

**Meredith Monk
&
Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble**

**2010-2011
COMPANY INFORMATION**

PIECE: Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble with Local Chorus – *Other Worlds Revealed*

NUMBER OF PEOPLE: 8 performers and 2 crew – Total 10

SET UP: Concert set up day of performance; work with local chorus to be determined – contact artist's management

STAGE SIZE: : Minimum performing space of 28 feet (8.5 meters) width by 13 feet (4 meters) depth, and minimum 16.5 feet (5 meters) to lighting grid over stage



RECENT VENUES: San Francisco Symphony Chorus as part of the Mavericks series curated by Michael Tilson Thomas; the Montclair State University Singers in Montclair, NJ

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Meredith Monk's wordless compositions combine the technical virtuosity of classical music, the poignancy of folk music, the freedom and flexibility of jazz and the rhythmic excitement of rock and roll. Proclaimed "American's Coolest Composer," Monk uses her voice, and instrument of amazing flexibility, to create vibrant aural soundscapes. Ms. Monk rarely has an opportunity to perform her larger choral works from *Book Of Days* and *ATLAS: an opera in three parts*. A company member will travel in advance of the concert to work with your local choral ensemble and provide them with an invaluable opportunity to learn from some of the finest and most adventurous singer/performers active in new music today.

ATLAS: an opera in three parts (1991) - *ATLAS* was given its world premiere in February 1991 at Houston Grand Opera. In *ATLAS*, travel is a metaphor for spiritual quest and commitment to inner vision. The opera centers around one character, Alexandra Daniels, a female explorer whose spiritual quest unfolds over the course of the opera. In *Part I: Personal Climate*, young Alexandra dreams of far away places. She prepares for her journey and chooses three companions to accompany her. In *Part II: Night Travel*, two other companions join the travelers to undergo ordeals to test their inner resources - four survive. The others ascend to a timeless radiant place. *Part III: Invisible Light* is where they gain spiritual knowledge; Alexandra comes full circle, finding what she was looking for in simple acts.

The imaginative and memorable score is truly an ensemble work. It has been called a "...work of extraordinary musical charm, pristine freshness and a sense of wonderment..."

Book of Days (1988) - Meredith Monk has said, "*Book of Days* is a film about time...about the sadness and joy of human nature." The film takes place primarily in the Middle Ages, but the characters and their concerns are deeply familiar. Monk draws parallels between this age of war, plague and fear of the Apocalypse, with our modern times of racial and religious conflict, AIDS, and the fear of nuclear annihilation. *Book of Days* has a mythic quality, a sense of displacement; it encourages the viewer to ponder the ultimate fragility of the human experience. Monk sees the music as creating a sense of timelessness; of time as a circle or recurring cycle. *Book of Days* is very much about the transparency and relativity of time - the sense that you can see one period through another.

"*Book of Days* is adventurous music...nothing less than a paean to the vast image-creating potential that resides in the human voice."