

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The versatile, daring soprano

MELLISSA HUGHES

sings works by masters old and new
in **NEW YORK CITY** this **OCTOBER 2011**

7pm WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 12, 2011

THE BROOKLYN PHILHARMONIC & WYNC NEW SOUNDS LIVE
Preview of David T. Little's new work, *Am I Born*
The Winter Garden at the World Financial Center

7:30pm FRIDAY OCTOBER 14, 2011

SONiC: SOUNDS OF A NEW CENTURY
World Premiere of Alex Temple's *Liebeslied* for voice, electronics & orchestra
Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall

1pm MONDAY OCTOBER 31, 2011

BACH AT ONE, TRINITY BAROQUE ORCHESTRA
J.S. Bach's Solo Cantata, *Mein Herze schwimmt im Blut*, BWV 199
Trinity Wall Street



Photo: Mark Hughes

"...the standout was the versatile soprano Mellissa Hughes, whose dynamic singing and theatrical flair in the concluding song, "The Last Toast," made for an extravagant star turn."

– Steve Smith for THE NEW YORK TIMES, April 18, 2011

WITHIN A SPAN OF THREE WEEKS THIS OCTOBER 2011, the versatile and daring soprano, **MELLISSA HUGHES** sings a preview of a world-premiere work by DAVID T. LITTLE, commissioned by the Brooklyn Youth Chorus and the rebooted BROOKLYN PHILHARMONIC under new Music Director ALAN PIERSON; a world premiere by ALEX TEMPLE for the opening night of SONiC: SOUNDS OF A NEW CENTURY, with AMERICAN COMPOSER ORCHESTRA's ORCHESTRA UNDERGROUND, led by Music Director GEORGE MANAHAN; and J.S. BACH's Solo Cantata *Mein Herze schwimmt in Blut*, BWV 199, as part of Trinity Wall Street's BACH AT ONE service, with members of the TRINITY BAROQUE ORCHESTRA, led by JOHN SCOTT.

Taken together, these concerts offer a striking portrait of a dynamic and fearless artist who serves as muse and collaborative partner to a wide range of composers and musicians in the New York City scene and beyond.

First, on Wednesday, OCTOBER 12, Hughes joins hip-hop legend Mos Def, Corey Dargel, the Brooklyn Youth Chorus and other guests at the Winter Garden at the World Financial Center for a free public preview of the BROOKLYN PHILHARMONIC's 11/12 season, in a performance hosted by JOHN SCHAEFER for WNYC NEW SOUNDS LIVE.

For this preview concert, Hughes sings an excerpt of DAVID T. LITTLE's new work, *Am I Born*, a full-length piece commissioned by the Brooklyn Philharmonic and the Brooklyn Youth Chorus, to be premiered by the ensembles with Ms. Hughes at Roulette in downtown Brooklyn on March 24 and 25, 2012. Written by Mr. Little specifically for Ms. Hughes, *Am I Born* draws on the early American tradition of Sacred Harp singing, and is inspired in part by American painter Francis Guy's 1820 work, *Winter Scene in Brooklyn*. (The painting hangs in the Brooklyn Museum.)

Two days later, at Carnegie Hall's Zankel Hall on Friday, OCTOBER 14, Hughes sings in the opening night of SONiC: SOUNDS OF A NEW CENTURY, a 9-day long celebration of music from the 21ST Century by

composers age 40 and under, produced in partnership by American Composers Orchestra and The Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, and curated by Derek Bermel and Stephen Gosling.

In the opening night program, ORCHESTRA UNDERGROUND 21ST FIRSTS, Hughes will join Orchestra Underground, the ACO's smaller, flexible orchestra embracing electronics and multimedia, and Music Director and Conductor GEORGE MANAHAN, for the world premiere of ALEX TEMPLE's *Liebeslied*, a work for solo soprano, electronics and orchestra, commissioned by the ACO for this event. *Liebeslied* offers a dream-like refraction of popular love songs of the 1940s and 50s, and presents Hughes simultaneously singing and playing electronics, with samples, looping and vocal effects.

Other premieres on the program include works by Kenji Bunch, Christopher Stark, Andreia Pinto-Correia, and Wang Lu.

Finally, on Monday, OCTOBER 31, Hughes ends the month with innovative music of a different era, singing J.S. Bach's solo Cantata BWV 199, *Mein Herze schwimmt im Blut*, with the TRINITY BAROQUE ORCHESTRA led by John Scott, Director of the Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys. The music is part of TRINITY WALL STREET's BACH AT ONE, a weekly service featuring the cantatas of J.S. Bach and the motets of Heinrich Schütz alongside readings by noted contemporary poets.

* * *

Hailed by Time Out New York as a "dazzling diva, adept at old and new music" soprano **MELLISSA HUGHES** enjoys a busy career in both contemporary and early music. A dedicated interpreter of living composers, Ms. Hughes has worked closely with Julia Wolfe, Michael Gordon, David Lang, Steve Reich, Neil Rolnick, and has premiered works by Caleb Burhans, Missy Mazzoli, Ted Hearne, Jacob Cooper, Matt Marks, and Frederick Rzewski.

In the classical concert hall she has performed Mozart's Vespers and Requiem under the baton of Sir Neville Mariner, Handel's Dixit Dominus with Sir David Willcocks, and the role of Dido under the direction of Andrew Lawrence King. Equally at home in front of a rock band, Hughes has received widespread acclaim in her role as lead vocalist of Newspeak, an amplified alt-classical band; "Hughes' wide-ranging and crystal-toned singing defies normal vocal limitations." (NJ Star Ledger)

Recent engagements include multiple performances of Steve Reich's Music for 18 Musicians with Axiom ensemble, eighth blackbird, and an Asian tour with SIGNAL; a recital of contemporary song cycles on the acclaimed Music at First recital series in Brooklyn, and a performance at The Holland Festival at the Musiczebow in Amsterdam of Bryce and Aaron Dessner's multimedia song cycle "The Long Count". She participated in the 2011 Dawn Upshaw/Donnacha Dennehy Workshop at Carnegie Hall, a program tailored for aspiring composers and singers.

Ms. Hughes recorded "Shelter", a video opera by Bang on a Can composers Michael Gordon, Julia Wolfe, and Pulitzer Prize winner David Lang, to be released by Cantelope records. Her discography also includes albums on Nonesuch and New Amsterdam, on which she has been featured on Matt Marks's The Little Death: Vol.1, a Christian nihilist pop-opera; Newspeak's "Sweet Light Crude"; and prominently on "Cathedral City", the debut album of Missy Mazzoli's ensemble, Victoire. She has also provided supporting vocals for My Brightest Diamond, The National and The Breeders.

A regular performer with Alarm Will Sound, The Wordless Music Series, Clarion Music Society, Newspeak, Vox Vocal Ensemble, Signal, The Long Count, Axiom, ACJW, Trinity Wall Street and Ensemble de Sade, Ms. Hughes holds degrees from Westminster Choir College and Yale University.

* * *

www.MELLISSAHUGHES.com

7pm WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 12, 2011
THE BROOKLYN PHILHARMONIC & WYNC NEW SOUNDS LIVE
2011/12 Season preview, David T. Little: *Am I born*
FREE at The Winter Garden at the World Financial Center

7:30pm FRIDAY OCTOBER 14, 2011
Opening Night, SONIC: SOUNDS OF A NEW CENTURY
Alex Temple's *Liebeslied* for voice, electronics and orchestra
Tickets from \$39-\$50, [Zankel Hall](#) at Carnegie Hall

1pm MONDAY OCTOBER 31, 2011
BACH AT ONE service, The Trinity Baroque Orchestra
[Trinity Wall Street](#)

###

FOR PRESS and INTERVIEW INQUIRIES, please contact:

Emily Motherwell, OtherARTS

646.266.6918 • motherwell@otherarts.net

557 W148th Street, New York, NY 10031 www.otherarts.net