MUSE/IQUE

Rachael Worby
Artistic Director

PRESS RELEASE

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July 30 Concert at Caltech
Post-concert brief

A Caltech physicist rapping on nanomechanics while playing Bach? And why not? Anything went at the debut concert of MUSE/IQUE, the "orchestra of the future," July 30 at Caltech's Beckman Mall. Seated, or milling, outdoors in the company of the olive trees, listeners enjoyed a true mash up that blended "high culture with casual whimsy," in the vibrantly unconventional style we've come to expect from visionary conductor Rachael Worby Conceived as the orchestra for the iPod generation, and patterned after the iPod Playlist, MUSE-IQUE hopped, skipped and jumped across time and space with Worby as the tour guide, making the music come alive through her dynamic, inspiring stories and insights.

The program reflected Worby's own eclectic tastes – her personal song playlist includes everything from Turandot's "Nessun Dorma" to Juke Joint Jump's "Tatum Pole Boogie" – and zigzagged across genres with selections like Thelonius Monk's Misterioso and 'Round Midnight; Michael Jackson's Thriller; the world premiere of Peter Knell's Charged Particles; John Williams' Air and Simple Gifts; and plenty of The Duke, as in Ellington.

Grammy-winning guest soprano Jessye Norman, who shares her good friend Worby's passion for bringing the "life-enriching power and joy of the creative spirit" to the community, devoted her awesome talents to the "songs of America," delivering powerful renditions of traditional spirituals, swing numbers, Gershwin classics and that Rodgers and Hammerstein heart-clencher, You'll Never Walk Alone. And then there was Julia Greer.

The brilliant young Caltech physicist, who's also a composer and pianist, accompanied her performance of Bach's elegant, intricate Partita No. 2 with a rap song on her specialty, nanomechanics. Or was it the other way around? Too cool. Congratulations, MUSE/IQUE – the future has arrived!

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