LONG PLAY FESTIVAL, THE TOWN HALL AND PIONEER WORKS PRESENT

MEREDITH MONK & VOCAL ENSEMBLE BANG ON A CAN ALL-STARS

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FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023



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TUESDAY, JUN. 6, 2023



Long Play Festival, The Town Hall and Pioneer Works Present

MFRFDITH MONK & VOCAL FNSFMRLF BANG ON A CAN ALI-STARS

With Host John Schaefer from WNYC's New Sounds

Performers:

Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble

Theo Bleckmann, voice Katie Geissinger, voice Meredith Monk. voice Allison Sniffin, voice and bowed psaltery

Bang on a Can All-Stars

Vicky Chow, piano and keyboard David Cossin, percussion Arlen Hlusko, cello Eleonore Oppenheim, bass Mark Stewart, electric guitar Ken Thomson, clarinets and saxophones Andrew Cotton, sound engineer



THE TOWN HALL 123 WEST 43RD ST NYC 10036

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Spaceship, from *The Games: a science fiction opera* (1984) (arr. Michael Gordon)
Memory Song, from *The Games: a science fiction opera* (1984) (arr. Julia Wolfe)
Gamemaster's Song, from *The Games: a science fiction opera* (1984) (arr. Meredith Monk)
Migration, from *The Games: a science fiction opera* (1984) (arr. Meredith Monk, text by Ping Chong)
Downfall, from *The Games: a science fiction opera* (1984) (arr. Ken Thomson)
Waltz in 5s, from *The Politics of Quiet* (1996) (arr. Meredith Monk and Allison Sniffin)
Tokyo Cha Cha, from *Turtle Dreams (Cabaret)* (1983) (arr. Allison Sniffin)
Totentanz, from *impermanence* (2006) (arr. David Lang)
Double Fiesta, from *Acts from Under and Above* (1986) (arr. David Lang)

All compositions by Meredith Monk © Meredith Monk Music (ASCAP)

Wardrobe for Meredith Monk, Katie Geissinger and Allison Sniffin by threeASFOUR

Program is subject to change.

ABOUT THE SHOW



MEMORY GAME is both a look back at a pivotal point in Meredith Monk's storied career, and a richly layered portrait of how vocal music, under the guidance of an indefatigable master, can play with our expectations in poignant and compelling ways. What emerges is a suite of songs that flows with a remarkable narrative cohesion, stemming in large part from the composer's willingness to revisit the past with an insatiably curious eye.

"The first time that I worked with Bang on a Can was in the late 1990s when we performed an arrangement of 'Memory

Song' at Lincoln Center. That, in a way, was the beginning of this project. It's really exciting to hear these songs again in a new way, with the instruments added onto the original vocal arrangements." - Meredith Monk

Teaming up here with her renowned Vocal Ensemble (featuring Theo Bleckmann, Katie Geissinger and Allison Sniffin) and the Bang on a Can All-Stars, Monk explores new arrangements of selections from her award-winning sci-fi opera *The Games*, as well as new versions of several pieces originally released on ECM Records from *Do You Be* (1987) and *impermanence* (2008). The project includes arrangements by Monk, Michael Gordon, David Lang, Julia Wolfe, Bang on a Can All-Stars member Ken Thomson, and Vocal Ensemble member Allison Sniffin.

For composer Michael Gordon, whose arrangement of "Spaceship" opens the album of MEMORY GAME, his own memories of Monk's music go back to his earliest days in New York City. "I saw Meredith perform when I came to New York in the 1970s," he says. "Her first appearance on the Bang on a Can Marathon was in 1989, and we've had a close association ever since. In 1999, we arranged some of her music for her to sing with the Bang on a Can All-Stars. It was magic, and sparks flew! MEMORY GAME is a collection of pieces we've performed together in New York and on tour, with some new arrangements that we had yet to play live."

As Monk writes in her liner notes for the recording: "Right from the beginning of conceiving MEMORY GAME, the prospect of uniting the magnificent singers and players from Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble and Bang on a Can All-Stars filled me with excitement. My hope is that our rich and joyous experience of making music together inspires and resonates with the listener."

ABOUT THE ARTIST



Meredith Monk (composition, voice)

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. Ms. Monk has been hailed as one of National Public Radio's 50 Great Voices and "one of America's coolest composers". She is the recipient of numerous honors including a MacAr-

thur Fellowship and an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters by the Republic of France. 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. Selected scores of her work are available through Boosey & Hawkes. She is also the subject of two books of interviews, Conversations with Meredith Monk (now in a new expanded edition), by arts critic and Performing Arts Journal editor Bonnie Marranca, and Une voix mystique, by French author Jean-Louis Tallon, released in January 2022. In conjunction with her 50th Season of creating and performing, Monk was appointed the 2014-15 Richard and Barbara Debs Composer's Chair at Carnegie Hall. Since that time she has received three of the highest honors bestowed on a living artist in the United States: induction into the American Academy of Arts and Letters (2019), the 2017 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize and a 2015 National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama. Monk's newest work, Indra's Net, is scheduled to premiere in the Holland Festival this June and is the third part of a trilogy of music-theater works exploring our interdependent relationship with nature, following the highly acclaimed On Behalf of Nature (2013) and Cellular Songs (2018).



Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble

Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble consists of some of the finest and most adventurous singer/ instrumentalist/performers active in new music. Founded in 1978 to further expand Monk's groundbreaking exploration of the human voice, the Vocal Ensemble has received multiple awards and critical acclaim, including a 2008 GRAMMY nomination for impermanence. Appearing in festivals, theaters and concert halls around the world, Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble can also be heard on numerous recordings on the ECM New Music Series label.



Bang on a Can All-Stars

Formed in 1992, the Bang on a Can All-Stars are recognized worldwide for their ultra-dynamic live performances and recordings of today's most innovative music - "a fiercely aggressive group, combining the power and punch of a rock band with the precision and clarity of a chamber ensemble." (NY Times). Freely crossing the boundaries between classical, jazz, rock, world and experimental music, this six-member amplified ensemble has consistently forged a category-defying identity. With a massive repertoire of works written specifically for the group's distinctive instrumentation and style of performance, the All-Stars have become a genre in their own right. Performing each year throughout the U.S. and internationally, the group's celebrated projects include their landmark recording of Brian Eno's ambient classic Music for Airports, as well as live performances with Philip Glass, Don Byron, Iva Bittova, Thurston Moore, and others. Current and recent project highlights include "In C," a new dance collaboration with Sasha Waltz & Guests based on Terry Riley's minimalist classic; Dance Party, a brand new multimedia concert pairing composers and choreographers; MEMORY GAME, a new record release and touring program featuring legendary composer-singer Meredith Monk; Julia wolfe's Flower Power for Bang on a Can All-Stars and orchestra, a multimedia concert exploring the sonic landscape of the late 1960s; Road Trip, an immersive concert collaboratively composed by Michael Gordon, David Lang and Julia Wolfe to commemorate the 30+ year journey of Bang on a Can; performances and a recording of Julia Wolfe's Pulitzer Prize winning Anthracite Fields for the All-Stars and guest choir; Field Recordings, a major multi-media project featuring over 30 commissioned works by pioneering musicians from across all genres and borders; Cloud River Mountain, a collaboration featuring Chinese superstar singer Gong Linna; and more. The All-Stars record on Cantaloupe Music and have released past recordings on Sony, Universal and Nonesuch.

Theo Bleckmann (voice) is a multi GRAMMY nominated vocalist, composer and ECM recording artist who has recorded over 17 albums and collaborated with artists such as Ambrose Akinmusire. Sheila Jordan, Kneebody, Ben Monder, John Hollenbeck, Phil Kline. David Lang, Ulysses Owens, Bang on a Can All-Stars, and, most prominently, with Meredith Monk since 1994. Bleckmann has been interviewed by Terry Gross on NPR's Fresh Air and appeared on The David Letterman Show with Laurie Anderson. He has consistently appeared in top spots in DownBeat polls, and is a recipient of the prestigious JAZZ ECHO award from the Deutsche Phono-Akademie in his native Germany. Most recently he released an album with the celebrated brass quartet 'The Westerlies', and toured Finland with the Oulu Symphony Orchestra and UMO Jazz Big Band performing his repertoire and own compositions. Most notably, Pulitzer-Prize-winning composer David Lang wrote a monodrama for him which was commissioned by the Japan Society and directed by legendary actor/director Yoshi Oida. The entire production was taken to Tokyo and performed there in February of 2023. A recording of it will be forthcoming.

Katie Geissinger (voice) has performed with Meredith Monk worldwide, in concert and in theater pieces such as ATLAS, the Grammy-nominated impermanence, Songs of Ascension (all on ECM), and The Politics of Quiet, for which she received an ensemble Bessie award. Other credits include Einstein on the Beach, Bang on a Can's Obie-winning The Carbon Copy Building, and Baz Luhrmann's La Boheme on Broadway. She recently sang in Julia Wolfe and Anne Bogart's Steel Hammer and Aaron Siegel and Mallory Catlett's Rainbird. Upcoming is the world premiere of Monk's Indra's Net in Amsterdam, and David Lang's Song of Songs with Pam Tamowitz Dance in London and New York.

Allison Sniffin (voice and bowed psaltery), a multi-instrumentalist, singer and composer, 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 soon, Indra's Net. She has prepared many of Monk's works for publication (Possible Sky, WEAVE, Realm Variations, Stringsongs, Backlight, Night, Piano Albums I and II) and was the arranger of Tokyo ChaCha for Bang on a Can All-Stars (MEMORY GAME, Cantaloupe Music). Recent compositions include Eko (2019) for SSAA and strings and Paddywhack South (2021) for marimba, piano and wind quintet.

Vicky Chow (piano) Hong Kong/Canadian pianist Vicky Chow (she/her) has been described as "brilliant" (New York Times) and "one of our era's most brilliant pianists" (Pitchfork), Since joining the Bang on a Can All-Stars in 2009, she has collaborated and worked with artists/ensembles such as the International Contemporary Ensemble, The Knights, Tyshawn Sorey, Andy Akiho, John Zorn, Steve Reich, Wet Ink Ensemble, Yarn/Wire, Momenta Quartet, to name a few. About her recording of Michael Gordon's Sonatra, The New Yorker wrote, "Sonatra is a milestone of composition, and Vicky Chow's recording of it is a milestone of pianism." Her album Tristan Perich: Surface Image released in 2013 on New Amsterdam Records was among the top 10 Avant Music albums in Rolling Stone. In 2022, she will be releasing three new solo albums (Philip Glass: Piano Etudes Book 1 in celebration of his 85th Birthday in 2022, Jane Antonia Cornish: Sierra, and Michael Gordon: July) on the Cantaloupe Label and her other recordings can be found on the Nonesuch, New Amsterdam, Tzadik, among others. During the pandemic, she worked with Bill T. Jones/ Arnie Zane Company on a new production "Afterwardsness" which premiered at the Park Avenue Armory October 2020 and toured Massachusetts and Minneapolis in Fall 2021. Upcoming performances in Spring 2022 include premieres of a new concerto by Krists Auznieks in Latvia, Tristan Perich: Surface Image in Paris, as well album release concerts at Roulette in Brooklyn. Originally from Vancouver, Canada, she is based in Brooklyn, NY. She serves as faculty at the Bang on a Can Summer Institute and has been on faculty at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. She is on the Board of Advisors for Composers Now, and is also a mentor at The Juilliard School. A graduate of The Juilliard School (B.M. '05, M.M '07 Piano Performance) and The Manhattan School of Music (M.M. Contemporary Performance '09), Ms. Chow is a Yamaha Artist. vickychow.com

David Cossin (percussion) David Cossin was born and raised in Queens, NY, and studied classical percussion at the Manhattan School of Music. His interest in classical percussion, drum set, non-western hand drumming, composition, and improvisation has led to performances across a broad spectrum of musical and artistic forms. David has recorded and performed internationally with Steve Reich and Musicians, Philip Glass, Yo-Yo Ma, Meredith Monk, Tan Dun, Cecil Taylor, Talujon Percussion Quartet, and the trio Real Quiet, as well as

with Sting on his *Symphonicity* world tour. Theater work includes Blue Man Group, Mabou Mines, and projects with the director Peter Sellars. David was featured as the solo percussionist in Tan Dun's award-winning score to the film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. As a soloist, he has performed with orchestras throughout the world including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Orchestra Radio France, and more. His sonic installations have been presented in New York, Italy and Germany, and he is also an active producer, composer, and instrument inventor, expanding the limits of traditional percussion. David teaches percussion at the Aaron Copland School of Music and the Manhattan School of Music's Contemporary Performance Program.

Eleonore Oppenheim (bass) Eleonore Oppenheim is a genre surfing musical polyglot. Her current projects include big dog little dog (a duo with composer/violinist Jessie Montgomery), an acoustic trio with art-pop auteur Glasser and multi-instrumentalist Robbie Lee, and the avant folk-jazz supergroup the Hands Free (with James Moore, Caroline Shaw, and Nathan Koci), among others. Eleonore has an exciting repertoire of commissioned solo pieces and has also worked with established composers including Philip Glass, Steve Reich, and Meredith Monk, in composer-led ensembles like Missy Mazzoli's "all-star, all female" bandsemble Victoire and Florent Ghys' low strings and drums powerhouse Bonjour, and with many other artists from the indie rock, jazz, and folk worlds. She writes and arranges for all of the aforementioned groups, and has established herself as a go-to chamber musician, soloist, recording artist, and large ensemble player. She enjoys working in the theater as well and spent the better part of 2019 and 2020 performing in Daniel Fish's groundbreaking reimagining of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" off- and on Broadway

Arlen Hlusko (cello) Hailed for her "sublime cello prowess" (Take Effect), "absorbing originality" (Gramophone), and "mesmerizing beauty" (NY Music Daily), internationally acclaimed Canadian cellist Arlen Hlusko is a dynamic, versatile young artist who has performed extensively as soloist and chamber musician across North America, Asia, and Europe. Newly appointed cellist of the Bang on a Can All-Stars, Arlen is also a laureate of numerous competitions, Grammy-award winner for her collaboration with The Crossing, and recent alumna of the Curtis Institute of Music and Carnegie Hall's Ensemble Connect. In addition to the All-Stars, Arlen regularly performs with several ensembles based on the East Coast, including Dolce Suono Ensemble, Intersection, and Frisson, and was recently featured on CBC's "30 under 30". She has been a featured performer with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, BBC Concert Orchestra, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra, among others. Arlen has also performed at several preeminent summer festivals, including Spoleto USA Bank of America Chamber Music, Music from Angel Fire, Tippet Rise, and Bay Chamber Concerts. As a teacher, she has served on faculty of Curtis Summerfest, New York Philharmonic and Philadelphia Orchestra Teaching Artists, and given masterclasses in USA. Canada, France, and Germany. Committed to using her music to connect with and serve her community, Arlen founded her own interactive chamber music concert series, Philadelphia Performances for Autism, and is involved with several communities in Philadelphia & NYC, including Carnegie Hall's "Musical Connections" at Sing Sing Correctional Facility.

Mark Stewart (guitar) Multi-instrumentalist, singer, song leader, composer and instrument designer Mark Stewart has been heard around the world performing old and new music. Since 1998, he has recorded and toured as guitarist and Musical Director with Paul Simon. Mark is a founding member of the Bang on a Can All-Stars and the duo Polygraph Lounge with keyboard & theremin wizard Rob Schwimmer. He has also worked with Steve Reich, Sting, Anthony Braxton, Bob Dylan, Wynton Marsalis, Meredith Monk, Stevie Wonder, Phillip Glass, Iva Bittova, Bruce Springsteen, Terry Riley, Ornette Coleman, Don Byron, Joan Baez, Hugh Masakela, Paul McCartney, Cecil Taylor, Bill Frisell, Jimmy Cliff, Charles Wourinen, the Everly Brothers, Steve Gadd, Fred Frith, Alison Krauss, David Krakauer, Bobby McFerrin, David Byrne, James Taylor, The Roches, Aaron Neville, Bette Midler, and Marc Ribot. He is the inventor of the WhirlyCopter, a bicycle-powered Pythagorean choir of singing tubes and the Big Boing, a 24 ft long sonic banquet table *Mbira* that seats 30

children playing 490 found objects and is a Visiting Lecturer in musical instrument design at MIT. Mark is also a curator at MASS MoCA of the immersive Gunnar Schonbeck exhibit of musical instruments and co-founder of soundstewArt, a company that designs instruments, immersive sound environments & community music making experiences. He lives in Brooklyn, NY & North Adams, MA, playing, singing & writing popular music, semi-popular music and unpopular music, whilst designing instruments that everyone can play.

Ken Thomson (clarinet and bass clarinet) is widely regarded for his ability to blend a rich variety of influences and styles into his own musical language while maintaining a voice unmistakably his own. He has a growing catalog of music written for ensembles of differing sizes, and has toured with and released a number of albums with groups that he has created. His bands "Sextet," and, before that, "Slow/Fast," combine the sounds of jazz and contemporary music in through-composed small-group settings; with them, he has released multiple acclaimed recordings and toured across the US and Europe. Two recordings of his chamber music are also available - "Restless" with Karl Larson and Ashley Bathgate, and "Thaw" with JACK Quartet. With the newly-formed Anzû Quartet, he has recorded his own work as well as Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time, for release in 2022. He is also active as a freelance clarinetist and saxophonist, performing with Ensemble Signal, International Contemporary Ensemble, Novus, and more. He is on faculty at the Bang on a Can Summer Institute; he endorses D'Addario Woodwinds reeds, F. Arthur Uebel clarinets and Yanagisawa saxophones (Conn-Selmer). Ken currently splits his time between Brooklyn and Berlin. www.ktonline.net.

Andrew Cotton (sound engineer) In his role as tour manager and engineer, Andrew Cotton works closely with both composers and musicians in creating new works. Cotton works closely with several major producers, specializing in contemporary music projects with artists and concert series as diverse as Elvis Costello and John Harle, the BBC Promenade Series, Meltdown, George Russell, Carla Bley, Talvin Singh, Cold Cut, KT Tunstall, Elvis Costello, John Harle, Andy Sheppard, Carla Bley, Angelique Kidjo, Manu Dibango, District Six, Iva Bittova, Philip Glass, Steve Reich among others. He regularly collaborates with composers Michael Gordon, Julia Wolfe and David Lang on their pieces for the All-Stars as well as large ensemble, dance and theatre pieces. He also act as technical manager and sound collaborator with percussionist Evelyn Glennie DBE. As a sound designer he has designed The Carbon Copy Building -Turin, New York, Hamburg and Liverpool; Chaos -New York; The New Yorkers - Brooklyn Academy of Music; Ballet Tech -Joyce Theatre NY 1997-1999, Bang on a Can Marathons 1997 - 2016, Hearing Voices - Jocelyn Pook 2016 and 2017, Piano Circus 2015-present, Steel Hammer 2015-present, BBC Scotland Hogmanay 2015-present, riSE and fLY 2015, Road Trip 2017, 2017-18 among others.

About Meredith Monk/The House Foundation for the Arts

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.

Meredith Monk/The House Foundation

260 West Broadway, Suite 2 New York, NY 10013 Tel: 212.904.1330 info@meredithmonk.org www.meredithmonk.org www.facebook.com/meredithmonk/ Twitter @meredith_monk Instagram @meredithmonk

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About Bang on a Can

Founded in 1987 by composers Michael Gordon, David Lang, and Julia Wolfe, Bang on a Can has been creating an international community dedicated to innovative music, wherever it is found, and has grown from a one-day New York-based Marathon concert to a multi-faceted performing arts organization with a broad range of year-round international activities. In addition to its festivals LOUD Weekend at MASS MoCA and LONG PLAY, current projects include live.bangonacan.org, a digital streaming platform launched during the pandemic with an ongoing schedule of live streamed concerts and world premiere performances of new commissions; The People's Commissioning Fund, a membership program to commission emerging composers; the Bang on a Can All-Stars, who tour to major festivals and concert venues around the world every year; recording projects; the Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival at MASS MoCA, a professional development program for young composers and performers led by today's pioneers of experimental music; Asphalt Orchestra, Bang on a Can's extreme street band that offers mobile performances re-contextualizing unusual music; Found Sound Nation, a new technology-based musical outreach program now partnering with the State Department of the United States of America to create **OneBeat**, a revolutionary, post-political residency program that uses music to bridge the gulf between young American musicians and young musicians from developing countries; cross-disciplinary collaborations and projects with DJs, visual artists, choreographers, filmmakers and more. Each new program has evolved to answer specific challenges faced by today's musicians, composers and audiences, in order to make innovative music widely accessible and wildly received. Bang on a Can's inventive and aggressive approach to programming and presentation has created a large and vibrant international audience made up of people of all ages who are rediscovering the value of contemporary music. Bang on a Can has also recently launched its new digital archive. **CANLAND**, an extensive archive of its recordings, videos, posters, program books, and more. Thirty-three years of collected music and associated ephemera have been digitized and archived online and is publicly accessible in its entirety at www.canland.org. Bang on a Can has created a large and vibrant international audience made up of people of all ages who are rediscovering the value of contemporary music. More info at: www.bangonacan.org

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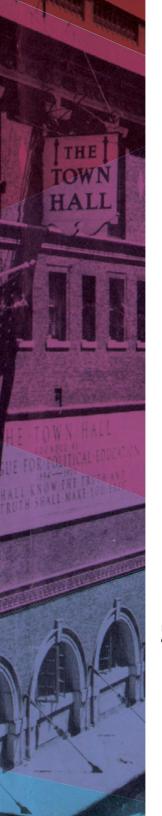


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1935
Marian Anderson makes her
New York operatic debut



1944
Langston Hughes discusses
the race question on air at
"America's Town Meeting"



1945 Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker debut Bebop in a formal concert hall



Ravi Shankar performs here
9 years before he meets
The Beatles



1963 Bob Dylan holds his first major concert at age 21



1964 Coretta Scott King debuts her Freedom Concerts

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For more information about the Young Patrons Circle, please contact Development Manager - development@thetownhall.org

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Town Hall has played an integral part in the electrifying cultural fabric of New York City for more than 90 years. A group of Suffragists' fight for the 19th Amendment led them to build a meeting space to educate people on the important issues of the day. During its construction, the 19th Amendment was passed, and on January 12, 1921 The Town Hall opened its doors and took on a double meaning: as a symbol of the victory sought by its founders, and as a spark for a new, more optimistic climate. In 1921, German composer Richard Strauss performed a series of concerts that cemented the Hall's reputation as an ideal venue for musical performances. Since, Town Hall has been home to countless musical milestones: The US debuts of Strauss, and Isaac Stern; Marian Anderson's first New York recital; in 1945, Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker introduced bebop to the world; Bob Dylan's first major concert in '63; and much much more.

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1 Tix to	2 Tix to	2 Tix to	2 Tix to
1 Show	1 Show	2 Shows	3 Shows

1 Tix	2 Tix	2 Tix	2 Tix





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22/23 SEASON



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