



american composers orchestra

news release

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PRESS CONTACT: Christina Jensen PR
646.536.7864 | christina@christinajensenpr.com

**American Composers Orchestra Celebrates
10th Anniversary of Orchestra Underground by releasing
First Digital Video Album
Orchestra Underground: A-V**



Breakdown. Margaret Brouwer & Kasumi.

Groundbreaking multimedia works by:

**Margaret Brouwer & Kasumi
Sebastian Currier & Pawel Wojtasik
Michael Gandolfi & Ean White**

Release Date: December 18, 2013

**Streaming Free of Charge at:
<https://vimeo.com/channels/orchestraunderground>**

**Read the Complete Liner Notes:
http://bit.ly/ACO_A-V_LinerNotes**

For more information: www.americancomposers.org
High resolution screenshots available upon request

New York, NY – **American Composers Orchestra** (ACO) announces the release of its fourth digital album, an all music-video release entitled ***Orchestra Underground: A-V***, streaming free of charge on Vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/channels/orchestraunderground>. This new album (the *A-V* stands for “audio-visual”) is the first of its kind for ACO, and features the orchestra in multimedia works by some of today’s leading composers and film artists – **Margaret Brouwer** with **Kasumi** in *Breakdown* (2008); **Sebastian Currier** with **Pawel Wojtasik** in *Next Atlantis* (2009); and **Michael Gandolfi** with **Ean White** in *As Above* (2005).

Orchestra Underground: A-V is released in celebration of the tenth anniversary of Orchestra Underground, ACO’s exploration of the orchestra as an elastic ensemble that can respond to composers’ unhindered creativity. For a decade, Orchestra Underground has challenged notions about what an orchestra is, embracing new technology, eclectic instruments and influences, altered spatial orientation, new experiments in concert format, and the kind of interdisciplinary collaborations seen and heard on this album. Since the opening of Zankel Hall, Carnegie Hall’s subterranean state-of-the-art auditorium after which the series is named, Orchestra Underground has played to sold-out audiences, bringing to life nearly 100 world premieres and newly commissioned works.

The works here represent the many new video/orchestra pairings born of Orchestra Underground in its first decade.

As unified as the works are individually, the collection is stunning in the range of themes, sounds, and aesthetics it offers. Each work on this album is an integrated whole – the impact of the audio-visual experience being much more than the sum of its parts.

Breakdown, by Brouwer and Kasumi, is a sample-based hybrid opera in one act created entirely in a highly collaborative partnership between the composer and video artist – the music and visual images were interrelated from the very beginning of the process. *Breakdown* was commissioned and premiered by ACO in 2008, and was a 2010 Vimeo Awards Remix Winner. A mash-up of thousands of public domain samples, *Breakdown* explores issues of power and corruption, and mass deception of the public.

Next Atlantis, by Sebastian Currier with video by Pawel Wojtasik, was commissioned and premiered by ACO in 2009 and addresses the interaction between human culture and nature. The watery world featured in the visual images is New Orleans and the surrounding bayou, which flows into the Gulf of Mexico. Currier says, “I’ve always loved the sound of water and have had in mind for some time to write a piece that wove water sounds into a musical fabric. And here the sound of water is especially poignant, because for New Orleans water is both the life-blood of the city and its potential destroyer.”

As Above, by Michael Gandolfi with video by Ean White, was given its New York premiere by ACO in 2005. *As Above* is a diptych featuring two sections – *Touch*, featuring natural images and a musical structure based on fractal processes, and *Electric*, which explores more urban imagery and incorporates rock harmonies, blues lines, and Caribbean-inflected rhythms.

Orchestra Underground: A-V follows the March 2011 release of ACO’s inaugural digital album, *Playing It UNSafe*, the February 2012 release of *Emerging Composers Series: Vol. 1*, and the June 2012 release of *Orchestra Underground: X10D*. 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.

More Information

American Composers Orchestra: www.americancomposers.org

Margaret Brouwer: www.margaretbrouwer.com | Kasumi: www.kasumivideoart.com

Sebastian Currier: www.sebastiancurrier.com | Pawel Wojtasik: www.pawelwojtasik.com

Michael Gandolfi: www.michaelgandolfi.com | Ean White: www.incendiaryarts.org

About ACO

Now in its 37th season, 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 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; coLABoratory: 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 fellowships. In 2008, ACO launched EarShot, a multi-institutional network that assists orchestras around the country in mounting new music readings. Recent and upcoming Earshot programs have included the Detroit, Berkeley, La Jolla, Nashville, Memphis, Colorado, San Diego Symphonies, the New York Philharmonic, New York Youth Symphony, and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. 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 35 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 Community 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. ACO's digital albums include *Playing It UNsafe* (March 2011), *Emerging Composers Series: Vol. 1* (February 2012), and the orchestra's latest release, *Orchestra Underground: X10D* (June 2012), an album featuring unusual and extended solo instruments with the orchestra.

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Orchestra Underground: A-V

1) MARGARET BROUWER/KASUMI: *Breakdown* (2008; World Premiere, ACO/Goelet Commission)

Scene 1: Look Out!

Scene 2: The Machines / Perpetual Profits

Scene 3: Just Because

Scene 4: Breakdown

2) SEBASTIAN CURRIER: *Next Atlantis* for String Orchestra, Video, and Pre-Recorded Sounds (2009; World Premiere, ACO/Goelet Commission)

Pawel Wojtasik, video

3) MICHAEL GANDOLFI: *As Above* (2005; ACO New York Premiere)

Ean White, video

I. Touch

II. Electric

All works performed by American Composers Orchestra.

american composers orchestra

Derek Bermel, Artistic Director | George Manahan, Music Director

Dennis Russell Davies, Conductor Laureate | Robert Beaser, *Artistic Advisor Laureate*

244 West 54th Street, Suite 805

New York, NY 10019-5515

Phone: 212.977.8495 | Fax: 212.977.8995 | Web: www.americancomposers.org