



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAP UCLA presents
Meredith Monk
Cellular Songs

March 2 at Royce Hall



"At once visceral and ethereal, raw and rapt, Monk's works banish the spurious complexities of urban life and reveal a kind of underground civilization, one that sings, dances, and meditates on timeless forces." —*The New Yorker*

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) presents Meredith Monk's *Cellular Songs* on Saturday, March 2, at 8 p.m. at Royce Hall. Tickets for \$29–\$59 are available now at cap.ucla.edu, 310-825-2101 and Royce Hall box office.

If voice had the power to be limitless, Meredith Monk has explored its great depths. Hailed as a pioneer in extended vocal technique, Monk's newest work, *Cellular Songs*, is the latest in her series of music theater pieces that explore our interdependent relationship with nature. Monk draws inspiration from such cellular activity as layering, replication, division and mutation to discover how biological processes can serve as a prototype for human behavior in our tumultuous world.

In 1978 Monk founded Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble to expand her musical textures and forms. She will be joined by the women of her ensemble for *Cellular Songs* to offer her most adventurous vocal music to date, paired with movement, light, instrumental music, film and a site-specific video installation. Not only has Monk performed with high praise and accolades for more than 50 years, she continues to prove her vitality as an artist with each performance.

Celebrated internationally, Monk's work has been presented at major venues throughout the world. In conjunction with her 50th Season of creating and performing, she was appointed the 2014-15 Richard and Barbara Debs Composer's Chair at Carnegie Hall. Recently Monk received two of the highest honors bestowed to a living artist in the United States—the 2017 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize and a 2015 National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama.

Funds for this performance provided by Fariba Ghaffari and the National Endowment for the Arts Challenge Grant Endowment.

CAP UCLA's contemporary classical offerings continue with Nico Muhly: *Archives, Friends, Patterns* (May 10, The Theatre at Ace Hotel).

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAP UCLA presents

[Meredith Monk: *Cellular Songs*](#)

Saturday, March 2 at 8 p.m.

Royce Hall, UCLA

10745 Dickson Court, Los Angeles, CA 90095

Program: Legendary composer Meredith Monk has spent more than five decades exploring and expanding the capacity of that most essential instrument — the human voice. *Cellular Songs* is the newest in a series of her music theater pieces that explore our interdependent relationship with nature while seeking to evoke the ineffable.

Tickets:

Single tickets: \$29–\$59

Online: cap.ucla.edu

UCLA Central Ticket Office: 310-825-2101, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Royce Hall box office: open 90 minutes prior to the event start time.

Artists website: [Meredith Monk](#)

About MEREDITH MONK

Meredith Monk is a composer, singer, director/choreographer and creator of new opera, music-theater, site-specific works, films and installations. 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" and "interdisciplinary performance". 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. Over the last six decades, Ms. Monk has been hailed as "a magician of the voice" and "one of America's coolest composers". 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*. Monk's music has also been featured in films by Jean-Luc Godard, the Coen Brothers and Terrence Malick. Since graduating Sarah Lawrence College in 1964, Monk has received eight Honorary Doctor of Arts Degrees. Her numerous 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. More recently, Monk was 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. Her work continues to tour to major venues throughout the world.

About CAP UCLA

[UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance](#) (CAP UCLA) is dedicated to the advancement of the contemporary performing arts in all disciplines — dance, music, spoken word and theater, as well as emerging digital, collaborative and cross-platforms — by leading artists from around the globe. Part of UCLA's School of the Arts and Architecture, CAP UCLA curates and facilitates direct exposure to artists who are creating extraordinary works of art and fosters a vibrant learning community both on and off the UCLA campus. The organization invests in the creative process by providing artists with financial backing and time to experiment and expand their practices through strategic partnerships and collaborations. As an influential voice within the local, national and global arts communities, CAP UCLA connects this generation to the next in order to preserve a living archive of our culture. CAP UCLA is also a safe harbor where cultural expression and artistic exploration can thrive, giving audiences the opportunity to experience real life through characters and stories on stage, and giving artists an avenue to challenge assumptions and advance new ways of seeing and understanding the world we live in now.

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