

symphonyspace

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact: Heidi Riegler
heidi@rieglermedia.net
347.513.5047

TANIA LEÓN NAMED AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE MONTH-LONG COMPOSERS NOW FESTIVAL

OPENING WITH THE THIRD ANNUAL MUSIC OF NOW MARATHON FEBRUARY 4 AT SYMPHONY SPACE AND RUNNING THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2012

New York, NY (January 12, 2012) – Symphony Space names composer **Tania León** as Artistic Director of the *Composers Now Festival*, the acclaimed city-wide, multi-institution, month-long music event that highlights today's composers.

A vital personality on today's music scene, León is highly regarded as a composer and conductor recognized for her accomplishments as an educator and advisor to arts organizations. León "has distinguished herself as a proponent of music without category beyond a standard of excellence," remarked long-time music commentator Howard Mandel in an article for *Ear Magazine*.

"We are thrilled that Tania is heading the *Composers Now* festival as Artistic Director," says Laura Kaminsky, Artistic Director, Symphony Space. "Tania is a multi-faceted musician and an international figure in the music world. She has carved a niche for herself in contemporary music as a composer, conductor, and music director. Her enthusiasm for contemporary composers will shape the festival, introducing compelling new work and amazing music-makers."

According to León, "Three years ago, in chatting with my fellow composer Laura Kaminsky, we lamented the fact that composers, who are obviously so vital to the music-making process, are often completely invisible to audiences." This conversation led to the realization of a longtime dream of Kaminsky and León – the inauguration of a festival spotlighting all manner of living composers.

Symphony Space, under the artistic leadership of Laura Kaminsky, who has recently earned Symphony Space a CMA/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming, has been making a name for itself as a pioneering institution committed to advancing contemporary composers and performers under the banner of "The Music of Now."

The *Composers Now* festival begins with the annual *Music of Now Marathon* on February 4 at Symphony Space, starting at 4pm and ending around midnight, hosted by WQXR's Terrance McKnight. The marathon features nearly 100 composers and musicians.

The festival continues with concerts throughout the month of February at over thirty institutions including Park Avenue Armory, the Kitchen, American Composers Orchestra, JazzMobile, the Asia Society, Dance Theater of Harlem, Juilliard School of Music, Americas Society, Columbia University, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Harlem Stage, Manhattan School of Music, New York University, Casita Maria, International Contemporary Ensemble, Brooklyn College, Copland House, Mannes College of Music, Ne(x)tworks, Interpretations 23, American Opera Projects, Greenwich House, the Harlem School of the Arts, CUNY Graduate Center, HERE Arts Center, the Tank, the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance, Galapagos Art Space, Encompass New Opera Theatre, Flushing Town Hall, Streaming Museum, and more.

For all *Composers Now* events, see schedule below or go to www.composers-now.org

ABOUT TANIA LEÓN

Tania León, (b. Havana, Cuba) is highly regarded as a composer and conductor and recognized for her accomplishments as an educator and advisor to arts organizations. She has been profiled on ABC, CBS, CNN, PBS, Univision, Telemundo, and independent films.

León's opera *Scourge of Hyacinths*, based on a play by Wole Soyinka with staging and design by Robert Wilson, received over 20 performances throughout Europe and Mexico. Commissioned by Hans Werner Henze and the city of Munich for the Fourth Munich Biennale, it took home the coveted BMW Prize. The aria "*Oh Yemanjá*" ("Mother's Prayer") was recorded by Dawn Upshaw on her Nonesuch CD, "The World So Wide."

Commissions include works for the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, New World Symphony, Koussevitzky Foundation, Fest der Kontinente (Hamburg, Germany), Cincinnati Symphony, NEA, NDR Sinfonie Orchester, American Composers Orchestra, The Library of Congress, Ensemble Modern, The Los Angeles Master Chorale, and The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, among others.

Her works have been performed by such orchestras as the Gewandhaus Orchester, L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, the China National Symphony, and the NDR Orchestra. She has collaborated with authors and directors including John Ashbury, Margaret Atwood, Rita Dove, Jamaica Kincaid, Mark Lamos, Julie Taymor, and Derek Walcott.

León has appeared as guest conductor with the Symphony Orchestra and Chorus of Marseille, the Orquesta Sinfonica de Asturias, L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Orquesta Filarmonica de Bogota, the Gewandhaus

Orchester, Chamber Orchestra of Geneva, Switzerland, Symphony Orchestra of Johannesburg, South Africa, as well as the Orquesta de la Comunidad y Coro de Madrid, and the New York Philharmonic, among others.

She has lectured at Harvard University and at the prestigious Mosse Lecture series at the University of Humboldt in Berlin. She was also Visiting Professor at Yale University and Guest Composer/Conductor at the Hamburg Musik Schule, Germany and the Beijing Central Conservatory, China.

A founding member of the Dance Theatre of Harlem, León instituted the Brooklyn Philharmonic Community Concert Series, co-founded the *Sonidos de las Américas* festivals with the American Composers Orchestra, and the *Composers Now* festival in New York City. She also served as Latin American Advisor to the American Composers Orchestra and New Music Advisor to the New York Philharmonic.

Her honors include the New York Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Fromm, Guggenheim Fellowships, and Symphony Space's Access to the Arts Award. León has also received Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Colgate University, Oberlin, and SUNY Purchase College, and has served as U.S. Artistic Ambassador of American Culture in Madrid, Spain. A Professor at Brooklyn College since 1985, she was named Distinguished Professor of the City University of New York in 2006. In 2010 she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

ABOUT SYMPHONY SPACE

Symphony Space traces its beginnings to a free marathon concert, Wall to Wall Bach, held in 1978 and organized by Isaiah Sheffer and Alan Miller. The music marathon then drew hundreds of visitors and has since become one of the organization's signature events. Today, Symphony Space presents over 600 events during a year, including music, dance, theater, film, and literary readings.

Some of its best known programs include *Selected Shorts*, a reading of short stories hosted by Isaiah Sheffer, one of the most popular series on the airwaves; the Thalia Follies, one of the funniest and most engaging political cabarets presented in the city; the Thalia Film Club, a trendy film club hosted by Marshall Fine, featuring pre-release screenings and behind-the-scenes conversations with film stars; and *Just Kidding*, one of the most popular family entertainments around town, and, more recently, *The Music of Now*, presenting an eclectic range of music in all styles and sensibilities, focusing on emerging artists, unusual work, and much more.

Symphony Space
95th Street and Broadway
Box Office Phone: (212) 864-5400
Website: www.symphonyspace.org

###

For press information, contact:
Heidi Riegler
RIEGLER MEDIA | MARKETING
347.513.5047
heidi@rieglermedia.net
www.rieglermedia.net

symphonyspace

COMPOSERS NOW FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Feb 1st-29th

Notations 21

Streaming Museum

<http://www.streamingmuseum.org/news/streaming-museums-centennial-tribute-to-john-cage-opens-february-4/>

Feb 4th, 4PM

Music of Now Marathon

Symphony Space

Symphonyspace.org

Feb 5th, 1PM-7PM

Music of Now Marathon

The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center

mahaiwe.org

Feb 5th, 8:30pm & 11:00pm

Arturo O'Farrill & The Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra

Afro Latin Jazz Alliance

afrolatinjazz.org

Feb 6th, 7:30PM

Dolce Suono Ensemble

Symphony Space

Symphonyspace.org

Feb 6th, 7:00pm

American Cosmology: A Concert of American Works on the Sky and the Cosmos

Americas Society

<http://www.americas-society.org/>

Feb 7th & 8th 8:30PM

Feb 8th, 5:30PM: Free Reading of Full Libretto

Culturemart 2012

HERE Arts Center in association with American Opera Projects

<http://www.here.org/shows/detail/818/>

Feb 9th, 8:00PM

Meklit Hadero

Baryshnikov Arts Center

bacnyc.org

February 9th, 8:00PM
 Thomas Buckner performs
 Annea Lockwood, Narong Prangcharoen, Kit Young, & Anne Guthrie
 Interpretations 23
[Interpretations.info](http://interpretations.info)

Feb 10th and 11th, 7:30PM and 9:30PM
 Jose James
 Harlem Stage
www.HarlemStage.org

Feb 11th, 3:00PM
 ICElab Workshop at BACIMusic of Juan Pablo Carreño and Carlos Iturralde
 Baryshnikov Arts Center
iceorg.org

Feb 11th, 8:00PM
 Las Américas en Concierto
 Mannes College of Music
<http://www.newschool.edu/mannes/>

Feb. 12th, 3:00PM
 Music and dance featuring a performance of *Homenatge* by Tania Leon
 performed by Adam Kent with choreography by Pedro Ruiz
 Dance Theatre of Harlem
www.dancetheatreofharlem.org

Feb 13th, 7:30PM
 Student Composers' Concert
 Manhattan School of Music
<http://www.msmnyc.edu/>

Feb 15th, 8:00PM
 Faculty Composers, spring 2012
 Mannes College The New School for Music
<http://www.newschool.edu/mannes/>

Feb 18th, 2:00PM
 DEMETRIUS SPANEAS, Composer-in-Residence
 Flushing Town Hall
www.flushingtownhall.org

Feb 18th, 3:00PM
 ICElab Workshop at BAC I Music of Lisa Coons
 Baryshnikov Arts Center
iceorg.org

Feb 19th, 1:30PM
 New Music from Mannes Faculty and Alumni 2012
 Mannes College The New School for Music
<http://www.newschool.edu/mannes/>

Feb 20th, 8:00PM
 Dangerous Crossings
 Copland House
www.coplandhouse.org

Feb 22nd, 7:30PM
 Footprints: A Humanities Discussion on the
 Innovation and Impact of A Tribe Called Quest
 Harlem Stage
www.HarlemStage.org

Feb 22nd, 8:00PM
 College Division Student Composers 2011-2012, Concert 2
 Mannes College The New School for Music
<http://www.newschool.edu/mannes/>

Feb 23rd, 7:30pm
 The Singing Garden Grew
 Ear Heart Music
thetanknyc.org

Feb 23rd, 7:30PM
 A Tribe Called Quest Tribute featuring
 the Revive Da Live Big Band
 Harlem Stage
www.HarlemStage.org

Feb 23rd, 7:30PM
 Guitar Plus: Music of David Leisner
 Symphony Space
Symphonyspace.org

Feb 24th, 7:30PM
 MSM Composers' Orchestra: David Gilbert, Conductor
 Manhattan School of Music
<http://www.msmnyc.edu/>

Feb 24th-25th, 8PM
 Missy Mazzoli: Song from the Uproar—
 The Lives & Deaths Of Isabelle Eberhardt
 The Kitchen
thekitchen.org/

Feb 25th, 2-4PM
 SCATTERED WIND
 Flushing Town Hall
www.flushingtownhall.org

Feb 25th, 2-4pm
 Composing Jazz: A Multi-generational Conversation
 Jazzmobile
Jazzmobile.org

Feb 25th, 7:30PM
 Music Without Dance Festival/North River Dance
 Greenwich House Music School
http://www.greenwichhouse.org/music_school/index

Feb 25th, 8:00PM
 Hoichi the Earless- from 'Kwaidan' Ghost Story
 Asia Society
<http://asiasociety.org/new-york>

Feb 25th, 8:00PM
 Composers Out Front, sponsored by the American Composers Orchestra
 University Settlement
<http://www.publiquartet.com/composers-out-front/>

Feb 26th, 12:00PM
 Tune-In Music Festival: Afternoon Concert
 Park Avenue Armory
www.armoryonpark.org

Feb 26th, 1:30PM
 Student Recital - Michael Weinstein-Reiman and Sam Young, composers
 Mannes College The New School for Music
<http://www.newschool.edu/mannes/>

Feb 26th, 6:00PM Panel Discussion, 7:30PM Concert
 Music Without Dance Festival/North River Dance
 Greenwich House Music School
http://www.greenwichhouse.org/music_school/index

Feb 27th, 8:00PM
 Jeffrey Milarsky Conducts the Student Composers' Concert
 The Juilliard School
<http://www.juilliard.edu/>

Feb 27th, 8:00pm
 Winter Composers' Concert - The Role of the Composer in Society
 Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College, CUNY
<http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/php/calendar.php>

Feb 27th, 8:00pm
[Morton Feldman's The Viola in My Life](#)
 Symphony Space
 Symphonyspace.org

Feb 27th, 8:00pm
[NYU Symphony Orchestra - David Byrne's The Forest](#)
 Symphony Space
 Symphonyspace.org

Feb 28th, 7:30PM
Jazz Student Composers' Chamber Concert
Manhattan School of Music
<http://www.msmnyc.edu/>

All Composers Now events are posted on the web site: www.composers-now.org