



For Immediate Release  
Dec. 19, 2007

Contact: Becki Fowler, 408.961.5814  
bfowler@montalvoarts.org

## **Montalvo Arts Center Announces Additions to Its 2008 Season**

### **Concerts, the first-ever composer's series, pre-Code films and art classes highlight the season additions**

*Coming This Summer! Three World-Premiere Commissions by Sonic Youth's Kim Gordon & Guests; Composer Thomas Morgan and Visual Artist Lesley Dill, and Trumpeter/Arranger Steve Bernstein with the Gunn High School Jazz Band*

SARATOGA, Calif. – Rock, country, jazz and classical concerts plus a roster of pre-Code films and arts classes have been added to Montalvo's 2008 Season. Highlights include Montalvo's composer's series, which focuses on Olivier Messiaen; three world premiere commissions, celebrated pianist Vladimir Feltsman; and Jerry Douglas, who has been performing as a featured member of Alison Krauss' band Union Station since 1998.

Montalvo also presents four pre-Code films this winter, stemming from the success of its previous pre-Code film offerings. Pre-Code refers to a five-year period in film history, 1929 – 1934, when restrictions on movie content varied widely depending on local laws and public taste. Starting this winter, Montalvo is showing *The Divorcee* (1930) starring Norma Shearer; *The Sign of the Cross* (1932) produced by Cecil B. DeMille; *Queen Christina* (1933) starring Greta Garbo; and *Wonder Bar* (1934) starring Al Jolson and Dolores del Rio.

Art classes for kids and adults are also available this winter at Montalvo. Artist Edward Rooks leads an adult class on drawing Montalvo's botanicals. Susan Heeter teaches children the fundamentals of art in her five-week long workshop.

"This is an exciting time for Montalvo as we continue bringing the best and brightest artists to such a diverse environment as Silicon Valley," said Robert Sain, executive director of Montalvo. "These new additions for the 2008 season represent Montalvo's quest to be a unique resource for our community, and we invite people of all ages to visit us on the hill and see, hear and learn about Montalvo and its offerings."

Montalvo Members enjoy discounted ticket prices on select performances. For more information on becoming a Montalvo member, please visit <http://montalvoarts.org/membership.html>.

Tickets go on sale to the public Jan. 5, 2008. For information on tickets, please call Montalvo's box office at 408-961-5858 or [www.montalvoarts.org](http://www.montalvoarts.org). Most tickets also are available at Ticketmaster.com.

### **CONCERTS**

#### **Double Bill! Tin Hat/Dusan Bogdanovic**

Sat, March 15, 8 pm, **Carriage House**  
\$25/35; Members \$20/28

Tin Hat's freewheeling chamber music for the 21<sup>st</sup> century interweaves "Old World Europe with post-modern America, south-of-the-border sensuality with concert-hall propriety, and odd-metered syncopation with deeply soulful grooves" (*The New York Press*). Formerly Tin

**montalvo**  
ARTS CENTER

Hat Trio, this collective of composers has shifted and expanded to incorporate five members and a bevy of eclectic instruments including pump organ, celesta, Dobro, clarinet, harp and accordion.

A richly gifted composer, improviser and guitarist, Dusan Bogdanovic's work is "luminous," evocatively folkloric, yet wholly contemporary, where forms such as the sonata fold in with West African rhythms and the dense harmonies of his own brand of "Balkan Blues." He has toured extensively throughout Europe, Asia and the United States, handling "tricky polymeters, Balkan melodies, startling counterpoint, and oud-inspired improvised lines with nuance and sinewy grace" (*Guitar Player*).

### **First-Ever Composer's Series: Masters of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Montalvo's first-ever mini series for 20<sup>th</sup> Century composers focuses on Olivier Messiaen, whose music is rhythmically complex and both harmonically and melodically based on *modes of limited transposition*, which were Messiaen's own innovation. It is almost impossible to mistake a Messiaen composition for the work of any other Western classical composer. Montalvo presents a number of great contemporary musicians to celebrate Messiaen's work.

#### **Part I: Antares**

Sat, April 12, 8 pm, **Historic Villa**  
\$30/40

"Powerful...striking...razor-sharp" (*The Chicago Tribune*), Antares is renowned for their electrifying repertoire of chamber masterworks and contemporary compositions. This quartet brings their signature virtuosity to a program of works by Messiaen. This unique ensemble (clarinet, violin, cello and piano) has "the gift of making whatever they're playing seem the most important piece in the world," says *Gramophone* magazine. [www.antares-music.com](http://www.antares-music.com)

Program: War and Peace

Stravinsky - L'Histoire du Soldat for clarinet/violin/piano

Shostakovich - Piano Trio

Messiaen - Quartet for the End of Time

#### **Part II: Cristina Valdes, Chris Brown with Joan Jeanrenaud and William Winant**

Sun, April 13, 3 pm, **Carriage House**  
\$25/35; Members \$20/28

Day two of the series features Cristina Valdes, a captivating pianist who has played Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center; and Chris Brown with Joan Jeanrenaud and William Winant. Brown is a composer, electronic musician and instrument-builder whose pursuit of new sonic experiences drives the trajectories of his work. Cellist Jeanrenaud previously played with the Kronos Quartet and has performed over 2000 concerts. Finally, Winant is "one of the best avant-garde percussionists working today" according to music critic Mark Swed (*Los Angeles Times, Wall Street Journal*). [Cristina Valdes MySpace Page](#), [www.cbmuse.com](http://www.cbmuse.com), [www.jjcello.org](http://www.jjcello.org), [www.williamwinant.com](http://www.williamwinant.com).

**Iva Bittova/Don Byron/Marc Ribot**

Fri, May 2, 8 pm, **Carriage House**  
\$30/40; Members \$24/32

Don't miss the debut of this highly distinctive trio comprised of acclaimed musicians: Iva Bittová, vocals and violin, Don Byron, clarinetist, and Marc Ribot, guitar. Czech singer and violinist Bittová is "an extraordinary artist. Raw and defined, passionate and contained, she has the soul of a gypsy, the voice of a troubadour, and the mind of a genius," said *NPR*.

Bittová met Byron through their individual collaborations with the Bang On A Can All-Stars, one of the world's leading modern chamber ensembles, and has admired Ribot's music from afar. Byron "has carpentered an extraordinary career precisely by obliterating the very idea of category," said *TIME* magazine. While *The New York Times* called Ribot, "a deceptively articulate artist who uses inarticulateness as an expressive device."

### **Jerry Douglas Band**

Thur, May 8, 7:30 pm, **Carriage House**  
\$30/40; Members \$24/32

Jerry Douglas is truly "Dobro's matchless contemporary master," says *The New York Times*. Immensely prolific, he has recorded on the rare, unmistakable resonator guitar since 1979, performing as a featured member of Alison Krauss and Union Station since 1998. Douglas has garnered countless awards, including 12 Grammys. He has also appeared on a staggering 2000 albums, including releases by Paul Simon, Phish, Bill Frisell, Ray Charles, the Chieftains, and the *O Brother, Where Art Thou* soundtrack.

[www.jerrydouglas.com/jdband.cfm](http://www.jerrydouglas.com/jdband.cfm)

### **Double Bill! Erin McKeown/Sean Hayes**

Fri, May 9, 8 pm, **Carriage House**  
\$25/35; Members \$20/28

"A gifted singer/songwriter with a deft touch on the guitar, mandolin, piano and banjo" (*NPR's World Café*), Erin McKeown delivers a playful blend of pop/rock infused with sprightly swing rhythms. McKeown's winking joie de vivre shines on album after album, including *Sing, You Sinners*, a sly take on the not-so-standard entries in the Great American Songbook. [www.erinmckeown.com/](http://www.erinmckeown.com/)

"Do you remember your Bob Dylan moment?"...Get ready for another one of those moments," says *New City Chicago* of the phenomenal Sean Hayes. Born in New York City and raised in North Carolina, Hayes grew roots in San Francisco's Mission District, and his warm, achy vocals reflect a full range of influences. His ballads are stripped-down, yet full of silver and grit, and resonate as well on packed dance floors as they do in intimate clubs.

[www.seanhayesmusic.com/](http://www.seanhayesmusic.com/)

### **Vladimir Feltsman**

Wed, May 14, 7:30 pm, **McAfee Performing Arts & Lecture Center**  
\$40/50; Members \$32/40

Enjoy an evening with celebrated pianist Vladimir Feltsman, whose immense range and insight make him recognized as one of the most imaginative and constantly interesting musicians of our time. Feltsman debuted at the Moscow Philharmonic at the tender age of 11 and has since become a regular soloist with every leading orchestra in the United States. *The New York Times* noted Feltsman as an artist who "has become a master at reinventing

himself" and also said "his articulation [is] clean and precise and the music's spirit [comes] through clearly." [www.feltsman.com](http://www.feltsman.com)

### **My Brightest Diamond with Special Guest Noe Venable**

Fri, May 23, 8 pm, **Carriage House**

\$30/40; Members \$24/32

Whether replete with rock band and bells, accompanied by string quartet, or solo with guitar, Shara Worden's polymorphic musical odyssey *My Brightest Diamond* showcases Worden's "expressive vocal acrobatics." Formerly among Sufjan Stevens' Illinoismakers, Worden channels the theatrics of Kate Bush, the soulful seductiveness of Nina Simone and the gothic pop of Portishead. Her 2006 album *Bring Me the Workhorse* has been hailed as "a thing of intricate, mystical beauty" (*Time Out New York*). [www.mybrightestdiamond.com](http://www.mybrightestdiamond.com)

Hailed as San Francisco's "homegrown, full blown young musical visionary" (*puremusic.com*), the gracile growl of singer-songwriter Noe Venable's soprano "stuns and enraptures" (*SF Bay Guardian*). Venable whirls through spare folk guitar and eerie loops with the provocative lyrics of an urban oracle. [www.noevenable.com](http://www.noevenable.com)

### **Double Bill! Jason Moran In My Mind: Monk At Town Hall 1959 and Gunn High School Jazz Band with Special Guest Steve Bernstein**

Wed, June 18, 7 pm, **Garden Theater**

\$75/55/35/20 (student); Members \$60/44/28/15 (student)

World Premiere! Renowned trumpeter and arranger Steven Bernstein collaborates with local, award-winning Gunn High School Jazz Band on a new composition for jazz orchestra, an unprecedented commission by Montalvo Arts Center. Bernstein, called "one of the hardest working men in show business and the ultimate Downtown jazz personality" (*All About Jazz*), works directly with Gunn musicians, leading workshops and rehearsing with the band in anticipation of the premiere of the piece at Montalvo's Garden Theater. Also on the bill: jazz great Jason Moran, who began his music career in high school and was signed to Blue Note Records at the tender age of 22. *Monk at Town Hall* celebrates the legacy of Jazz great Thelonious Monk, commemorating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the legendary pianist-composer's birth. Perhaps the foremost stylistic heir to Monk, Moran has earned his own reputation for being "the most provocative thinker in current jazz" (*Rolling Stone*) over the course of seven albums for Blue Note. [www.stevebernstein.net](http://www.stevebernstein.net), [www.jasonmoran.com](http://www.jasonmoran.com), [Gunn High School](http://GunnHighSchool.com)

### **Opera! Divide Light**

Wed, Aug 13, 7:30 pm, **Garden Theater**

\$75/55/35/20 (student); Members \$60/44/28/15 (student)

Feast your ears on the world premiere opera based on the complete works of American poet Emily Dickinson. Thomas Morgan and Lesley Dill, Montalvo Artists in Residence, redirect the classic form of opera to celebrate and investigate American Transcendentalism, a school of thought particularly prevalent in mid-19th century New England. Large projections on a back screen and multiple scrims provide a haunting visual element. *Divide Light* premieres at Montalvo Arts Center under the musical direction of Thomas Morgan. The performance features the Ars Nova Singers, a select number of operatic voices, the Del Sol String Quartet, percussion and electronic music. *Divide Light* was commissioned by Montalvo. [www.dividelight.com](http://www.dividelight.com)

### **Kim Gordon Meets Phantom Orchard**

The Song Project featuring Ikue Mori, Zeena Parkins and special guests bassist, Trevor Dunn (Mr. Bungle, John Zorn, Fantomoas) and drummer, Yoshimi (The Boredoms)  
Fri, Sept 25, 8 pm, **Garden Theater**  
\$75/55/35/20 (student); Members \$60/44/28/15 (student)

World Premiere! Rich in details. Vital and immediate. Innovative, beautiful and dangerous. The Song Project brings together for the first time the talents of important contributors to the current alternative music scene from the United States and Japan. Kim Gordon, visual artist and founding member of Sonic Youth, collaborates with Phantom Orchard: laptop artist Ikue Mori and harp innovator Zeena Parkins to create and premiere in concert a set of new songs. The artists are developing the project in part as fellows of Montalvo Arts Center's Lucas Artists Programs residency. [Phantom Orchard](#)

## FILM

This winter Montalvo continues its exploration of pre-Code films with four more from the forbidden Hollywood era. Don't miss out on these scintillating movies, made after the advent of talkies but before the strict censorship of films by the Production Code Administration. Reflecting the libertine attitudes of the 1920s and 30s, pre-Code films promise to delight and surprise viewers. Introductory remarks by Bay Area journalist and pre-Code aficionado, Angie Coiro. For mature audiences. Refreshments available before and after the films.

**Pre-Code Film: The Divorcee**  
Sat, Jan 19, 2 pm, **Carriage House**  
\$10; Free to members

When her husband has an affair, Jerry Bernard Martin (Norma Shearer) takes matters into her own hands and has an affair of her own. Also starring Chester Morris, Robert Montgomery and Conrad Nagel.

Fun Facts:

- One of the major pre-Code films stars, Norma Shearer persuaded the powers that be at MGM to cast her as an adulteress in *The Divorcee* (1930). Shearer saw the role as an opportunity to change her image and, in turn, *The Divorcee* was one of the first films to transform the image of the devoted wife.
- Shearer eventually won an Academy Award for this role.

**Pre-Code Film: Sign of the Cross**  
Sat, Feb 2, 2 pm, **Carriage House**  
\$10; Free to members

Nominated for an Academy Award for best cinematography, *The Sign of the Cross* (1932) is an epic pre-Code spectacle produced and directed by Cecil B. DeMille. The film, starring Claudette Colbert, Frederic March and Charles Laughton as Nero, depicts Rome ablaze with political intrigue, jealousy and the fires set by the depraved Emperor Nero.

**Pre-Code Film: Queen Christina**  
Sun, Feb 24, 2 pm, **Carriage House**  
\$10; Free to members

This pre-Code biopic tells the story of the independent and controversial [Kristina Wasa](#), Queen of Sweden, who abdicated her kingdom in order to return her slain lover to Spain.

*Queen Christina* (1933) stars real life lovers Greta Garbo and popular silent screen actor, John Gilbert.

**Pre-Code Film: Wonder Bar**

Sun, March 9, 2 pm, **Carriage House**  
\$10; Free to members

At the Wonder Bar, a fancy night club in Paris, anything can happen as loves and lives intersect. This 1934 Busby Berkeley musical stars Al Jolson and Dolores del Rio. While the characters chase after each other and fall in and out of love, tragedy strikes amidst the glamour. Be warned this movie ends with one of the most politically incorrect musical numbers ever filmed!

**ARTS AND EDUCATION**

**Altered Books: A Professional Development Workshop for Teachers**

Sat, Feb 2, 10 am, **Montalvo**  
\$25; 10 for lunch (optional)

Expanding the "Arts in Your Classroom" experience, this workshop engages educators in reflection on the concerns of our times through hands-on, arts-integrated lesson demonstrations, and focuses on the encouragement and growth of student voice through arts learning experiences. This class is especially recommended for middle and high school teachers.

**The Arts In Your Classroom 6**

A conference for K-8 educators exploring learning through the arts  
Fri, March 7, 8 am – 5 pm, **Montalvo**  
Check Web site for pricing

First held in March 2003, *The Arts in Your Classroom* invites both first-time and returning participants to explore learning through the arts.

A collaboration between Montalvo Arts Center and the Santa Clara County Office of Education, the conference draws upon the SCCOE's *Visual and Performing Arts Resource Guide*, and focuses on the encouragement and growth of student voice through arts learning experiences. Workshop sessions engage educators in reflection on the concerns of our times through hands-on arts integrated lesson demonstrations. Participants in AiYC gain a fresh understanding of the importance of the arts in student development, a renewed sense of their own creativity, and an increased capacity to share the arts with students and colleagues.

Each year the conference includes a keynote address by a nationally recognized arts educator. Previous speakers, including noted teaching artists Eric Booth and Celeste Miller, have provided inspiration and a renewed sense of purpose for busy teachers.

Since its inception, *The Arts in Your Classroom* conference has trained over 500 educators in arts integration and subsequently provided quality arts experiences to over 15,000 students in the classroom.

**Drawing Montalvo's Botanicals with Edward Rooks**

Thursdays, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17 6:30 – 8:30 pm, **Montalvo**  
\$144/Members \$120; \$20 due at first class for materials

Discover the beauty of Montalvo's native and non-native plants in this six-week survey of the park's formal and informal gardens. Visitors to Senator Phelan's Montalvo often brought gifts of plants from their world travels to add to the arboretum. Today, Montalvo's grounds continue to abound with a wide array of botanical species. Artist Edward Rooks leads this exploration of Montalvo's plants – both indigenous and foreign to Northern California – through a variety of drawing techniques, including pen and ink, scratchboard and more.

### **Strings of Fire/Cuerdas de Fuego**

Sun, March 16, 1 pm, **Carriage House**  
\$16/8 child; Members \$12.80/6.40 child

Latin America comes alive with the exciting music from *Strings of Fire – Cuerdas de Fuego*. South American harpist Ramón Romero, currently in residence at Montalvo's Lucas Artists Programs, and Cuban percussionist Carlos Caro perform the lively, descriptive music of their homelands in this multimedia bilingual musical tour of South America, Mexico and Cuba. Each melody describes Latin American nature, geography or village traditions; with the upbeat music, students can hear the crashing waterfalls, the bellbird of the forest or the milk train as it comes around the mountain.

A member reception follows the performance.

### **Fundamentals of Art for Kids!**

Tuesdays, March 18, 25, April 15, 22, 29 4 – 6 pm, **Montalvo**  
\$120/Members \$100

Discover the joy of color, the excitement of line and the importance of perspective while learning about the masters of art! Instructor Susie Heeter leads students in creating variety of two- and three-dimensional projects inspired by masterpieces, including those on display in Montalvo's Project Space. Students develop a greater visual sensitivity and a solid foundation in the aesthetic and practical basics in this fundamentals class.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets go on sale to the public Saturday, Jan. 5, at 10 am. Montalvo Members (Villa, Artists & Creative Circle levels): Thursday, Jan. 3, 10 am. Montalvo Members (all levels): Friday, Jan. 4, 10 am.

For information on tickets, please call Montalvo's box office at 408-961-5858 or [www.montalvoarts.org](http://www.montalvoarts.org). Most tickets also are available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

### **About Montalvo Arts Center**

Montalvo Arts Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to forging meaningful connections between art, artists and the communities it serves through creation, presentation and education in extraordinary ways and settings. Located in Silicon Valley's Saratoga hills, Montalvo Arts Center occupies a Mediterranean-style villa on 175 stunning acres, including an international artist residency program. The historic villa and grounds were left to the people of California by Senator James Phelan for the encouragement of art, music, literature and architecture. In January 2005, the organization changed its name from "Montalvo" to "Montalvo Arts Center" to commemorate its 75th year as an arts center and to better communicate its mission to expanding local, national and international audiences. For more information about Montalvo Arts Center, call (408) 961-5800 or visit <http://www.montalvoarts.org/>.