

Merkin Concert Hall

Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 7:30 pm

Kaufman Center

presents

Ecstatic Music Festival 2012

Sxip Shirey and Angélica Negrón

With Special Guests

Todd Reynolds, Noveller, Jonny Rodgers and

Face the Music, Jenny Undercofler, *director*

ANGÉLICA NEGRÓN/JONNY RODGERS **Fluorescente** by Angélica Negrón

SXIP SHIREY **Trains**

ANGÉLICA NEGRÓN and SXIP SHIREY **Asa Nisi Masa**

TODD REYNOLDS **Transamerica**

FACE THE MUSIC **El Gran Caleidoscopio** by Angélica Negrón

Intermission

SXIP SHIREY and TODD REYNOLDS **I Live in New York City**

NOVELLER **Before the After**

NOVELLER and ANGÉLICA NEGRÓN **At Dusk**

JONNY RODGERS/TODD REYNOLDS **Spero/Sparrow** by Johnny Rodgers

SXIP SHIREY/ANGÉLICA NEGRÓN **Our Worst Tendencies**

About the Artists

Composer and multi-instrumentalist **Angélica Negrón** was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1981 and is currently based in Brooklyn, New York. Interested in creating intricate yet simple narratives that evoke intangible moments in time, she writes music for accordions, voices, toys and electronics as well as chamber ensembles and orchestras. Angélica received an early education in piano and violin at the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico where she later studied composition. Her music has been performed by janus trio, Cadillac Moon Ensemble, TRANSIT Ensemble, Iktus Percussion Quartet, NYU Symphony

Orchestra, the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra and Cantori NY (MATA Festival 2011), among others. She holds a master's degree in music composition from New York University and is currently pursuing a doctorate in music composition at The Graduate Center (CUNY), where she studies with Tania León. Angélica has released several albums with the indie electronic group Balún and ambient chamber ensemble Arturo en el Barco, and co-founded in 2011 the Spanish immersion music program for young children ¡Acoplados!. She was a composer fellow at the Bang on a Can Summer Festival 2011 and was recently selected as a featured Ableton Live artist. Her music is published by Good Child Music.

Sxip Shirey has played exploding circus organ for the pyro-technic clowns of the Daredevil Opera Company at the Sydney Opera House and the Kennedy Center, industrial flutes for acrobats on mechanical jumping boots at The New Victory Theater on Broadway, hillbilly music for gypsies in Transylvania and gypsy music for hillbillies in West Virginia with The Luminescent Orchestrii. He also toured internationally as a solo artist with both Amanda Palmer and the Dresden Dolls. When in NYC, Shirey performs at underground parties and at Joe's Pub at The Public Theater. He composed music for a film by Neil Gaiman (*Sandman, American Gods*) for SKY TV in the U.K, had "Melody for Lizzie" performed by the Boston Pops and is currently working on commission for a short film for the English National Opera.

Praised for "stunning performances" by *The New York Times*, **Face the Music** is an "alt-classical" ensemble of more than sixty astonishingly talented teenagers from in and around New York City. Founded by Kaufman Center's Jenny Undercoffer and composer Huang Ruo in 2005, Face the Music provides an unparalleled performance and education experience for the next generation of musical leaders.

Recipient of the ASCAP's 2011 Aaron Copland Award, Face the Music has played across New York City at venues such as Le Poisson Rouge, El Museo del Barrio, Merkin Hall, the River to River Festival and the Bang On A Can Marathon. The group has been featured on WQXR's *Young Artist Showcase*, NPR's *All Things Considered*, and played on a live broadcast marking the opening of NY Public Radio's Jerome L. Greene Performance Space.

In residence at the Kaufman Center, Face the Music features middle and high school students from over twenty different New York area schools. Many of the performers are students or alumni of Kaufman's own Special Music School, the only K-8 public school in New York City that integrates pre-conservatory musical training with academic education.

Living in the Yale University dominated town of New Haven, CT, **Jonny Rodgers** writes beautiful, quirky songs using guitars, tuned wine glasses, electronics and a unique chamber orchestra. He is also a composer/producer, writing chamber, orchestral and choral music for concert and for films. His formative musical years were spent writing, touring and recording with his brother Steve Rodgers in the indie band Mighty Purple. Jonny has also played for the bands Ten Shekel Shirt, NYC's classical-crossover band Awry (now My Brightest Diamond), the electronic artist Son Lux, the theatrical pop band Faux Fix and many others. He has collaborated with many talented musicians from the world of both classical and new music. His latest full album, *The Aviary*, was originally written and entirely scored as a live show with a nine-piece chamber orchestra featuring highly unusual elements such as Tuned Wine Glasses and Steel Drum. His newest material prominently features Tuned Wine Glasses, Guitars and Electronics with live loops used in unexpected ways. He lives in an extended community of friends in New Haven, CT, teaches, gardens and raises chickens.

Noveller is the solo project of Brooklyn-based guitarist and filmmaker Sarah Lipstate. Handling the electric guitar as her muse, Lipstate summons a sonic palette so rich as to challenge the listener to conceive of how it's housed in a single instrument manipulated by a solitary performer. Her one-woman guitar soundscapes have captured the attention of NPR, *The Village Voice*, *Time Out New York* and *The Wall Street Journal*. The D.C. based ensemble Low End String Quartet recently commissioned Lipstate to compose a piece to debut in April 2012. In addition to recording and performing music as Noveller, Lipstate has recently begun working with author/producer/composer Nathan Larson on several feature film scores. Lipstate has collaborated with several renowned musicians, including live improvised duo performances with Carla Bozulich, David Wm. Sims and Lee Ranaldo. She has previously performed as a member of Cold Cave, Parts & Labor and One Umbrella. Lipstate has also participated in Rhys Chatham's Guitar Army, Ben Frost's Music for 6 Guitars Ensemble and Glenn Branca's 100 guitar ensemble.

Todd Reynolds, violinist, composer, educator and technologist is known as one of the founding fathers of the hybrid-musician movement and one of the most active and versatile proponents of what he calls "present music." The violinist of choice for Steve Reich, Meredith Monk, Bang on a Can, and a founder of the string quartet known as Ethel, his compositional and performance style is a hybrid of old and new technology, multi-disciplinary aesthetic and pan-genre composition and improvisation. Reynolds' music has been called "a charming, multi-mood extravaganza, playful like Milhaud, but hard-edged like Hendrix" (*Strings* magazine), and his countless premieres and performances of everything from classical music to jazz to rock 'n' roll seem to redefine the concert hall and underground club as undeniably and unavoidably intertwined. He has just released his double CD set, *Outerborough* on Innova Recordings, featuring InSide, a collection of his own music, paired with OutSide, music written by a veritable who's who of contemporary composers.