, eclectic influences, new collaborations and technologies, and important new compositional voices.

**More Information**
American Composers Orchestra: [www.americancomposers.org](http://www.americancomposers.org)
Keeril Makan: [www.keerilmakan.com](http://www.keerilmakan.com)
Evan Ziporyn: [www.ziporyn.com](http://www.ziporyn.com)
Fred Ho: [www.bigredmediainc.com](http://www.bigredmediainc.com)
Ned McGowan: [www.nedmcgowan.com](http://www.nedmcgowan.com)
Neil Rolnick: [www.neilrolnick.com](http://www.neilrolnick.com)

**Links to Purchase**

**About ACO**
Entering its 36th season in 2012-2013, American Composers Orchestra is the only orchestra in the world dedicated to the creation, performance, preservation, and promulgation of music by American composers. ACO makes the creation of new opportunities for American composers and new American orchestral music its central purpose. Through concerts at Carnegie Hall and other venues, recordings, internet and radio broadcasts, educational programs, New Music Readings, and commissions, ACO identifies today’s brightest emerging composers, champions prominent established composers as well as those lesser-known, and increases regional, national, and international awareness of the infinite variety of American orchestral music, reflecting geographic, stylistic, and temporal diversity. ACO also serves as an incubator of ideas, research, and talent, as a catalyst for growth and change among orchestras, and as an advocate for American composers and their music.

To date, ACO has performed music by more than 600 American composers, including 200 world premieres and newly commissioned works. Among the orchestra’s innovative programs have been SONiC: Sounds of a New Century, a nine-day citywide festival in New York of music by more than 100 composers age 40 and under; Sonidos de las Américas, six annual festivals devoted to Latin American composers and their music; Coming to America, a program immersing audiences in the ongoing evolution of American music; and Orchestra Underground, a series of entrepreneurial concerts that have introduced American audiences to the work of emerging composers from around the globe.
American Composers Orchestra Announces Third Digital Album

music through the work of immigrant composers; Orchestra Tech, a long-term initiative to integrate new digital technologies in the symphony orchestra; Improvise!, a festival devoted to the exploration of improvisation and the orchestra; Playing it Unsafe, a new laboratory for the research and development of experimental new works for orchestra; and Orchestra Underground, ACO’s entrepreneurial cutting-edge orchestral ensemble that embraces new technology, eclectic instruments, influences, and spatial orientation of the orchestra, new experiments in the concert format, and multimedia and multi-disciplinary collaborations.

Composer development has been at the core of ACO’s mission since its founding. In addition to its annual Underwood New Music Readings and Commission, ACO also provides a range of additional educational and professional development activities, including composer residencies, and the Van Lier Emerging Composer Fellowship. In 2008, ACO launched EarShot, a multi-institutional network that assists orchestras around the country in mounting new music readings. Recent EarShot programs have included the Nashville and Memphis Symphonies, Colorado Symphony, New York Youth Symphony, and Buffalo Philharmonic. For more information visit www.EarShotnetwork.org.

Among the honors ACO has received are special awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and from BMI recognizing the orchestra’s outstanding contribution to American music. ASCAP has awarded its annual prize for adventurous programming to ACO 34 times, singling out ACO as “the orchestra that has done the most for American music in the United States.” ACO received the inaugural METLife Award for Excellence in Audience Engagement, and a proclamation from the New York City Council. ACO recordings are available on ARGO, CRI, ECM, Point, Phoenix USA, MusicMasters, Nonesuch, Tzadik, New World Records, InstantEncore.com, Amazon.com and iTunes. In addition to Orchestra Underground: X10D, ACO’s digital albums include Playing It UNsafe (March 2011) and Emerging Composers Series: Vol. 1 (February 2012).

More information about American Composers Orchestra is available online at www.americancomposers.org.

This press release is available online at: www.americancomposers.org/press


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1. *Dream Lightly* by Keeril Makan (13:50)
   Seth Josel, electric guitar
   Jeffrey Milarsky, conductor

2. *Big Grenadilla* by Evan Ziporyn (15:45)
   Evan Ziporyn, bass clarinet
   Brad Lubman, conductor

3. *When the Real Dragons Fly!* by Fred Ho (12:06)
   Fred Ho, baritone saxophone
   Jeff Milarsky, conductor

4. *Bantammer Swing* by Ned McGowan (18:12)
   I. / II. / III.
   Ned McGowan, contrabass flute
   Jeffrey Milarsky, conductor

5. *iFiddle Concerto* by Neil Rolnick (18:58)
   Todd Reynolds, violin
   Neil Rolnick, electronics
   Steven Sloane, conductor

All works performed by American Composers Orchestra.