

Meredith Monk with Katie Geissinger and Allison Sniffin in Concert



La Biennale di Venezia

Arte
Architettura
Cinema
Danza
Musica
Teatro
Archivio Storico

Saturday, October 18, 2025 8 pm
Teatro Malibran, Venice, Italy

PERFORMERS

Meredith Monk *voice, keyboard*

Katie Geissinger *voice*

Allison Sniffin *voice, violin, keyboard*

PROGRAM

Wa-lie-oh

from *Songs from the Hill* (1975-1976)

Click Song #1

from *Light Songs* (1988)

Hips Dance

from *Volcano Songs: Duets* (1993)

Gotham Lullaby (1975)

Choosing Companions

from *ATLAS: an opera
in three parts* (1991)

Selections from *Cellular Songs* (2018)

Scared Song (1986)

Prayer I

from *The Politics of Quiet* (1996)

Simple Sorrow (2020)

Panda Chant I

from *The Games* (1984)

Memory Song

from *The Games* (1984)

masks

from *mercy* (2001)

Happy Woman

from *Cellular Songs* (2018)

Simple Sorrow

Simple sorrow

Sitting alone

Eating alone

Walking alone

Dying alone

Sitting alone

Thinking alone

Walking alone

Dying alone

Don't give up

Memory Song

I remember mushrooms

I remember candlelight

I remember early morning coffee

I remember fish

Ich erinnere mich an das tisch gebet

(I remember saying grace)

I remember newspapers

I remember a black Suzuki

Je pense à mon lit (I think of my bed)

I remember rain

I remember aspirin

I am thinking of Shakespeare's garden

Happy Woman

Oh, I'm a Happy

Hungry

Tender

Thinking

Sassy

Patient

Thieving

Grieving

Shaky

Lucky

Needy

Greedy

Quiet

Angry

Honest

Lying

Dying

Tired

Reckless

Scrappy

Happy Woman

The Tale

I still have my hands

I still have my mind

I still have my money

I still have my telephone

Hello, hello, hello?

I still have my memory

I still have my gold ring, beautiful, I love it

I still have my allergies

I still have my philosophy

The program is approximately 1 hour
15 minutes with no intermission

Program subject to change

All compositions and words by
Meredith Monk © Meredith Monk
Music / ASCAP

Lighting Design: Joe Levasseur

Sound Design: Eli Walker

Costumes by threeASFOUR

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Meredith Monk is a composer, singer, and creator of new opera, music-theater 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 Monk has received numerous awards and honors including a MacArthur Fellowship, Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters from the Republic of France, induction into the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize, and a National Medal of Arts. She has also been hailed as one of National Public Radio’s 50 Great Voices and “one of America’s coolest composers”. Celebrated internationally, her work has been presented at major venues throughout the world.

Monk has recorded with the ECM New Series label since 1981 and was recently honored with a 13-disc box set of her work, *Meredith Monk: The Recordings*, in celebration of her 80th birthday, which includes the 2008 GRAMMY® nominated *impermanence*. In addition to numerous vocal pieces, music-theater works and operas, she has created vital new repertoire for orchestra, chamber ensembles and solo instruments. Her music has also been featured in films by Terrence Malick, Jean-Luc Godard, David Byrne and the Coen Brothers. Selected scores of her work are available through Boosey & Hawkes. She is also the subject of two books of interviews: *Conversations with Meredith Monk*, by arts critic and *Performing Arts Journal* editor Bonnie Marranca, and *Une voix mystique*, by French author Jean-Louis Tallon.

From Fall 2023 to Spring 2024, *Meredith Monk. Calling*, her first European retrospective exhibition, was realized as a collaboration between Oude Kerk Amsterdam with Hartwig Art Foundation, and Haus der Kunst München. A catalogue of interviews, essays, previously unpublished archival material and documentation of the exhibitions was published in Fall 2024. Recently Monk celebrated her 60th Performance Season with a series of concerts, residencies and special events centered in New York City, including the North American premiere of *Indra’s Net*, her third work in a trilogy exploring our interdependent relationship with nature. She is honored to receive this year’s Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement in Music at the Venice Biennale.

Katie Geissinger has been performing with Meredith Monk since 1990, in concert and theater works including *ATLAS* (Houston Grand Opera), *The Politics of Quiet* (BESSIE winner), *WEAVE* (St. Louis Symphony), the GRAMMY-nominated *impermanence*, and most recently *Indra’s Net* at the Park Avenue Armory. Geissinger premiered *Bang* on a Can’s OBIE Award-winning *The Carbon Copy Building* and performed in the second world tour of Philip Glass and Robert Wilson’s *Einstein on the Beach*. She has also appeared in Jonathan Miller’s staged productions of Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion* and Steve Reich’s *Music for Eighteen* at BAM, in John Tavener’s *The Veil of the Temple* at Lincoln Center, and in Ann Hamilton’s *the event of a thread*, with music by David Lang, at the Park Avenue Armory. Geissinger’s Broadway credits include Baz Luhrmann’s production of *La Bohème* and *Coram Boy*, and she has appeared off-Broadway in many Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. She has premiered many new music theater pieces, including works by Mark Mulcahy, Ben Katchor, Philip Miller, Julia Wolfe, Aaron Siegel, Marisa Michelson, John Kelly, and Anne Bogart.

Allison Sniffin has been a member of Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble since 1996, performing in *The Politics of Quiet*, *A Celebration Service*, *Magic Frequencies*, *mercy*, *Turtle Dreams*, *Book of Days* (concert version), *impermanence*, *Songs of Ascension*, *On Behalf of Nature*, *Cellular Songs*, and *Indra’s Net*. With Meredith Monk she has orchestrated *Possible Sky*, *Night*, *WEAVE*, *Realm Variations*, *Backlight* and *Indra’s Net*. She has arranged Monk’s music for *Bang* on a Can All-Stars and Alarm Will Sound, edited two albums of her piano music, and prepared many of her works for publication. Sniffin is also a composer and has received grants from Meet the Composer and Concert Artists Guild. She is a frequent arranger/orchestrator for The Stonewall Chorale and Melodia Women’s Choir NYC and serves as organist at St. Paul’s Church in Englewood NJ and at Temple Sha’aray Tefila in New York City.

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Joe Levasseur (lighting design) has collaborated with many artists including: Pavel Zuštiak/Palissimo, John Jasperse, Sarah Michelson, Jodi Melnick, Jennifer Monson, Neil Greenberg, and Beth Gill. He lit both Wendy Whelan's 2013 breakout *Restless Creature* and her subsequent collaboration with Brian Brooks, *Some of a Thousand Words* (2016). He has received two 'Bessie' awards (including one with Big Dance Theater) and a Knight of Illumination Award for his work on Meredith Monk's *Cellular Songs*. When not designing, Levasseur also engages in a visual art practice.

Eli Walker (sound design) has worked in sound production for almost two decades, both as a studio and live engineer. Over the last few years he has toured extensively with Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble. He's also worked in various roles as a designer, tech, monitor engineer and FOH engineer for Hall & Oates, Yo-Yo Ma & Silkroad Ensemble, Jay-Z, Natalie Merchant, Thomas Rhett, Florence & The Machine, Lisa Hannigan, The National, Mandy Patinkin, Stevie Wonder and many others.

threeASFOUR (costumes) is a trio of transnational artists based in New York City who use fashion as their primary medium. Founded in 2005 by Gabriel Asfour (b. Lebanon), Angela Donhauser (b. U.S.S.R) and Adi Gil (b. Israel), the collective has built a legacy of fusing cutting-edge technology with traditional craftsmanship to create clothing at the intersection of fashion and art. Drawing their core aesthetic from the universal languages of sacred geometry, threeASFOUR is devoted to the creative exploration of themes of consciousness and cultural coexistence.

Sarah Lerner (Executive Director) has spent over ten years helping businesses run and supporting artists in the creation, development and exhibition of their work. Her roles have included Director of Operations, fellowship administrator, workshop coordinator, event producer and festival programmer for previous employers including UnionDocs, Women Make Movies and Northside Media Group. She is a graduate of the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at NYU.

Meredith Monk/The House Foundation

260 West Broadway, Suite 2
New York, NY 10013
212.904.1330
monk@meredithmonk.org
www.meredithmonk.org
facebook.com/meredithmonk
X @meredith_monk
Instagram @meredithmonk

Sarah Lerner, *Executive Director*
Cat Beckstrand, *General Manager*
Peter Sciscioli, *Communications/
Education Consultant*
Shy Adelman, *Media Manager*
Charles Hagaman, *Production Manager*

Incorporated in 1971, The House Foundation for the Arts is a nonprofit organization with a mission to cultivate cultural engagement through live music concerts, interdisciplinary performances, exhibitions and educational initiatives. The House Foundation develops, disseminates, promotes and preserves the work of iconic American artist Meredith Monk and members of Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble.

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