



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **NYYS Jazz features Maria Schneider at the Times Center**

**New York, NY** – Five-time Grammy Award winner **Maria Schneider** will join director Andy Clausen and the NYYS Jazz at **The Times Center** on **Monday, May 14, 2018 at 7:30**, in a program that caps off Schneider's extended residency with the ensemble, and spotlight a rich cross-section of music from across her storied career. The program will also feature the world première of First Music commission *Torgbui* by **Jonathan Ragonese**.

**Maria Schneider's** music has been hailed by critics as "evocative, majestic, magical, heart-stoppingly gorgeous, and beyond categorization." She and her orchestra became widely known starting in 1994 when they released their first recording, *Evanescence*. There, Ms. Schneider began to develop her personal way of writing for what would become her 18-member collective, made up of many of the finest musicians in jazz today, tailoring her compositions to distinctly highlight the uniquely creative voices of the group. The Maria Schneider Orchestra has performed at festivals and concert halls worldwide. She herself has received numerous commissions and guest-conducting invites, working with over 85 groups from over 30 countries.

**Andy Clausen** is a New York-based composer, trombonist, bandleader, and graduate of The Juilliard School. Hailing from Seattle, Clausen relocated to NYC in 2010 where he enjoys a diverse schedule collaborating with filmmakers, folk and blues artists, classical composers, as well as New York's jazz elite. He has performed with Wynton Marsalis, Ron Carter, Benny Golson, Frank Wess, Gerald Wilson, Kurt Elling, The After Midnight Orchestra, Joe Lovano, Bill Frisell, Jason Moran, Dave Douglas, Wayne Horvitz, Andrew D'angelo, John Zorn, The American Brass Quintet, Feist, and My Brightest Diamond. The New York Times has described his work as "sleek, dynamic large-group jazz, a whirl of dark-hued harmony and billowing rhythm...The intelligent sheen of Mr. Clausen's writing was as striking as the composure of his peers...It was impressive, and not just by the yardstick of their age." Clausen is a founding member of The Westerlies, a new music brass quartet whose 2014 debut "Wish The Children Would Come on Home: The Music of Wayne Horvitz" was met with critical acclaim from NPR Fresh Air, Jazz Times, and was named the NPR Jazz "Best Debut of 2014." Clausen's awards include the Gerald Wilson Prize for Composition from the Monterey Jazz Festival, the Emerging Artist of The Year, and Alternative Jazz Group of the Year Awards from the Earshot Jazz Festival, and the Lotos Foundation Prize. In addition, Clausen has been commissioned by The New York Times, Dell, Bloomberg and Blue Chalk Media to compose music for film and television.

**Jonathan Ragonese**, composer-arranger-saxophonist, is a native of New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. He moved to New York City in 2007 to attend the Manhattan School of Music, and has lived and worked there since. As a saxophonist Mr. Ragonese has performed and recorded with a wide array of musicians including Steve Wilson, David Liebman, the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra, Tim Warfield, Tin Can Buddha and Steve Rudolph. As a composer Mr. Ragonese's works have been commissioned and premiered by saxophonist Steve Wilson, Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Museum of Modern Art, the Vermont Mozart Festival Orchestra, the Harrisburg Symphony, and the The Righteous Girls, Bucknell University, West Chester University and the Harrisburg Youth Symphony. In 2014 Mr. Ragonese premiered *Not-this* for two saxophones, at Carnegie Hall. He is an active educator, with lectures, writings, and the development of Music Before Words, a music program for infants with educator Renee Bock. His first recording, *Ardent Marigolds*, was released in 2013, a duo with musical father Steve Rudolph.

## About the NYYS

The **NYYS** is one of the most awarded youth programs of its kind in the nation, recognized for its innovative, tuition-free educational programs for talented young musicians. Founded in 1963 as an orchestra to showcase the metropolitan area's most gifted musicians ages 12-22, its activities have since grown to encompass programs in chamber music, conducting, composition, and jazz, with performances at world class venues including Carnegie Hall and Jazz at Lincoln Center. As a tuition-free program, **NYYS** is proud of its socioeconomic diversity and core organizational values to educate and inspire young musicians through exceptional music training and performance opportunities. **NYYS** provides over \$1 million in scholarships so that financial need is never an obstacle for a qualified student to participate in its impactful programs.

### FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

- What:** **An Evening with Maria Schneider:** Five-time Grammy Award winner **Maria Schneider** will join director **Andy Clausen** and the **NYYS Jazz** at The Times Center on Monday, May 14, 2018 at 7:30, in a program that caps off Schneider's extended residency with the ensemble, and spotlight a rich cross-section of music from across her storied career. The program will also feature the world première of First Music commission *Torgbui* by **Jonathan Ragonese**.
- Who:** **Andy Clausen**, director  
**Maria Schneider**, composer  
**Jonathan Ragonese**, composer
- Date:** Monday, May 14, 2018
- Time:** 7:30 PM
- Location:** The Times Center, 242 W 41st St, New York, NY 10036
- Tickets:** \$30 (students, \$10) – Online: [nyys.org/maria-schneider](http://nyys.org/maria-schneider)

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