

**Merkin Concert Hall**

Saturday, March 17, 2012 at 7:30 pm

**Kaufman Center**

presents

# **Ecstatic Music Festival™ 2012**

**Oneida & Rhys Chatham**

*The program will be announced from the stage.*

## **Oneida**

Hanoi Jane, *guitar*

Showtime, *guitar*

Snaps London, *synths, organ and effects*

Bobby Matador, *organ, bass guitar and vocals*

Kid Millions, *drums and vocals*

**Rhys Chatham**, *composer, guitar and trumpet*

## **About the Ecstatic Music Festival**

The Ecstatic Music Festival was inaugurated in 2011 by Kaufman Center ([kaufman-center.org](http://kaufman-center.org)). Deeply committed to music education and performance that incorporate the ideas and trends of the 21st century, the Center sought to put truly modern music on its stage—redefining music for the post-classical generation, and serving it up to new audiences. Until now, the blurry lines between the classical and pop genres were typically crossed in downtown clubs and alternative spaces. The Ecstatic Music Festival has brought that new stuff into a more traditional concert hall setting, where a relaxed atmosphere meets up with the exquisite acoustics that the artists and the music deserve.

Under the inspired direction of curator Judd Greenstein, the Ecstatic Music Festival's programs give true meaning to the notion of "Ecstatic Music" as a joyful and adventurous collaboration between composers and performers from the indie/pop and classical realms.

This year's Ecstatic Music Festival includes three New Sounds® Live concerts hosted by WNYC's John Schaefer, which are webcast live on Q2 Music and taped for future broadcast on WNYC. Q2 Music is the festival's digital venue and the center for on-demand artist interviews and concert audio. The festival is presented in association with New Amsterdam Presents.

**Judd Greenstein,**

### **Ecstatic Music Festival Curator**

Composer Judd Greenstein was born and raised in New York City. A passionate advocate for the indie classical community in NYC, much of Mr. Greenstein's work is written for its virtuosic ensembles and solo performers. Mr. Greenstein received degrees from Williams College and Yale School of Music, has been a Fellow at Tanglewood Music Center and the Bang on a Can Summer Institute of Music, and is completing his Ph.D. dissertation at Princeton University. Recent commissions include a 30-minute work for the Minnesota Orchestra, a string quartet/analog synthesizer work for ETHEL and a string trio for Gibbs &

Main. Mr. Greenstein is also active as a promoter of new music. He is the managing director of NOW Ensemble, the composer/performer collective that has quickly established itself as one of the most prominent and promising sounds in 21st century chamber music. He is also the co-director of New Amsterdam Records/New Amsterdam Presents, a record label and artists' service organization.

## About the Program

Shortly after this special collaboration was confirmed, and following the first in-person meeting of Rhys Chatham and Oneida in October 2012, Rhys returned to Paris and composed four structured and notated pieces with Oneida's sound specifically in mind, keeping within the framework of his compositional style and structural methods. Meanwhile, back in New York, Oneida also composed four pieces of music, working within their own formal considerations and way of evolving pieces of music, while incorporating their knowledge of Chatham's past and current work. Throughout early 2012, both the composer and the group have met several times in New York, where they were able to deepen their knowledge of each other's music and share ideas relating to their varying approaches to music making, all the while making further refinements to the compositions they had been writing for each other.

You will hear the products of this collaboration in tonight's performance.

## About the Artists

**Rhys Chatham** is a composer, guitarist and trumpet player from Manhattan, currently living in Paris. He is known for altering the DNA of rock along with creating a new type of urban music by fusing the overtone-drenched minimalism of the early 1960s with the relentless, elemental fury of the Ramones — the textural intricacies of the avant-garde colliding with the visceral punch of electric guitar-slinging punk rock. Chatham has been working for over 30 years to make use of armies of electric guitars (200+) in special tunings to merge the extended-time music of the 1960s and 70s with serious hard rock. Parallel with his rock-influenced pieces, Chatham has been working with various brass configurations since 1982, and has recently developed a completely new approach with collaborations, improvised and compositional pieces involving trumpet through performances and recordings that started in 2009.

**Oneida** was founded in 1997 and is based in both Brooklyn and Boston. Their sound is a mix of psychedelic rock, krautrock, noise rock, electronic and minimalism, created through improvisation, repetition and driving rhythms. The band recently performed a number of 10-hour improvisational performances called *The Ocropolis*. Their September 2011 *Ocropolis* performance was noted by Ben Ratliff of the *New York Times* as one of the top 10 live performances of the year. Oneida was named one of the top New York rock bands of 2011 by *Time Out New York* and *The Village Voice*.