SOKA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

SOKA UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Presents

Maria Schneider Orchestra



Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 8:00 p.m.

The use of cameras and recording devices of any type is prohibited.

Please silence all cell phones and paging devices.

We ask that patrons please refrain from text messaging during the performance.

MARIA SCHNEIDER ORCHESTRA

REEDS

Steve Wilson Dave Pietro Rich Perry Donny McCaslin Scott Robinson

TRUMPETS

Greg Gisbert Nadje Noordhuis Jonathan Heim Mike Rodriguez

TROMBONES

Keith O'Quinn Ryan Keberle Marshall Gilkes George Flynn

GUITAR

Lage Lund

ACCORDION

Gary Versace

PIANO

Frank Kimbrough

BASS

Jay Anderson

DRUMS

Clarence Penn

SOUND

Ken Jablonski

MANAGEMENT

Marie Le Claire

Biography

MARIA SCHNEIDER ORCHESTRA

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 recording, *Evanescence*. There, Schneider began to develop her personal way of writing for what would become her eighteen-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 more than eighty-five groups from more than thirty countries. Schneider's music blurs the lines between genres, making her long list of commissioners quite varied, stretching from Jazz at Lincoln Center, to the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, to collaborating with David Bowie. She is among a small few to have received Grammys in multiple genres, having received the award in both jazz and classical categories, as well as for her work with Bowie.

Schneider and her orchestra have a distinguished recording career with twelve Grammy nominations and five Grammy awards. Unique funding of projects has become a hallmark for Schneider through the trend-setting company, ArtistShare. Her album, *Concert in the Garden* (2004), became historic as the first recording to win a Grammy with internet-only sales, even more significantly, it blazed the "crowd-funding" trail as ArtistShare's first release. She's been awarded many honors by the Jazz Journalists Association, and by both the *Downbeat* and *JazzTimes* critics and readers polls. In 2012 her alma mater, the University of Minnesota, presented Schneider with an honorary doctorate, and in 2014, the ASCAP foundation awarded her their esteemed Concert Music Award as well as their Life in Music Award.

Schneider has become a strong voice for music advocacy, and in 2014 she testified before the US House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet about digital rights, and in 2016, was also invited to be part of the US Copyright Office roundtables on this same subject. She has appeared on CNN and has been quoted in numerous publications for her views on digital rights and music piracy. Most recently, in a series of open letters, Schneider has been very outspoken in her criticism of YouTube and its practice of perpetuating piracy. In regard to these issues as well as other important issues for performing artists and music creators, she and concerned colleagues in New York have now launched a widespread campaign on behalf of music-makers, called MusicAnswers.org.

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