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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tickets & Information: www.nyfos.org

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“What NYFOS continuously proves is that after three or four hundred years, words, music, a voice, and a keyboard are still the most powerful thing out there. We hope not to disprove that tonight.”

— composer Phil Kline

NEW YORK FESTIVAL OF SONG (NYFOS)

Steven Blier, Artistic Director • Michael Barrett, Associate Artistic Director

presents

“NYFOS NEXT: PHIL KLINE & FRIENDS”

May 3, 2011 at 7:00PM

**Featuring music by COREY DARGEL, PHIL KLINE, DAVID LANG,
MEREDITH MONK, ELLIOTT SHARP**

Performers include

Sopranos KATHERINE DAIN & LAUREN WORSHAM

Bass MATT BOEHLER • Vocalist COREY DARGEL

Pianist KATHLEEN SUPOVÉ • Violinist TODD REYNOLDS • Cellist ASHLEY BATHGATE

Presented on The Movado Hour series by the Baryshnikov Arts Center

Howard Gilman Performance Space

450 West 37th Street betw 9th and 10th Avenues

Admission: FREE (reservations required; call 212-868-4444)

NYFOS Next is a new mini-series hosted and curated by today's progressive composers

“Kline has graduated from ‘experimental’ to ‘original’—he’s one of America’s most important compositional voices, thanks to his burning urge to communicate...” — David Patrick Stearns, Philadelphia Inquirer

On **Tuesday, May 3 at 7:00pm**, the **New York Festival of Song (NYFOS)** closes its 2010-11 season with *NYFOS Next: PHIL KLINE & FRIENDS*, as part of The Movado Hour at the Baryshnikov Arts Center. Kline, who hosts the evening, has curated an hour of songs by such diverse talents as **David Lang, Elliott Sharp, Corey Dargel, and Meredith Monk**. All composers are expected to attend.

NYFOS Next is the latest innovation from NYFOS, focusing on contemporary songs that defy easy categorization and redefine the boundaries of the song genre. The two-part mini-series bookends NYFOS’s popular thematic series at Merkin Hall. *NYFOS Next*’s debut show featured *Gabriel Kahane & Friends*.

Phil Kline and Friends features three generations of New York musical pioneers ranging from the legendary and inimitable **Meredith Monk**, one of the true founders of the Downtown aesthetic, to Brooklyn muse **Corey Dargel**, whose songs are at once mirthful and macabre. In between are Bang on a Can co-founder and Pulitzer Prize winner **David Lang**, whose elegant post-minimalism both rocks and elevates; guitar improv genius and composer **Elliott Sharp**, who perhaps represents the very soul of Downtown; and **Phil Kline**, whose deceptively accessible music manages to subvert tradition even while honoring it.

A few highlights of the May 3 program include Meredith Monk's wordless *Prayer*; Corey Dargel's catalog of medical anomalies from his song cycle about voluntary amputation, *Removable Parts*; David Lang's Old Testament groove, *My Enemy's Ox*; and Kline's devastating setting of Hunter S. Thompson's suicide note, *Football Season is Over*.

NYFOS Next is presented by **The Movado Hour**, a series of free hour-long concerts that take place in an intimate, salon-like setting. It is one of three ground-breaking initiatives for NYFOS in its 23rd season, along with *Bastianello / Lucrezia*, a 2-disc CD release on Bridge Records featuring the two operas NYFOS commissioned from John Musto and William Bolcom; and *No Song is Safe From Us*, a nationally syndicated radio series produced by Chicago's famed WFMT and hosted by **Frederica von Stade**, which debuted in January 2011.

Phil Kline is a strikingly original composer who has broken new ground in many genres and contexts. Whether it's writing experimental electronic music (*Unsilent Night*), creating sound installations (*World on a String*), or composing in such traditional forms as song (*Zippo Songs*), choral (*John the Revelator*), theater (*Locus Solus*), and chamber music (*The Blue Room*), Kline is a musical tightrope walker working without a net.

Admission to Movado Hour concerts is free of charge. Reservations are required and may be made April 26, one week prior to the concert date: 212-868-4444 or www.smarttix.com. Tickets are available on a first-come-first-served basis. There is a two-ticket limit per customer. Doors open at 6:00PM.

Program for NYFOS Next: Phil Kline and Friends on May 3, 2011

David Lang

I Had No Reason (from *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field*) for soprano and violin; text by Ambrose Bierce (New York premiere)

I Want to Live (from *Shelter*) for three sopranos; text by David Lang

I Found My Enemy's Ox (from *Lost Objects*) for two altos, violin, cello, and piano 3 hands; text by Deborah Artman

Meredith Monk

Prayer II (from *The Politics of Quiet*) for soprano and piano; wordless text

Corey Dargel

Toes

Hooked for Life

Sincerely Yours

(all from *Removable Parts: songs about love and voluntary amputation* and for voice and piano); texts by Corey Dargel

Elliott Sharp

No Time Like the Stranger for soprano, violin, cello, piano; text by Elliott Sharp (New York premiere)

Phil Kline

Somewhere Around Barstow for bass, soprano, piano; text by Hunter S. Thompson (world premiere)

A Strange World for bass and piano; text by Hunter S. Thompson (world premiere)

Football Season is Over for bass, violin, cello and piano; text by Hunter S. Thompson

To Make a Prairie for three sopranos, bass, violin, cello and piano; text by Emily Dickinson (world premiere)

Performers:

Katherine Dain, soprano

Lauren Worsham, soprano

Matt Boehler, bass

Corey Dargel, vocals

Ashley Bathgate, cello

Todd Reynolds, violin

Kathleen Supové, piano

One more soprano TBA

PHIL KLINE BIO

“Magic was happening as you sat there. Here was a real original.”

– *The New York Times*

Phil Kline makes music in many genres and contexts, from experimental electronics and sound installations to songs, choral, theater, chamber and orchestral music.

Raised in Akron, Ohio, he came to New York to study English Literature at Columbia. After graduation, he joined the downtown New York arts scene: founding the rock band The Del-Byzanteens with Jim Jarmusch and James Nares, collaborating with Nan Goldin on the soundtrack to *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency*, and playing guitar in the notorious Glenn Branca Ensemble.

His early compositions grew out of his solo performance art and often used boombox tape players as a medium, most notably in the Christmas piece *Unsilent Night*, which debuted in the streets of Greenwich Village in 1992 and is now performed annually in cities around the world.

Other compositions include *Zippo Songs*, a song cycle based on poems Vietnam vets inscribed on their Zippo lighters, *The Blue Room and Other Stories*, written for string quartet Ethel, and *Exquisite Corpses*, commissioned by the Bang on a Can All-Stars.

More recent works include the choral Mass *John the Revelator*, written for vocal group Lionheart; a piano sonata, *The Long winter*, written for Sarah Cahill; and scores for three evening-length dance pieces by Wally Cardona: *Everywhere*, *Site* and *Really Real*. The sound installation *World on a String* opened the season at the Krannert Center in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, in September 2007 and *SPACE* for string quartet and electronics was performed by Ethel at the gala reopening of Alice Tully Hall in 2009.

2011 sees the premieres of *A Dream and its Opposite*, written for the La Jolla Symphony Orchestra, and *Canzona a due Cuori*, commissioned by the St. Luke’s Chamber Ensemble. Kline is currently working on an opera, *Tesla in New York*, in collaboration with writer-director Jim Jarmusch. His music is available on the Cantaloupe, CRI and Starkland labels.

ADDITIONAL LINKS

Michael Barrett

http://www.nyfos.org/bios/Barrett_Michael.php

Baryshnikov Arts Center

<http://www.bacnyc.org/>

Ashley Bathgate

<http://www.ashleybathgate.net/>

Steven Blier

http://www.nyfos.org/bios/Blier_Steven.php

Matt Boehler

<http://www.mattboehler.com/>

Katherine Dain

http://www.katharinedain.com/KATHARINE_DAIN_SOPRANO/home.html

Corey Dargel

<http://www.coreydargel.com/>

Phil Kline

<http://www.philkline.com/>

David Lang

<http://www.davidlangmusic.com/>

Meredith Monk

<http://www.meredithmonk.org/>

New York Festival of Song

<http://www.nyfos.org/>

Todd Reynolds

<http://toddreynolds.wordpress.com/>

Elliott Sharp

<http://www.panix.com/~esharp/>

Kathleen Supové

<http://www.supove.com/>

"New York Festival of Song is the most important nucleus of contemporary song in the world." — Ned Rorem

For further information, press tickets, photos, and to arrange interviews,
please contact Aleba Gartner Associates at 212/206-1450 or a@alebagartner.com.

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