



**For Immediate Release
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Announcing Other Minds 21 Festival of New Music

**March 4–6, 2016
SFJAZZ Center
201 Franklin Street (at Fell)
San Francisco, CA
Tickets \$15 – \$75**

Other Minds to Dedicate Final Concert to Evening-Length Meredith Monk Performance

World Premiere of Cecilie Ore & Bibbi Moslet's *Dead Pope on Trial*

World Premiere of Phil Kline's *The Algebra of Need*

Nicole Lizée's *David Lynch Études*

World Premiere by English Composer Gavin Bryars

SAN FRANCISCO, November 10 – Other Minds (OM) in San Francisco announces its 21st festival of avant-garde music, taking place in San Francisco on Friday March 4th, Saturday March 5th and Sunday March 6th, 2016. Ten of the most innovative and influential composers from around the world will appear in-person at the SFJAZZ Center to present Bay Area audiences with one of the highlights of the 2016 concert season. The Other Minds Festival is presented in partnership with the Djerassi Resident Artists Program in Woodside, CA, where for four days guest composers will assemble to discuss and present their work to one another before arriving in San Francisco for the festival's three days of public panel discussions and performances.

"As usual, we have no marketing theme," says OM Festival Director Charles Amirkhanian, "just exceptional composers who take beautiful music-making to the outer limits—and an all-star cast onstage to serve up definitive performances."

Among the numerous highlights making OM 21 San Francisco's consummate event of international avant-garde music is the opening night appearance of renowned Norwegian vocal ensemble [Nordic Voices](#) performing the world premiere of composer [Cecilie Ore](#) and librettist [Bibbi Moslet's](#) latest work *Dead Pope on Trial*. Taking the form of a miniature oratorio, Ore and Moslet's work addresses with a skilled combination of sobriety and comedy the nature of religious superstition.

Nordic Voices also will perform selections from [Lasse Thoresen's](#) *Opus No. 42* winner of the Nordic Music Council prize in 2010. Two pieces from the work will be performed that represent a renewal not just of Nordic vocal music, but of score-based vocal music in general. This strikingly original music reveals common denominators in ancient and ultra-modern sounds, drawing our attention to similarities between Scandinavian folk traditions and the music of the Middle East or India. Thoresen not only uses folk sounds to enliven art music, he also integrates its finely tuned microtonality, spectral overtones, harmonies and rhythms into the contemporary, modernist project in a truly effective manner.

Nordic Voices will close out their appearance by performing selections from English composer [Gavin Bryars'](#) second *Book of Madrigals* and a world premiere performance of a piece from his fourth book of madrigals composed in honor of the recent 100th birthday of Benjamin Amirkhanian, father of Other Minds director Charles Amirkhanian. The piece will be a setting of Petrarch's Sonnet 80, *Chi è Fermato di Menar Sua Vita*.

OM will also New York's [Flux Quartet](#) on its opening night. Known for their heroic rendition of Morton Feldman's six hour long *String Quartet No. 2*, Flux will premiere *The Algebra of Need*, a new piece by composer [Phil Kline](#). The work combines the amplified quartet with the disembodied voice of writer William S. Burroughs, Kline's former neighbor in Lower Manhattan. Recordings of Burroughs will be heard reading excerpts from his writings and life that Kline has cut-up and reassembled in the vein of Burroughs' and Brion Gysin's cut-up technique.

Flux Quartet will follow Kline's work with a performance of Bang on a Can co-founder [Michael Gordon's](#) *The Sad Park*, a piece employing the manipulated voices of young children discussing their impressions of 9/11 during playtime at their pre-school in New York.

On Saturday night OM features Vancouver pianist [Eve Egoyan](#) performing works by Canadian composers [Nicole Lizée](#) and plunderphonics pioneer [John Oswald](#). Lizée will present the world premiere of the *David Lynch Études* for Disklavier (an acoustic piano with a computer interface) as part of her "Criterion Collection," a series of works inspired by important filmmakers. Oswald has composed for Egoyan a new version of his piece *Homonymy*, which has been conceived for performance on Disklavier. The sounds produced by the Yamaha Disklavier will be transformed and interpreted by a computer into live visual images projected onto a screen.

[Larry Polansky](#) follows with a collection of works for guitars written at the request of guitarist John Schneider for the Lou Harrison just-intonation National steel guitar. Polansky's appearance will include performances of *ii-v-i* by Polansky and guitarist [Giacomo Fiore](#) as well as selections from the composer's recent album *Songs and Toods* performed by guitarist [Elliot Simpson](#). Polansky will finish with *34 Chords* a work inspired by the famed lost electric guitar piece written by Morton Feldman for

Christian Wolff. After performing the music in the Bay Area in the Sixties, Wolff had the original score and his guitar stolen from his car. The work, long thought lost, was resurrected when it was found on a tape from a KPFA broadcast, preserved in Other Minds' radiOM.org website. It was subsequently transcribed and published by Peters Edition in an edition by Seth Josel, a previous OM Festival soloist.

Violinist [Kate Stenberg](#) will join OM 21 to perform Michael Gordon's *Light is Calling*. The piece juxtaposes the sound of an acoustic violin with warped electronic pulses played backwards. Bill Morrison, Gordon's collaborator on the notable film *Decasia*, created an accompanying film to *Light Is Calling* by reprinting and re-editing a scene from the 1926 silent film, *The Bells*.

Our Saturday concert concludes with a rare solo performance by the great [Oliver Lake](#), the famed New York saxophonist and founder of St. Louis' Black Artists Group (B.A.G.) and the World Saxophone Quartet.

Our Sunday matinee concert will be dedicated entirely to the music of [Meredith Monk](#). Monk will appear with her [Vocal Ensemble](#) to present *Soul's Messenger*, featuring a career-spanning selection of her work dating from 1969 to 2008. This year President Obama honored Monk with the National Medal of Arts for her contributions to broadening our horizons and enriching the field of music. Meredith Monk appeared at the very first Other Minds Festival in 1993.

Before taking to the stage in San Francisco for three days of concerts and panels, the Other Minds composers will assemble privately to share their work and ideas with one another in a pre-festival residency hosted by the [Djerassi Resident Artists Program](#), located in the scenic forested hills of Woodside, CA. Prior to our first two concerts, they'll discuss their work with Amirkhanian in a 7 pm panel discussion on Friday and Saturday. Composers will also donate a signed original page of their music for exhibition and auction in the SFJAZZ lobby. These framed works of art offer yet another level of insight into the language of the creators, as audiences will be able to see the artist's work up close and in their own respective musical fingerprints.

A new documentary 19-minute film on the history of the first two decades of the festival just was released and may be seen on the [otherminds.org](#) home page or on YouTube: "[Other Minds at 20.](#)" Interviews with OM 20 festival participants Pauline Oliveros, Errollyn Wallen, Maja S. K. Ratkje, and Charles Amirkhanian in 2015 are interspersed with footage and photographs from past years (1993-2014) to describe the unique interactions that take place at the annual event, both at the Djerassi Program and at SFJAZZ. The film was produced by Bay Package Productions and funded by the Antonia and Vladimer Kulaev Cultural Heritage Fund.

Full Program Information

Other Minds 21

CONCERT ONE

Friday, March 4th, 2016

7 pm Panel Discussion | 8 pm Concert

CECILIE ORE

Dead Pope on Trial (2015-16, world premiere) 18 min.
 Nordic Voices, six-piece *a cappella* vocal ensemble
 Bibbi Moslet, librettist

LASSE THORESEN

Opus 42 no. 1 Solbøn (2007-08)
Opus 42 no. 3 Himmelske Fader (2009) 25 min.
 Nordic Voices, six-piece *a cappella* vocal ensemble

GAVIN BRYARS

Book Two no. 8: *I'vidi in terra*
 Book Two no. 4: *Poi che voi*
 Book Two no. 10: *Una candida cerva*
 Book Two no. 14: *Morte à spento* (2002)
 Book Four no. 3: *Chi è fermato di menar sua vita* (2015-16, world premiere) 24 min.
 Nordic Voices, six-piece *a cappella* vocal ensemble

—INTERMISSION—

PHIL KLINE

The Algebra of Need (2015-16, world premiere) 25 min.
 Flux Quartet

MICHAEL GORDON

The Sad Park (2006) 30 min.
 Flux Quartet

CONCERT TWO

Saturday, March 5th, 2016

7 pm Panel Discussion | 8 pm Concert

NICOLE LIZÉE

The David Lynch Études (2015, world premiere) 25 min.

Eve Egoyan, Disklavier

JOHN OSWALD

Homonymy (2015, world premiere) 10 min.
Eve Egoyan, Disklavier; Oswald, film

LARRY POLANSKY

ii-v-i (1997) 8 min.
Polansky, guitar; Giacomo Fiore, guitar
Songs (2005) 16 min.
Elliot Simpson, guitar
34 Chords: Christian Wolff in Hanover and Royalton (1995) 3 min.
Polansky, guitar

—INTERMISSION—

MICHAEL GORDON

Light is Calling (2004) 7 min.
Kate Stenberg, violin; Bill Morrison, film

OLIVER LAKE

Solo Saxophone Improvisations 20 min.
Lake, saxophone

CONCERT THREE

Sunday, March 6th, 2016
3 pm Panel Discussion | 4 pm Concert

MEREDITH MONK

The Soul's Messenger
Juice (1969)
Songs from the Hill and Light Songs (1979)
Gotham Lullaby (1980)
Travelling (1980)
Madwoman's Vision (1990)
Choosing Companions (1993)
Hips Dance (1997)
Prayer II (1996)
Scared Song (1986)
Epilogue (1986)
Woman at the Door (2002)
Clusters 3 (2008)
Panda Chant 1 (1984)

Memory Song (1987)

Masks (2002)

Between Song (2008)

Meredith Monk, voice and keyboard; Katie Geissinger, voice; Allison Sniffin, voice and keyboard; Baohdan Hilash, woodwinds

Silent Score Auction

Once again, all of our composers have donated a page of music manuscript that will be on display in the SFJAZZ Center and auctioned to the highest bidder to support the festival. Seeing the musical fingerprints of our participants has long been an integral part of Other Minds' festivals. Not only are these framed pages works of art—they give us a special insight into the musical language of each creator.

About Other Minds

Founded in 1993, Other Minds (www.otherminds.org) is dedicated to the encouragement and propagation of contemporary music in all its forms through concerts, workshops and conferences that bring together artists and audiences of diverse traditions, generations and cultural backgrounds. By fostering cross-cultural exchange and creative dialogue, and by encouraging exploration of areas in new music seldom touched upon by mainstream music institutions, Other Minds is committed to expanding and reshaping the definition of what constitutes "serious music." Since its inception, Other Minds has featured nearly 200 composers from all over the world.

Other Minds, in addition to its annual new music festival, maintains a weekly radio program on KALW-FM ("Music from Other Minds," Friday, 11pm-12 Midnight, (www.kalw.org), a massive online archive of new music radio broadcasts and concert (www.radiOM.org), an internationally-recognized CD label (<http://webstore.otherminds.org/collections/other-minds-records>), and occasional special concerts such as its November 17th West Coast premiere of *A Secret Rose* by Rhys Chatham for 100 electric guitars.

INFORMATION & TICKETS

When:

Friday, March 4, 2016

Saturday, March 5, 2016

7 pm Panel Discussion / 8 pm Performances

Sunday, March 6, 2015

4 pm Performance

Where:

SFJAZZ Center

201 Franklin Street (at Fell Street)

San Francisco, CA 94102

Tickets:

Available Tuesday, December 1, 2015:

www.otherminds.org

Section A - \$75

Section B - \$45

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Section C - \$25

Section D - \$15

≡ * Purchase before January 15th to receive 15% off individual concert tickets by using the code **OMFAM** when checking out.

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