

PRESS RELEASE

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MUSE/IQUE MASHES IT UP AT DEBUT CONCERT UNDER THE STARS

Rachael Worby leads Pasadena's new
"Orchestra for the iPod Generation"
in a program featuring guest soprano Jessye Norman,
Caltech physicist Julia Greer, and everything
from Boxer to Thriller.

Saturday, July 30th, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Los Angeles, Calif. - July 25, 2011 -- A Caltech physicist rapping on nanomechanics while performing a Bach partita on the piano? Michael Jackson's Thriller sharing the stage with legendary soprano Jessye Norman? The world premieres of new works by multi-award-winning Pasadena-based composer Peter Knell and the very young, very-evolving Ben Lear, alongside the best of Monk, Gershwin, Ellington?

No, it's not your average classical music concert. But then again, Rachael Worby isn't your average conductor. And her new orchestra, MUSE/IQUE, is the opposite of average: a bold experiment in unconventionality that she calls "the orchestra of the future - the 2.0 version."

A Pasadena-based ensemble that encourages and supports local artists and connects them to the community, MUSE/IQUE is designed as both an alternative to the traditional classical concert experience and a vehicle for musical education and outreach that will touch, excite and inspire the younger generation. Mixing culture with whimsy, MUSE/IQUE shakes the cobwebs off of classical concert going. "Think friends mixing at a salon under the stars rather than passive strangers at a stuffy concert," says Worby.

MUSE/IQUE's debut concert takes place Saturday, July 30 at 7:30 p.m. in a not-your-average classical concert setting: outdoors among the olive trees in Caltech's Beckman

Mall, where listeners are invited to sit, stand or mill about as Worby takes them on a wild musical "mash up" geared to "the iPod generation" and its time-space-genre hopping Playlist.

Acting as both conductor and tour guide, Worby will provide, with her trademark enthusiasm and humor, stories and insights about the various works, some of which threaten to pop out at the audience like surprise packages.

You can't tell what's going to happen at the premieres of Peter Knell's Charged Particles and Ben Lear's Boxer, as both composers excel in the unexpected. And get ready, get set for the phenomenal Julia Greer - an award-winning Caltech professor who's also a composer and pianist - when she skyrockets into Nanomechanics Mash Up, a work that combines her talents as a scientist, classical piano virtuoso and rap artist.

And Grammy-winning soprano Jessye Norman, the recipient of this year's National Medal for the Arts from President Obama, salutes MUSE/IQUE and her good friend Worby's efforts to bring the "life-enriching power and joy of the creative spirit" to the community with a tribute to the songs of America that includes traditional spirituals, swing numbers, Gershwin classics and that Rodgers and Hammerstein heart-clencher, You'll Never Walk Alone.

The program also features works by Leonard Bernstein, Thelonius Monk, Duke Ellington and John Williams.

MUSE/IQUE' s fall line up includes an evening with vocalist Ellis Hall, former lead singer of Tower of Power, on Monday, October 3rd, in which he and Worby will deconstruct the blues and Gershwin and compose a song together; and on Monday, November 7th, the premiere of a new work by Peter Knell, performed by the Doric String Quartet as they sit on printing machines and stacks of paper at Pasadena's famed Castle Press.

Tickets for MUSE/IQUE's July 30 debut concert are \$75 and can be obtained at www.muse-ique.com or by calling 626-539-7085. Caltech's Beckman Mall is located at 332 S. Michigan Avenue in Pasadena. Parking is FREE.

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