



american composers orchestra

news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 10, 2017

PRESS CONTACT: Maggie Stapleton, Jensen Artists
646.536.7864 x2; maggie@jensenartists.com

**American Composers Orchestra Announces Commission Club
Piano Concerto by Ethan Iverson to be premiered at Carnegie Hall**



Friday, April 6, 2018 at 7:30pm
Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall | 57th St. and 7th Ave. | NYC
Tickets & Information: www.carnegiehall.org (<http://bit.ly/ACOCarnegieDreamscapes>)

New York, NY – ACO launches its **Commission Club**, through which members invest in the lifespan of a commission: from the composer’s first kernel of artistic inspiration to the realization of the music as a printed score, the early rehearsals and through the premiere performance. Members of the Commission Club support all expenses in the commission process including fees paid to the composer, printing and engraving costs, as well as rehearsal and production costs related to the concert premiere. Throughout the season, members are invited to exclusive preview events with the composer to learn about the composer’s vision, hear excerpts of the work in-progress, and experience a full orchestral rehearsal of the piece before its premiere.

“We want the joy and fun of commissioning composers to be open to everyone,” says ACO President Ed Yim. “With our new Commission Club, we offer an intimate, fun and social experience that is accessible to anyone interested in engaging with artists who are creating the works of today - and for the future.”

Membership begins at \$500 for a couple; and \$300 for Young Professionals (40 years old and under). Benefits include the following:

- Enjoy insider’s access to the creative process with invitations for two people to two preview events with composer Ethan Iverson
- Observe the composer interacting with conductor George Manahan and ACO musicians with an invitation for two to attend a working rehearsal of the full score, prior to the premiere
- A pair of tickets to the world premiere performance on April 6, 2018 at Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall
- Your name on the dedication page of the printed score
- A hand-signed copy of the score

To join the Commission Club, please contact Lyndsay Werking by email at lyndsay@americancomposers.org or by phone at 212.977.8495 ext. 204.

In its inaugural season, ACO's Commission Club will support The Bad Plus founding member **Ethan Iverson** as he creates his first orchestral work, *Concerto to Scale*, which he will perform with ACO on **Friday, April 6, 2018** at **Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall** (57th St. and 7th Ave., NYC). This program, entitled *Dreamscapes* and to be conducted by **George Manahan**, is a global celebration of musical dreams, fusing jazz, world, and classical music. Additional works to be performed include **Steve Lehman's** *Ten Threshold Studies*, also commissioned by ACO; and the New York premieres of **Clarice Assad's** *Dreamscapes* featuring violinist **Elena Urioste**, **TJ Anderson's** *Bahia Bahia*, and **Hitomi Oba's** *September Coming*, which was first read at the Buffalo Philharmonic EarShot Readings led by ACO after Oba's participation in ACO's 2015 Jazz Composers Orchestra Institute.

Ethan Iverson is best known as a founding member and pianist of The Bad Plus, a game-changing collective with bassist Reid Anderson and drummer David King. *The New York Times* describes the group as, "better than anyone at melding the sensibilities of post-60's jazz and indie rock." With The Bad Plus, Iverson has collaborated with Joshua Redman, Bill Frisell, and the Mark Morris Dance Group and created a faithful arrangement of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* and a radical reinvention of Ornette Coleman's *Science Fiction*. In 2017, Iverson composed and arranged *Pepperland* for the Mark Morris Dance Group and curated a major centennial celebration of Thelonious Monk at Duke University. With Mark Morris Dance Group he played Robert Schumann's chamber music with Yo-Yo Ma; for the release of *The Rest is Noise* he toured with Alex Ross and performed examples of 20th-century repertoire. Iverson describes his piano concerto for ACO, *Concerto to Scale*, as being of, "modest dimensions but of sincere intent."

2017-2018 Commission Club Dates

Preview Event #1

December 11, 2017

6:00-7:30pm

Private Residence, Upper West Side, NYC

Preview Event #2

February 1, 2018

6:30-8pm

Private Residence, Upper East Side, NYC

Working Rehearsal (prior to World Premiere)

Wednesday, April 4th, 2018

2:00-5:00pm

DiMenna Center for Classical Music

World Premiere Concert

Friday, April 6th, 2018

7:30pm

Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall

2017-2018 Season: Dreamscapes

40th Birthday Concert & Gala

November 7, 2017 at Jazz at Lincoln Center's Frederick P. Rose Hall

Music by ACO Co-Founder Francis Thorne, Leonard Bernstein, Duke Ellington, George Gershwin, Paola Prestini, Elizabeth Ogonek, Jerome Kern, and Harold Arlen

Two Performances at Carnegie Hall

December 8, 2017 and April 6, 2018 at Zankel Hall

**Music by Philip Glass, Pauchi Sasaki, Bryce Dessner, Ethan Iverson, Clarice Assad,
Steve Lehman, TJ Anderson, and Hitomi Oba**

***Fellow Travelers* by Gregory Spears and Greg Pierce at the PROTOTYPE Festival**

**January 12-14, 2018 at Gerald W. Lynch Theater at John Jay College of Criminal Justice
co-presented with PROTOTYPE Festival and John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

The 27th Annual Underwood New Music Readings on June 21 & 22, 2018

**ACO's annual roundup of the country's brightest young and emerging composers at the DiMenna
Center for Classical Music**

For more information: www.americancomposers.org

About ACO

Founded in 1977, American Composers Orchestra is the only orchestra in the world dedicated to the creation, performance, preservation, and promotion 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. ACO programs seek to innovate and experiment, educate students and the public, and open the orchestra to diverse new influences and audiences.

To date, ACO has performed music by 800 American composers, including 350 world premieres and newly commissioned works. Among the orchestra's innovative programs have been SONiC, 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 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. EarShot programs have included the Detroit, Berkeley, La Jolla, Nashville, Memphis, Columbus, Colorado, San Diego Symphonies, the New York Philharmonic, New York Youth Symphony, and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. Recently, EarShot introduced an initiative to provide career development and commissions for emerging female composers, and launched an online archive featuring audio excerpts, program notes, and score samples by more than 140 composers whose works have been performed through the EarShot Network. The Jazz Composers Orchestra Institute, launched in 2010, supports jazz artists who desire to write for symphony 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. ACO was the 2015 recipient of the Champion of New Music Award given by American Composers Forum. ASCAP has awarded its annual prize for

adventurous programming to ACO over 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), *Orchestra Underground: XI0D* (June 2012), *Orchestra Underground: Tech & Techno* (July 2014), and *SONiC Double Live* (July 2016), a collection of premiere performances from its groundbreaking SONiC festival. ACO has also released *Orchestra Underground: A-V*, a groundbreaking album of multimedia works available for free streaming at www.vimeo.com/channels/orchestraunderground.

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

###

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

Support for American Composers Orchestra is provided by The Herb Alpert Foundation, The Amphion Foundation, Inc., ASCAP Foundation, BMI & the BMI Foundation, The Cheswaty Foundation, The Edward T. Cone Foundation, The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, Deutsche Bank, Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Fromm Music Foundation, Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, The Howard Gilman Foundation, Francis Goelet Charitable Lead Trusts, Jephson Educational Trust, The J.M. Kaplan Fund, Ralph Lauren Foundation, League of American Orchestras, Ellen and James S. Marcus, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Metropolitan Valuation Services, New Music USA, the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Underwood, and the Women's Philharmonic Advocacy.

ACO programs are made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

The Underwood New Music Readings and Commission are made possible with lead support from Mr. and Mrs. Paul Underwood.

Lead support for Music Factory Education programs comes from the Jephson Educational Trust and Ralph Lauren Foundation.

EarShot is a program of American Composers Orchestra in partnership with AmericanComposers Forum, the League of American Orchestras, and New Music USA. Made possible with the support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional funding provided by the League of American Orchestras with support of the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation.

Fellow Travelers was developed through “Opera Fusion: New Works,” a joint venture between Cincinnati Opera and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, made possible by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; a residency at the MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, NH; and a residency at the Copland House, Cortlandt Manor, NY, as a recipient of the Copland House Residency Award. Used by arrangement with European American Music Distributors Company, sole U.S. and Canadian agent for Schott Helicon Music Corporation, New York, publisher and copyright owner.

american composers orchestra

Derek Bermel, *Artistic Director* | George Manahan, *Music Director* | Edward Yim, *President*
Dennis Russell Davies, *Conductor Laureate* | Robert Beaser, *Artistic Director Laureate*
244 West 54th Street, Suite 805 | New York, NY 10019-5515
Phone: 212.977.8495 | Fax: 212.977.8995 | Web: www.americancomposers.org