

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

**2010-2011
COMPANY INFORMATION**

PIECE: Meredith Monk in Concert

NUMBER OF PEOPLE: Meredith Monk, accompanist and crew – Total 3

SET UP: Same day

STAGE SIZE: Flexible

RECENT VENUES: Ms. Monk frequently performs as a soloist, with recent appearances internationally in St. Petersburg, Dublin, Singapore, Montpelier, Paris, Basel and Ferrara, Italy and in the United States in New York, Idaho, New Jersey, Nebraska, Massachusetts, Ohio, California, North Carolina and Illinois.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The repertory included in the concerts varies. Ms. Monk frequently performs Music for Voice and Piano (1972-1993), which includes GOTHAM LULLABY, TRAVELLING, MADWOMAN'S VISION, CHOOSING COMPANIONS, and THE TALE; NEW YORK REQUIEM, a work she composed for long-time ensemble member Tom Bogdan and SONGS FROM THE HILL. SONGS FROM THE HILL has been recorded on Wergo Records and many of Meredith's other solo work have been recorded on ECM New Series. Meredith can be accompanied by a Vocal Ensemble member, in which case the first half of the concert is solo, and the second half consists of a number of duets for voice, and voice and piano.

The voice has always been at the center of Meredith Monk's work. A pioneer in what is now called extended vocal technique, Monk has dazzled, startled, provoked and delighted audiences since the 1960s with her visionary work. Since 1965, Monk has been composing music for the voice as a multi-faceted instrument, expanding the boundaries of traditional vocal music.

For Monk, the voice is a language in itself, which can delineate energies and feelings for which we have no words. She has invented a stunning vocabulary including her characteristic ululations, multi-phonics, whispers, slides, range skips and hockets. Her wordless music combines the technical virtuosity of classical music, the poignancy and directness of folk music, the freedom and flexibility of jazz and the excitement of rock and roll. Monk's vocal art has had an important influence on many artists, from contemporary composers, to rock-and-roll singers, to present-day jazz stylists.

PRESS:

"An utterly unique sound based on a bold mixture of dramatic expression, sheer vocal strength and compositional elements ranging from folksong to birdsong." -*Christian Science Monitor*

"Its most striking feature is the unearthly form of primal song that Monk has evolved: strings of repeated syllables that never form words, intoned in a voice that slides from the guttural to the angelically pure. Monk calls her work an opera, perhaps because of...the primacy of music among its elements; I'd call it an incantation." -Tobi Tobias, *New York Magazine*

