

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHORUS OF NEW YORK CITY, WNYC RADIO, AND AMERICAN PUBLIC MEDIA
INTRODUCE RADIO RADIANCE™**

**Live Videocast from WNYC's The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space
Tuesday, June 2, at 5:30 p.m.**

May 28, 2009...*Radio Radiance™*, an innovative radio/internet program created by the Young People's Chorus of New York City (YPC) under the artistic direction of Francisco J. Núñez will be launched on Tuesday, June 2, during a live performance from WNYC's The Jerome L. Greene Performance Space, starting at 5:30 p.m. The concert will be available as a live webstream at www.wnyc.org/thegreenespace. The four-episode program combines live performance, recording and digital media to attract new listeners to innovative, cutting-edge choral music, and is presented in collaboration with WNYC and American Public Media (APM).

Radio Radiance™ introduces four newly commissioned works by YPC from award-winning composers Eve Beglarian, Robert Kapilow with foley (sound effects) artist Fred Newman, Meredith Monk, and Gabriela Lena Frank, all known for taking music in new and surprising directions. Two of the works, world premieres by Beglarian and Kapilow, were written especially for this medium and incorporate radio and digital technology as a component of choral compositions. All four works will be broadcast on WNYC later in June and on APM's nationally syndicated *Performance Today* later this year.

The commissioned works were created with The Greene Space's unique capacities in mind. The Greene Space is WNYC's newly launched multipurpose, multi-platform street-level studio and performance venue that presents experimental and innovative works blending audio, visual and digital programming.

Each of the four *Radio Radiance™* works will be presented as self-contained episodes including conversations with the composers. The works represent the program's mission "to present innovative choral music and explore vocal extremes." Beglarian's *Machaut in the Machine Age VI: Liement Me Depart*, for instance, takes the music of the 14th century *trouweres* tradition and gives it a contemporary 'techno' feel. *Crosstown M42*, by Rob Kapilow with foley artist Fred Newman, captures sounds from the crosstown bus route and turns them into a fast-paced, multicultural odyssey through New York City's everyday life and culture. Meredith Monk's *Three Heavens and Hells*, the fifth movement of a song cycle based on a poem by a then-11-year old Tennessee Reed, is her first work to use text. And Gabriela Lena

Frank's *Two Mountain Songs* uses the iconic poetry and breathing technique of Andean pan pipes to create a highly visual recreation of South American creation myths.

Radio Radiance™ is hosted by WNYC's John Schaefer, host of *Soundcheck* and *New Sounds*, and APM's Fred Child and is being recorded in WNYC's Jerome L. Greene Performance Space before a live audience of special guests and children from YPC's Satellite Program in New York City public schools. The June 2 recording will be streamed live from www.wnyc.org/thegreenespace beginning at 5:30 p.m. A live blog of the entire process will also be available on YPC's web site, www.ypc.org, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

After June 30, the *Radio Radiance™* episodes, including interactive listening guides to help visitors learn more about the music and how it was made, will be available at www.ypc.org. Through a consortium partnership with APM, *Radio Radiance™* will also be expanded nationally on its award-winning program, *Performance Today*. Hosted by Fred Child, *Performance Today* can be heard daily on 245 public radio stations throughout the United States and on its web site, www.performancetoday.org. Podcasts of *Radio Radiance™* episodes will be available on the *Performance Today* web site.

Supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, *Radio Radiance™* expands YPC's groundbreaking *Transient Glory* contemporary music series of concerts, recordings, and publications. The first of its kind in the music world, *Transient Glory* was created in 2001 to recognize the important instrument that is a child's voice during that fleeting period when it reveals a particular innocence and poignancy. To date, *Transient Glory* has expanded the repertoire of youth choral music by commissioning works from 50 of today's most eminent composers, many of whom have never written youth choral music before, and elevating the youth chorus in the ranks of serious contemporary music.

Composer, performer, and audio producer **Eve Beglarian** has been called "one of new music's truly free spirits." She based *Machaut in the Machine Age VI* on de Machaut's *Liement me Deport*, setting the first phrase of Machaut's *virelais* (form of medieval French verse) in three different rhythmic versions which are sung in canon. The piece also includes three harmonica parts and three clapping parts, and the use of microphones and a digital audio workstation are as much a part of the performance as the actual singing.

Meredith Monk, a composer, singer, director/choreographer, and recipient of a MacArthur Genius fellowship, is a pioneer in extended vocal technique, pushing the instrument beyond its limits. The text for

Movement 5 of *Three Heavens and Hells* was taken from *Electric Chocolate*, written by Tennessee Reed (whose father is author Ishmael Reed), when she was 11. The text gave Ms. Monk “space to work with my own rhythms and phonemes as well as an intriguing set of images to play with.” She says she always believed that the voice itself is a language, which speaks more eloquently than words.

Composer **Rob Kapilow**, dedicated to the idea of bringing music into people's lives and opening new ears to musical experiences, has teamed with foley artist **Fred Newman**, of *Prairie Home Companion* fame, to create *Crosstown M42*, which uses the voice to replicate the symphony of sounds we hear. The piece takes the listeners on a bus ride from the West Side of Manhattan to New York's East Side and melds traditional choral sound with more than 50 everyday sounds made into music.

A musical anthropologist, **Gabriela Lena Frank** has traveled extensively throughout South America and her pieces reflect studies of Latin-American folklore. *Two Mountain Songs* draws on texts collected by Peruvian writer and folklorist Jose Maria Arguedas, which were preserved from anonymous poetry by the Quechua mountain people, the descendants of the Incas. Ms. Frank says these texts “have always stirred my imagination for ways to evoke Andean vocal practices within a western choral practice.”

Recognized as one of today's most respected and influential youth choirs, the **Young People's Chorus of New York City** was founded in 1988 by Francisco J. Núñez with a commitment to diversity and musical excellence. Today, more than 1,000 children of diverse ethnic, religious and economic backgrounds participate through the chorus's core after-school program, and its Satellite program in New York City schools. Since January 2009, YPC has had its first affiliate—the Young People's Chorus of Erie (Pennsylvania), a separate 501 (c)(3) formed with substantial guidance from YPC. YPC has performed on three continents, in some of the world's most prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, the White House, Smetana Hall in Prague and St. Martin in the Fields in London. YPC also represented the United States at the 2005 World Symposium on Choral Music in Kyoto. YPC and Mr. Núñez have been recognized with the 2009 ASCAP Concert Music Award, the 2009 Choral Excellence Award from the New York Choral Society, as well as a Chorus America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming and Chorus America's Education Outreach Award. YPC has been cited as “a national model of artistic excellence and diversity” by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. YPC is in residence at three venerable New York City institutions: the 92nd Street Y, Frederick P. Rose Hall, home of Jazz at Lincoln Center, and WNYC, New York Public Radio.

WNYC Radio is New York's premier public radio station, comprising WNYC 93.9 FM and WNYC AM 820. As America's most listened-to public radio stations, reaching over one million listeners each week, WNYC FM and AM extend New York City's cultural

riches to the whole country and air the best national offerings from affiliate networks National Public Radio, Public Radio International and American Public Media. WNYC 93.9 FM broadcasts a broad range of daily news, talk, cultural and classical music programming, while WNYC AM 820 maintains a stronger focus on breaking news and international news reporting. For more information, visit www.wnyc.org.

American Public Media is the nation's second-largest producer of public radio programs, reaching 16.5 million listeners nationwide each week. National programs include A Prairie Home Companion®, Marketplace®, Marketplace Money®, Performance Today®, Composer's Datebook® and Speaking of Faith,® to name a few. American Public Media is the parent organization for Minnesota Public Radio, Southern California Public Radio and Classical South Florida. A complete list of stations, programs and additional services can be found at www.americanpublicmedia.org

**Tune in for live videocast of *Radio Radiance*™ recording on www.wnyc.org
Tuesday, June 2, starting at 5:30 p.m.**

John Schaefer, host
Young People's Chorus of New York City
Francisco J. Núñez, founder/artistic director
Eve Beglarian, composer
Gabriela Lena Frank, composer
Rob Kapilow, composer, and Fred Newman, foley artist
Meredith Monk, composer