

CONCERTS FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS 2012-2013

LIBRARY LATE

THEO BLECKMANN
AND
BEN MONDER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2013
10 O'CLOCK AT NIGHT
SPRENGER THEATER
ATLAS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The ANNE ADLUM AND WILLIAM REMSEN STRICKLAND FUND in the Library of Congress was created in 1992 by William Remsen Strickland, noted American conductor and recipient of numerous awards for the promotion and advancement of American music through lectures, publications, commissions, concerts of chamber music, radio broadcasts and recordings.



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THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

*Sprenger Theater
Atlas Performing Arts Center*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2013 — 10:00 PM

ANNE ADLUM AND WILLIAM REMSEN STRICKLAND FUND

LIBRARY LATE

THEO BLECKMANN

COMPOSER/VOCALIST

&

BEN MONDER

COMPOSER/GUITAR

Presented in association with the Atlas INTERSECTIONS Festival



PROGRAM TO BE ANNOUNCED FROM THE STAGE

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

A singer and new music composer of eclectic tastes and prodigious gifts, Grammy-nominated **Theo Bleckmann** makes music that is accessibly sophisticated, unsentimentally emotional, and seriously playful. His work provokes the mind to wonder, but connects immediately with the heart.

Bleckmann has released a series of gorgeous and irreverent albums on Winter & Winter, including recordings of Las Vegas standards, of Berlin Kabarett, and of popular “bar songs” (all with pianist Fumio Yasuda), a recording of newly-arranged songs by Charles Ives (with the improvisational jazz/funk collective Kneebody), his acoustic solos for voice, *I dwell in possibility* and his latest project: *Hello Earth - the music of Kate Bush*.

He maintains an ongoing creative relationship with guitar phenomenon Ben Monder; alongside John Hollenbeck and Gary Versace he makes up Refuge Trio and with singers Peter Eldridge, Kate McGarry, Lauren Kinhan, and Luciana Souza he forms Moss, a vocal All-Star collective. Bleckmann has additionally collaborated with musicians and composers, including Laurie Anderson, Uri Caine, Philip Glass, Sheila Jordan, Phil Kline, Michael Lang, Kirk Nurock, Michael Tilson Thomas, Julia Wolfe, Kenny Wheeler, John Zorn, the Bang on a Can All-Stars, and most prominently Meredith Monk, with whom Bleckmann worked as a core ensemble member for fifteen years.

Bleckmann's joyous, mischievous sensibility is also manifest in his compositional work, which includes settings of Rumi, Emily Dickinson, and Kurt Schwitters. He also builds ineffable soundscapes with just his voice and loop pedals, including a recent string quartet for the JACK Quartet, commissioned by the Slough Foundation.

Bleckmann's approach to music and performance has led to recognition in unusual quarters, including a *Fresh Air* interview with Terry Gross and an article on vocal technique solicited for John Zorn's *Arcana* series, Volume III. Bleckmann's adventurous and extravagantly beautiful choices have led his work to be described as “from another planet” (*The New York Times*), as “magical, futuristic” (*AllAboutJazz*), “limitless” (*Citypaper*, Philadelphia), “transcendent” (*Village Voice*) and “brilliant” (*New York Magazine*), and left one critic wondering, “does he eat people food?” (*AllAboutJazz*). He has a gift for creating sounds listeners have never heard before, but pine to hear again.

In 2010, Bleckmann received the prestigious JAZZ ECHO award from the Deutsche Phono-Akademie in his native Germany and also appeared on *The David Letterman Show* with Laurie Anderson.



Guitarist **Ben Monder** has been a working musician in the New York area for a quarter of a century. He has performed with a variety of artists, including Jack McDuff, Marc Johnson, Lee Konitz, George Garzone, Tim Berne and Kenny Wheeler. He is a regular member of the Maria Schneider Jazz Orchestra and was a member of the late Paul Motian's Octet. He has conducted clinics and workshops around the world and served on the faculty of the New England Conservatory from 2002-2005. Ben continues to perform original music internationally with his own quartet, trio, and in a duo project with vocalist Theo Bleckmann. He has performed on over a hundred recordings as a sideman, and has released four as a leader. These are: *Oceana* (Sunnyside, 2005), *Excavation* (Arabesque, 2000), *Dust* (Arabesque, 1997), and *Flux* (Songlines, 1995).

CONCERTS FROM THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Coolidge Auditorium, constructed in 1925 through a generous gift from **Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge**, has been the venue for countless world-class performers and performances. **Gertrude Clarke Whittall** presented to the Library a gift of five Stradivari instruments which were first heard here during a concert on January 10, 1936. These parallel but separate donations serve as the pillars that now support a full season of concerts made possible by gift trusts and foundations that followed those established by Mrs. Coolidge and Mrs. Whittall.

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<i>PROGRAM PRODUCTION</i>	Dorothy Gholston



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Saturday, March 2, 2013 – 2:00 pm

PAUL LEWIS

Pianist Paul Lewis performs two late sonatas of Schubert

COOLIDGE AUDITORIUM

Friday, March 15, 2013 – 8:00 pm

THE U.S. ARMY BAND "PERSHING'S OWN"

Featuring the music of Gershwin, Kern, Sondheim and others

COOLIDGE AUDITORIUM

Tuesday, March 19, 2013 – 12:00 pm

AMERICAN MUSICOLOGICAL SOCIETY LECTURE

*Dr. Todd Decker, "Making 'Show Boat': Jerome Kern, Oscar Hammerstein II,
and the Power of Performers"*

COOLIDGE AUDITORIUM

Friday, April 5, 2013 – 8:00 pm

GABRIEL KAHANE AND TIMOTHY ANDRES

*Two composer-performers present their own music
and selections from Eisler to Ives*

COOLIDGE AUDITORIUM

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