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MEREDITH MONK

APPOINTED HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S FROMM FOUNDATION VISITING LECTURER ON MUSIC



Photo credit: Christine Alicino

“As [Monk] sang, there was a palpable sense of love and joy between her and the audience that spoke volumes. An antidote to the troubled times we live in.”—*Financial Times*

“[Monk] may loom even larger as the new century unfolds, and later generations will envy those who got to see her live.”—*The New Yorker*

Widely acclaimed composer, performer, singer and creator **Meredith Monk** announces her robust **2019–2020 season**, which is set to include a host of performances, residencies and workshops, as well as the distinguished honor of **Harvard University's Fromm Visiting Lectureship**. In this role, she and members of her Vocal Ensemble will teach two semester-long courses in the Harvard University Music Department this spring, one at the graduate level and one for undergraduates. At the end of the 2020 spring term, a public concert will be presented featuring student performers along with Monk and members of her Vocal Ensemble.

ABOUT MEREDITH MONK

Meredith Monk is a composer, singer and creator of new opera and music-theater works. Recognized as one of the most unique and influential artists of our time, she is a pioneer in what is now called “extended vocal technique.” Her groundbreaking exploration of the voice as an instrument, as an eloquent language in and of itself, expands the boundaries of musical composition, creating landscapes of sound that unearth feelings, energies and memories for which there are no words.

In 1965, Monk began her innovative exploration of the voice as a multifaceted instrument, composing solo pieces for unaccompanied voice and voice and keyboard. In 1978, she formed Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble to further expand her musical textures and forms. The majority of her work can be heard on the ECM label, including the Grammy-nominated *impermanence* and highly regarded recent release, *On Behalf of Nature*. Her music has also been featured in films by Terrence Malick, Jean-Luc Godard, David Byrne and the Coen Brothers.

Since the early 2000s, Monk has created vital new repertoire for orchestra, chamber ensembles, and solo instruments, with recent commissions from the San Francisco Symphony and Carnegie Hall, where she held the 2014-15 Richard and Barbara Debs Composer’s Chair in conjunction with her 50th Season of creating and performing. Recently she received three of the highest honors bestowed on a living artist in the United States: induction into the Academy of Arts and Letters (2019), the 2017 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize and a 2015 National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama. Her numerous other honors include the prestigious MacArthur “Genius” Award, two Guggenheim Fellowships, a 2006 USA Prudential Fellow award, a 2011 Yoko Ono Lennon Courage Award for the Arts and a 2012 Doris Duke Artist Award. She has been named one of National Public Radio’s 50 Great Voices, *Musical America*’s 2012 Composer of the Year and an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters by the Republic of France.

Celebrated internationally, Monk’s work has been presented at major venues around the world. Her newest music-theater piece, *Cellular Songs*, premiered in March 2018 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music to sold-out houses, and continues to tour internationally.

**For more information on Ms. Monk, please contact
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**For information on her Harvard residency, please contact
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