

Band, and Jazz Group (Claudia Quintet) categories. The John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble's two records, *A Blessing* (2005) and *Eternal Interlude* (2009), received Grammy Nominations. In 2007 John was awarded the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship.

Exceptionally creative and versatile, John continues to create a passionate new musical language based on world rhythms, lyricism, and spirituality: he composed *The Shape of Spirit*, a piece for wind ensemble issued on the Mons label in 1998, and in 1999 composed *Processional and Desiderata* for wind ensemble and orator. This composition, written for and featuring the voice and trombone of Bob Brookmeyer, was released on Challenge Records in 2001. *The Cloud of Unknowing*, commissioned by the Bamberg Choir in Germany was released in 2001 on the Edel Classics label along with works by J.S. Bach, Igor Stravinsky & Paul Hindemith. In 2002, John's IAJE Gil Evans Fellowship Commission piece, *A Blessing*, featuring vocalist Theo Bleckmann, was performed to critical acclaim at the IAJE Conference; and in 2003 his IAJE/ASCAP Commission, *Folkmoot*, was premiered in Toronto, Canada. John composed and performed the percussion score to the following Meredith Monk works: *Magic Frequencies*; *Mercy* (ECM 2002); and *The Impermanence Project* (ECM 2008). Hollenbeck's chamber piece, *Demütig Bitten*, was commissioned by the Windsbacher Knabenchor (Germany) and released in 2004 on the Rondeau label along with works by Giovanni Gabrieli, Josquin des Prez and J.S. Bach. John's most recent works include commissions by the Bang on a Can and the People's Commissioning Fund; the Ethos Percussion Group funded by the Jerome Foundation; Youngstown State University; Gotham Wind Symphony; the Painted Bride Art Center of Philadelphia; the Frankfurt Radio Big Band; and the University of Arts, Philadelphia.

Hollenbeck's recording career as a leader began in the winter of 2001 with the audacious simultaneous release of three critically acclaimed CDs on CRI/Blueshift: *no images*, *Quartet Lucy*, and *The Claudia Quintet*. His second Claudia Quintet recording, *I, Claudia*, appeared on Cuneiform in 2004, followed by *Semi-Formal* in 2005. Also in 2005, Hollenbeck debuted his Large Ensemble's Grammy-nominated album *A Blessing. Joys and Desires*, his large ensemble recording with Jazz Big Band Graz featuring Theo Bleckmann, was released by Intuition in 2006 to critical acclaim. The Claudia Quintet received 4-star reviews from *Down Beat* magazine and *The Guardian* (UK) for its fourth recording, *For* (Cuneiform 2007), and was named the Rising Star Jazz Group by *Down Beat's* 2008 Critics Poll. The collective Refuge Trio, with Theo Bleckmann and Gary Versace, released their debut recording on the Winter and Winter label 2008. In 2009 John self-released a CD of chamber music entitled *Rainbow Jimmies*, a compilation of recent commissioned pieces, and the John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble released its second recording, *eternal interlude*, to critical acclaim and a 2009 Grammy Nomination. John received a grant in 2009 from the Chamber Music America New Jazz Works: Commissioning and Ensemble Development program to develop a suite of compositions for his Claudia Quintet which can be heard on their 2010 release *Royal Toast*. This album, according to Michael G. Nastos of *allmusic*, is "another extraordinary musical experience from the Claudia Quintet, who deserve all the high marks they receive as an innovative, thought-provoking, singularly unique contemporary ensemble." Also in 2010, the CMA/FACE French-American Jazz Exchange Program awarded John a grant to develop work with Daniel Yvinec and the Orchestre National de Jazz of France. This collaboration resulted in the release of *Shut up and Dance* (Bee Jazz), named as one of the top five albums of the year by *Le Monde*.

More info: www.johnhollenbeck.com, twitter.com/john_hollenbeck, facebook.com/pages/John-Hollenbeck-Large-Ensemble

John Hollenbeck's music is available for purchase in the lobby.

JOHN HOLLENBECK LARGE ENSEMBLE

MARCH 7, 2011 | 8:30 PM

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REDCAT

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California Institute of the Arts

CaLARTS



JOHN HOLLENBECK LARGE ENSEMBLE

Monday, March 7, 2011, 8:30pm

PROGRAM

All compositions by John Hollenbeck. Works chosen from the following list will be announced from the stage. There will be an intermission.

A Blessing
eternal interlude
Foreign One
Perseverance
Guarana
Constant Conversation
Wichita Lineman (Jimmy Webb arr. by JH)
no boat
Music of Life
Garden of Love
The Bird with the Coppery Keen Claws
Maxfield

JOHN HOLLENBECK LARGE ENSEMBLE

Woodwinds: Ben Kono: flute/soprano/alto saxophone; Jeremy Viner: clarinet/tenor saxophone; Tony Malaby: tenor saxophone/soprano saxophone; Dan Willis: tenor saxophone/soprano saxophone/flute/english horn; Bohdan Hilash: bass clarinet/baritone saxophone/contrabass clarinet

Trombones: Rob Hudson, Mike Christenson, Jacob Garchik (also tenor horn), Jeff Nelson

Trumpets/Flugelhorns: James DelaGarza, Jon Owens, Dave Ballou, Laurie Frink

Acoustic and Electric Bass: Kermit Driscoll *Drums:* John Hollenbeck

Piano: Matt Mitchell *Mallet Percussion:* Patricia Franceshy

Voice: Theo Bleckmann *Conductor:* JC Sanford

ABOUT THE WORK

John Hollenbeck is one of the rare artists who have mastered the tradition of big band composition while crossing aesthetic borderlines and speaking directly to the time we live in today. The second CD by John Hollenbeck's Large Ensemble, *eternal interlude*, the follow-up to the Grammy-nominated *A Blessing*, is an audacious example of the power of big band jazz to express emotions well beyond swing-era clichés.

"Foreign One" presents Hollenbeck's unique synthesis of jazz tradition and forward-looking compositional technique in a spectacular "re-composition" of Thelonious Monk's "Four in One." Hollenbeck's love and respect for Monk, as well as his virtuoso drumming and his ensemble's stunning jazz skills are obvious, even as Monk's masterpiece is taken apart and put back together again.

In "eternal interlude" and "Perseverance" Hollenbeck capitalizes on the Large Ensemble's rich, panoramic orchestral textures as well as its members' powerful individual voices. Written in the months leading up to the *eternal interlude* sessions, these pieces represent the "state of the art" of Hollenbeck's music, a daring mix of pure, heart-on-sleeve lyricism and robust rhythmic propulsion.

"Guarana," "no boat" and "The Cloud" are arrangements of earlier pieces: "Guarana" for The Claudia Quintet; "no boat" for the Ben Monder/Theo Bleckmann Duo, their first album's title track; and "The Cloud" for the Bamberg Symphony Choir and Big Band. "The Cloud" features vocalist and longtime Hollenbeck collaborator Theo Bleckmann reciting two traditional Christian and Sanskrit mantras, as well as a selection from an ancient text, "The Cloud of Unknowing" (author unknown).

Unlike most contemporary big bands, this is no random agglomeration of freelancers: the John Hollenbeck Large Ensemble is an actual band. Practically all of the musicians appeared on "A Blessing," and continue to perform with the Ensemble in concert.

Building on a wealth of experience in jazz and world styles as well as a deep interest in contemporary composition and spiritual practice, **John Hollenbeck's** musical language is as accessible and expressive as it is advanced. His journey has been one of the most remarkable in contemporary music. Building on a wealth of experience in jazz and world styles as well as a deep interest in contemporary composition and spiritual practice, he has forged a lyrical new musical language, as accessible and expressive as it is advanced. After receiving degrees in percussion (B.M.) and jazz composition (M.M.) from the Eastman School of Music, Hollenbeck moved to New York City in the early 1990s. He has worked with many of the world's leading musicians in jazz (Bob Brookmeyer, Fred Hersch, Tony Malaby, the Village Vanguard Orchestra, Kenny Wheeler), world music (Pablo Ziegler), and new music (Meredith Monk). In the fall of 2005, John accepted a professorship in Jazz Drums and Improvisation at the Jazz Institute Berlin in Germany.

Hollenbeck has received numerous awards and commissions which include a National Endowment grant to study composition with Bob Brookmeyer in 1994 and a Meet the Composer's Grant in 1995 and 2001. He won the Jazz Composers Alliance Composition Contest in 1995 and 2002 and was awarded the 2002 IAJE Gil Evans Fellowship and 2003 IAJE/ASCAP Commission. Hollenbeck received a grant from Arts International to travel with his Claudia Quintet for performances in Brazil in the spring of 2002. In 2001, 2003, and 2007 John held a month-long residency at the Blue Mountain Center in New York, and in the fall of 2005 was a Fellow of the Wurlitzer House Foundation in Taos, New Mexico. Hollenbeck was nominated by the Jazz Journalists Association for the following: Up and Coming Jazz Musician of the Year (2004, 2006); Jazz Composer of the Year (2006, 2007, 2010); Arranger of the Year (2010); Drummer of the Year and Large Ensemble of the Year (2007). John Hollenbeck was named as both the Rising Star Composer and the Rising Star Arranger of the Year in the 2008 & 2009 *Down Beat* Magazine's Critics Poll. *Down Beat* magazine has in previous years recognized him as a "Rising Star" in the Composer, Jazz Artist, Arranger, Big