

**For Immediate Release:**

On **March 19** in **New York City** at the **Ecstatic Festival**,  
and on **March 21** and **22** in **Saint Paul** for the **SPCO's Liquid Music** series,  
composer/performers

**Timo Andres, Ted Hearne,  
Gabriel Kahane, Nathan Koci and Becca Stevens**

perform the **world premiere**  
of **Timo Andres' new song cycle,**  
**WORK SONGS**

*"What comes through most clearly is the inventiveness and originality of Mr. Andres's own compositional voice."*  
– Allan Kozinn, THE NEW YORK TIMES

*"A fascinating and fast-developing musician."*  
– Larry Ryan, THE INDEPENDENT

*"Kahane and Andres certainly make a great argument, offering a more complete and personal musical portrait of themselves through the music they chose to present."*  
– Anne Midgette, THE WASHINGTON POST



This March, a team of notable young composer/performers led by **Timo Andres** and including **Ted Hearne, Gabriel Kahane, Nathan Koci** and **Becca Stevens**, come together to perform a program of works written by the ensemble featuring the world premiere of a new song cycle by Andres, **Work Songs**.

The program will be performed in New York City on Wednesday, March 19 for the Ecstatic Music Festival, presented by the Kaufman Music Center and on Friday, March 21 and Saturday, March 22 in St. Paul, Minnesota for Liquid Music, a concert series presented by The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

**TIMO ANDRES:** *Work Songs* (world premiere)  
"Art" • "Unemployment"  
"To Whom it May Concern" • "Poet's Work"  
"New Years Rulin's"

**GABRIEL KAHANE:** *Ambassador Hotel*  
*Where are the Arms* • *Bradbury*  
*Black Garden*

BECCA STEVENS: *Our Basement*  
A Contribution to Statistics • 105

TED HEARNE: *Protection*  
*Intimacy and Resistance* • *Crib Dweller*

**NOTE: This listing does not reflect the final performance order.**

This singular project got its start in 2011, when Andres received a commission from Linda and Stuart Nelson to write an unspecified new piece. Unrestricted by a specific ensemble or genre, he chose to write a song cycle for a group of fellow composer/performers with whom he has strong artistic and personal ties.

Andres and Hearne were classmates at the Yale School of Music, and are colleagues in the Sleeping Giant composer collective. Andres and Kahane perform as a duo, writing for one another and performing creative recital programs. Andres and Koci have worked together on a wide range of projects, including performances of Ted Hearne's *Delusion Story*. Andres and Stevens first worked together as ensemble members in Brad Mehldau's *Rock and Roll Dances No. 3*, premiered at Carnegie Hall in 2011.

Written expressly for this gathering of unique, exceptional performer/composers, *Work Songs* is an idiosyncratic meditation on the nature and role of Work within Art inspired in part by Andres' early love of the Fireside Book of Favorite American Songs and featuring lyrics from Herman Melville, Woody Guthrie and others.

Andres explains, "*Artists' working habit have always fascinated me—Matisse sculpting in bed, Charles Ives's Bach-ian eye-opener—not so much for the insight they provide into the actual work, but as an idealized template for how an artist should exist in the world. Work Songs is a collection of thoughts on the creation of art. Some are songs of hardship and complaint, and others are meant to provide comfort, empathy, or possible solutions to problems.*

*"In 'Art': Melville lists the contradictions inherent in its creation (always comforting to think, when frustrations arise, that Herman Melville felt it too). 'Unemployment' describes a musician so burnt-out—artistically, emotionally, financially—that he is unable to hear to the music anymore. 'To Whom it May Concern' gives playful voice to a familiar feeling: that the grass is greener on the other side of the pond (ah, for that progressive, government-sponsored, European grass). 'Poet's Work' is about whittling something down to its essence—a poem pared down to an aphorism, set over a slowly contracting musical process. And finally, Woody Guthrie's list of New Year's resolutions—'Rulin's,' he calls them—are as good and simple advice as anything I've read. Write a song a day. Learn people better. Change bedclothes often.*

The March 19 Ecstatic Music concert will be hosted by WNYC's John Schaefer (streamed live by Q2 and taped for later broadcast on New Sounds Live), and the SPCO dates will be previewed on March 20 by an official SPCO "Composer Conversation" with the artists, hosted by Performance Today's Fred Child, at Amsterdam Bar and Hall in Saint Paul on Thursday, March 20 at 7:00pm.

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**Timo Andres** (b. 1985, Palo Alto, CA) is a composer and pianist who grew up in rural Connecticut, studied at Yale University and now lives in Brooklyn, NY. A Nonesuch Records artist, his newest album, *Home Stretch* has been hailed for its "playful intelligence and individuality," (*The Guardian*) and of his 2010 debut release, *Shy and Mighty*, Alex Ross wrote in *The New Yorker* that "it achieves an unhurried grandeur that has rarely been felt in American music since John Adams came on the scene... more mighty than shy, [Andres] sounds like himself."

New works include a piano quintet for Jonathan Biss and the Elias String Quartet, commissioned and presented by Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam and San Francisco Performances; a solo piano work for Kirill Gerstein, commissioned by the Gilmore Foundation; a new string quartet for the Library of Congress, premiered by the Attacca Quartet; a new piece for yMusic, and a major work for Third Coast Percussion.

As a pianist, Timo's recent performances include solo recitals for Lincoln Center, Wigmore Hall, (le) Poisson Rouge, and San Francisco Performances and a world premiere of selected Philip Glass Etudes, alongside the composer, at the Barbican in London.

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Composer, performer, singer and bandleader **Ted Hearne** (b.1982, Chicago) draws on a wide breadth of native influences, ranging across music's full terrain, to create intense, personal and multi-dimensional works. "No single artist embodies the post-genre Brooklyn scene, but Hearne may be its most zealous auteur." *The Los Angeles Times*

Hearne has written new works for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the European Contemporary Orchestra, A Far Cry, the Albany Symphony and a collaboration with the Brooklyn Philharmonic and hip-hop/soul icon Erykah Badu, for whom he wrote an evening-length work combining new music with arrangements of songs from Badu's 2008 record *New Amerykah: Part One*, premiered in two sold-out performances at BAM. Upcoming commissions include works for eighth blackbird, Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, Yarn/Wire, Volti and The Crossing. Hearne's electronic/vocal duo with Philip White, *R WE WHO R WE*, has earned praise for its radical deconstructions of music from the pop landscape, and his *Katrina Ballads* was named one of the best classical albums of 2010 by The Washington Post.

Ted Hearne attended Manhattan School of Music and Yale School of Music. He lives with his family in Brooklyn, in Fall 2014 will be joining the faculty of University of Southern California as a professor of composition.

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This spring, **Gabriel Kahane** celebrates the release of his debut album for Sony Masterworks, *The Ambassador*, a collection of songs inspired by the architecture and popular culture of Los Angeles. His previous album, *Where are the Arms*, released in 2011, was praised by the New York Times for its "extravagant poise and emotional intelligence."

Kahane has been commissioned by, among others, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Carnegie Hall, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Kronos Quartet, and Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, with whom Gabriel toured last spring performing *Gabriel's Guide to the 48 States*. An avid chamber musician, he has appeared with Brooklyn Rider at Carnegie Hall, at the Library of Congress with fellow composer/performer Timo Andres, and on tour with cellist Alisa Weilerstein. Other collaborations include performances and recordings with Sufjan Stevens, Rufus Wainwright, Chris Thile, Brad Mehldau, Jeremy Denk, and John Adams.

Kahane's musical *February House* received its world premiere production at New York's Public Theater in May 2012; an original cast album was released on StorySound Records.

A fellow of both the MacDowell Colony and Yaddo, Gabriel makes his home in Brooklyn, New York, where he can be found braising unctuous cuts of meat or stumbling through transcriptions of Mahler Symphonies on his century-old piano.

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**Nathan Koci** is a Brooklyn-based musician, composer, and actor from Charleston, South Carolina. He relishes and instigates collaborative music-making as often as he can, be it folk songs, chamber music, jazz, or improvising in various styles. He enjoys a diverse career as a "quirky multi-instrumentalist" (TimeOut NY), performing on the horn and accordion, as well as other keyboard, brass, and strummed stringed instruments. Called a "new-music maven" by TimeOut NY, he has long been an advocate for music by living composers, premiering pieces by Jacob Cooper, Ted Hearne, and Yotam Haber, and working with ensembles Signal, Alarm Will Sound, Ensemble Modern, Bang on a Can, Red Light New Music, Your Bad Self, Wordless Music and the New Music Collective.

As a composer, Koci has composed for theatre (PURE Theatre, *Eurydice*), dance (Anneke Hansen Dance, Terpsicorps Theatre of Dance), and film (National Park Service, Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art), as well as for his own instrumental trio The Opposite of a Train. Koci was last seen in the Twin Cities performing as the Songman in the 1st National Tour of *WarHorse* (National Theatre of Great Britain), and recent theatrical credits include serving as the accordionist and musical director of a new production of *Mother Courage and her Children* at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.

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North Carolina-bred, Brooklyn-based singer/composer/multi-instrumentalist **Becca Stevens** has received copious praise from the likes of *The New York Times*, describing her as "a best-kept secret" and "impressively absorbing."

Drawing upon elements of pop, indie-rock, jazz, and traditional Appalachian folk from her native North Carolina, Stevens has been hailed by the press, her peers and fans alike for her unique ability to craft exquisitely understated compositions both for her own band, and for artists who run the gamut of genre from trumpeter Ambrose Akinmusire, singer Jose James, to pianist Timo Andres. Fluent on guitar, ukulele and charango, Stevens' seamless arrangements embrace inventive textures and idiosyncratic melodic elements, communicated with immense warmth and effortless urgency through her pitch perfect vocals.

Since the release of 2011's *Weightless* (Sunnyside), Stevens has toured the world with her band and also found time to collaborate with Brad Mehldau, Esperanza Spalding, Dave Douglas, and a band with Rebecca Martin and Gretchen Parlato

called Tillery – to name a few. 2014 will see the highly anticipated follow up to Weightless with a new record of originals and covers produced by engineer Scott Solter and mixed by Matt Pence as well as a featured track on a forthcoming Laura Nyro tribute record produced by Grammy-winner Larry Klein.

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**Liquid Music** is a new concert series presented by The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra that seeks to expand the world of classical music through innovative new projects, boundary-defying artists, and unique presentation formats. Liquid Music performances invite adventurous audiences of all ages to discover the new and the fascinating among the kaleidoscopic landscape of classical music today. [www.thespco.org/liquidmusic](http://www.thespco.org/liquidmusic)

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**Kaufman Music Center's Ecstatic Music Festival** returns for a fourth season of adventurous collaborative concerts bringing together performers and composers from across the sonic spectrum for highly unique and utterly original collaborations. See some of today's most compelling musicians working together in exciting new combinations, exploring new territory and branching out in fresh, unexpected directions.

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**Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 7:30pm**

Merkin Concert Hall  
129 W. 67th Street  
New York, NY 10023

[boxoffice@kaufmanmusiccenter.org](mailto:boxoffice@kaufmanmusiccenter.org)

Single Tickets \$25, Ecstatic Festival "It's Your Music" 2-concert pass \$20 per concert

[www.kaufmancenter.org](http://www.kaufmancenter.org)

**Thursday, March 20, 7pm**

Composer Conversations from the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra  
Hosted by Fred Child of Performance Today

Amsterdam Bar & Hall  
6 W. 6th Street

Saint Paul, MN 55102

Free, with Reservations, 651.291.1144

**Friday, March 21 and Saturday, March 22, 8pm**

The Music Room at SPCO Center  
In the Historic Hamm Building  
408 Saint Peter Street, Third Floor  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Tickets, \$10 adult, \$5 children, 651.291.1144

[thespco.org](http://thespco.org)

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[andres.com](http://andres.com)

[tedhearne.com](http://tedhearne.com)

[gabrielkahane.tumblr.com](http://gabrielkahane.tumblr.com)

[nathankoci.wordpress.com](http://nathankoci.wordpress.com)

[beccastevens.com](http://beccastevens.com)

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