American Repertory Theater Announces the Return of American Modern Opera Company’s Run AMOC! Festival December 13 – 14

Images available for download here.

Cambridge, MA—American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University, under the leadership of Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director Diane Paulus and Executive Producer Diane Borger, announces the return of AMOC (American Modern Opera Company) for its third annual Run AMOC! Festival, December 13 - 14, 2019. The “hot-bed of boundary-pushing, inventive, chance-taking artists” (ZEALnyc) will present three pieces featuring company members at venues around Harvard Square in Cambridge.

Led by Artistic Directors Matthew Aucoin (Crossing at the A.R.T. and BAM, Harvard ’12) and Zack Winokur (The Black Clown at the A.R.T. and Lincoln Center’s Mostly Mozart Festival), AMOC serves as the artistic home for seventeen of the most exciting singers, dancers, and instrumentalists of the rising generation. AMOC’s artists are committed to reimagining what it means to make opera in the twenty-first century: unlike a typical opera company, which features a constantly-changing roster of artists in one particular theater, AMOC focuses on deep, long-term artistic relationships among its core members. The company’s goal is to create a body of new, discipline-colliding music- and dance-theater works, conceived, developed, and performed by our artists.

FESTIVAL LINE-UP (DETAILS BELOW)

• **El Cimarrón**
  An operatic cry for freedom
  Music by Hans Werner Henze
  Directed by Zack Winokur
  Friday, December 13 at 8PM at Farkas Hall (12 Holyoke St, Cambridge, MA)

• **With Care**
  An exploration of care, love, and loss through dance and music
  Created by Bobbi Jene Smith in collaboration with Keir GoGwilt
  Saturday, December 14 at 8PM at Farkas Hall (12 Holyoke St, Cambridge, MA)
• CAGE
A radically intimate exploration of outer-worldly pianistic expression, light, and dance
Featuring Conor Hanick
Friday, December 13 at 6:30PM at Loeb Drama Center Ex (64 Brattle St, Cambridge, MA)
Saturday, December 14 at 6:30PM at Loeb Drama Center Ex (64 Brattle St, Cambridge, MA)

TICKETING INFORMATION

Tickets start at $25 and are now on sale online at AmericanRepertoryTheater.org, by phone at 617.547.8300, and in person at the Loeb Drama Center Ticket Services Offices (64 Brattle Street, Cambridge). Discounts are available to Subscribers, Members, groups, students, seniors, Blue Star families, EBT card holders, and others.

**A limited number of press tickets are available for each performance—contact Rebecca Curtiss (rebecca_curtiss@harvard.edu) with requests.

PRODUCTION DETAILS

• EL CIMARRÓN
Music by Hans Werner Henze
Libretto by Hans Magnus Enzensberger based on the autobiography of Esteban Montejo as related to Miguel Barnet
Directed by Zack Winokur

Featuring:
Davóne Tines, Bass-Baritone
Emi Ferguson, Flute
Jonny Allen, Percussion
Jordan Dodson, Guitar

Hans Werner Henze's chamber opera El Cimarrón (The Runaway Slave) is a tour-de-force sonic onslaught based on the oral autobiography of Esteban Montejo, an Afro-Cuban slave who escaped bondage on a sugar plantation, survived in the jungle, fought for Cuban independence from Spain, and lived to tell about it all before dying at the age of 113. Henze's visceral score is a cry for freedom that transcends time and place. From the creative team behind A.R.T.'s acclaimed The Black Clown, El Cimarrón premiered in May 2019 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art as part of AMOC soprano Julia Bullock’s season as Artist-in-Residence at the museum.

“Spellbinding…a true ensemble performance.”–Financial Times

John Torres, Lighting Design
Carlos Soto, Costume Design
Cath Brittan, Producer
Jennifer Chen, Rehearsal Assistant and Supertitles
• **WITH CARE**
Created by Bobbi Jene Smith in collaboration with Keir GoGwilt
With music by John Cage and Reiko Fueting, and original music by Matthew Aucoin

Featuring:
Yiannis Logothetis and Bobbi Jene Smith, dancers
Miranda Cuckson and Keir GoGwilt, violinists

With Care, a visceral, moving work for two dancers (Bobbi Jene Smith, former star of the Batsheva Dance Company, and Yiannis Logothetis, performer in Sleep No More at New York’s McKittrick Hotel) and two violinists (Keir GoGwilt and Miranda Cuckson), returns to Cambridge after its 2018 sold-out run at Run AMOC! Festival. Building on the cross-disciplinary work of A Study on Effort (“chilling, thrilling rawness” – The New York Times), With Care investigates the dynamics of caregiving, carelessness, and loss through a theatrical fusion of dance, music, and spoken word. With Care is a co-commission of ODC Theater, San Francisco and AMOC.

“With Care poses [questions] of… how we relate with and care for each other in an injurious world; how we love and accommodate and seek slivers of solace when true understanding remains impossible… so eloquently did they probe the struggle between presentation of an ideal form and the fallibilities of flesh.” – The Boston Musical Intelligencer

Julia Eichten, Producer
Marta Miller, Rehearsal Direction
John Torres, Lighting Design
Victoria Bek, Costume Collaboration
Allen Willner, Original Lighting Design

• **CAGE**
Music by John Cage
Conceived by Conor Hanick and Zack Winokur

Featuring:
Conor Hanick, Piano
Julia Eichten, Dance & Choreography

Lauded after its 2018 Run AMOC! Festival premiere as “the best instrumental concert I have seen all year” by David Allen of The New York Times, Conor Hanick (“brilliant…effortlessly elegant,” – The New Yorker; “defies human description,” – Concerto Net) returns to the Loeb Drama Center Ex to perform the entirety of John Cage’s epochal Sonatas and Interludes, a hugely influential set of pieces inspired by Indian philosophy and written for prepared piano. Directed by Zack Winokur, this radically intimate experience is a Cageian collaboration between outer-worldly pianistic expression, light, and dance.


**ABOUT THE ARTISTS**
JONNY ALLEN
Described by The Washington Post as “revitalizing the world of contemporary music” with “jaw-dropping virtuosity”, Jonny Allen is a Brooklyn-based percussionist whose passion for music is contagious. He has won prizes at both the International Chamber Music Competition and the International Marimba Competition in Salzburg, giving performances at Carnegie Hall and Schloss Hoch in Flachau, Austria, respectively. Jonny has also performed as a drum set soloist with Ghana’s National Symphony Orchestra at the National Theatre in Accra. He performs across the United States and internationally with his percussion quartet, Sandbox, and his jazz trio, Triplepoint, and is the percussion director at Choate Rosemary Hall. Jonny is sponsored by Remo Drumheads and by the stick and mallet company Vic Firth. He holds a Bachelor’s degree from the Eastman School of Music, as well as a Master’s degree and Artist Diploma from the Yale School of Music, where he performed with the world-class Yale Percussion Group.

MATTHEW AUCOIN
Matthew Aucoin is an American composer, conductor, writer, and pianist. He was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2018, and is both Artist-in-Residence at Los Angeles Opera and co-artistic director of the American Modern Opera Company. Aucoin is currently at work on a new opera, Eurydice, which is a collaboration with the playwright Sarah Ruhl. Eurydice has been co-commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera and the Los Angeles Opera.

Aucoin’s orchestral and chamber music has been commissioned and performed by such artists as Yo-Yo Ma, Zurich’s Tonhalle Orchestra, Salzburg’s Mozarteum Orchestra, the Brentano Quartet, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Orchestra of St. Luke’s, tenor Paul Appleby, countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo, and Chanticleer. Aucoin’s operas include Crossing (2015), commissioned by the American Repertory Theater; and Second Nature (2015), a chamber opera for the young, commissioned by the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Crossing has gone on to productions at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and Los Angeles Opera; Second Nature has been performed all over the continent, including productions at the Canadian Opera Company and the Music Academy of the West.

In addition to his work in Los Angeles, Aucoin regularly guest-conducts nationally and internationally. This past summer, Aucoin made his Santa Fe Opera conducting debut leading John Adams’s Doctor Atomic, in a new production by Peter Sellars. He has also appeared with the Chicago Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, the Rome Opera Orchestra, the Music Academy of the West, and Juilliard Opera, among others. This season, Aucoin conducts and curates the San Diego Symphony’s annual festival, entitled Hearing the Future.

Aucoin is a 2012 graduate of Harvard College (summa cum laude), where he studied with the poet Jorie Graham, and a 2014 recipient of Juilliard’s Graduate Diploma in Composition. Between 2012 and 2014, he served both as an Assistant Conductor at the Metropolitan Opera and as the Solti Conducting Apprentice at the Chicago Symphony, where he studied with Riccardo Muti.

MIRANDA CUCKSON
Violinist and violist Miranda Cuckson is a favorite of audiences for her performances of a great range of repertoire and styles, from music of older eras to the most current creations. She made her Carnegie Hall (Stern Auditorium) debut in Piston’s concerto with the American Symphony Orchestra. Miranda is
founder/director of the music non-profit Nunc, a member of the collective counter) induction, and a performer/curator at National Sawdust in Brooklyn. She studied at The Juilliard School, where she received her BM, MM, and doctorate degrees and won the school’s Presser and Richard F. French Awards. She is on the violin faculty at the Mannes School of Music.

JORDAN DODSON (GUEST ARTIST)
*Performance Today* describes classical guitarist Jordan Dodson as “one of the top young guitarists of his generation.” A winner of Astral's 2013 National Auditions, he is an active soloist and chamber musician based in New York and Philadelphia. He has also received awards from the 2011 Lilliam Fuchs Chamber Music Competition, the 2010 Indiana International Guitar Competition, and the 2008 American String Teachers Association Competition. In 2013, he was a Young Artist in Residence on American Public Media’s *Performance Today*.

JULIA EICHTE
Julia Eichten grew up dancing in Minnesota. She is a graduate of The Juilliard School under the directorship of Lawrence Rhodes. Upon graduation, Julia received the Hector Zaraspe award in recognition of her choreography. She has shown her work in New York City at venues including Le Poisson Rouge, Dumbo Dance Festival, and Dance Theater of Harlem, and was choreographer-in-residence at The Yard in Martha’s Vineyard in 2011. She has performed with Camille A. Brown & Dancers and Aszure Barton & Artists. Julia was a founding member of L.A. Dance Project and has performed works by Benjamin Millepied, Merce Cunningham, Justin Peck, Martha Graham, Danielle Agami, Emanuel Gat, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (*Jagged Little Pill*), Ohad Naharin, and William Forsythe. In the spring of 2015, Julia had a world premiere of her piece, O'de, in collaboration with L.A. Dance Project and Lil Buck at Versailles.

EMI FERGUSON
English-American performer and composer Emi Ferguson stretches the boundaries of what is expected of modern-day musicians. Trained at Juilliard as a flutist, she can be heard live in concerts and festivals around the world as well as at home in New York City where she is a member of the New York New Music Ensemble, NYBI, Argento Ensemble, and New Vintage Baroque. She has spoken and performed at several TEDx events and has been featured on media outlets including The Discovery Channel and TouchPress apps talking about how music relates to our world today. Currently on the faculty of the Juilliard School teaching Ear Training in the Evening and Pre-College divisions, Emi has also served on the faculty of the University of Buffalo. She received her BM in flute performance with Scholastic Distinction, MM in flute performance, and MM in historical performance from The Juilliard School. Born in Japan and raised in London and Boston, she now resides in New York City.

KEIR GOGWILT
Keir GoGwilt is a violinist and writer whose work spans a range of genres and disciplines. Much of his work seeks to present musical practices of the so-called classical tradition as provincial and heterogeneous. He is most at home in collaborative, often interdisciplinary work, in which creative labor is shared and recognized. His collaboration with dancer Bobbi Jene Smith on her show, *A Study on Effort*, has been featured at the Luminato Festival, PS 122’s COIL Festival, the ODC Theater, UCSD Dance & Theater, and the American Repertory Theater. Other recent work includes GoGwilt’s debut solo CD, *re: d*, with music by Johann Paul von Westhoff and Carolyn Chen. His longest continuous collaborator, Matthew Aucoin, has written numerous pieces for him, including “Poem” and “Its Own
Accord.” GoGwilt is currently a PhD candidate in music at UCSD. He has been a teaching assistant for courses on European art music, hip hop, and jazz music history. He graduated from Harvard University, where he was awarded the Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts.

CONOR HANICK
A pianist that “defies human description” for some (Concerto Net) and recalls “a young Peter Serkin” for others (The New York Times), Conor Hanick is one of his generation’s most inquisitive interpreters of music old and new. As the “soloist of choice for such thorny works” (The New York Times), Hanick recently performed Milton Babbitt’s Piano Concerto No. 2 with the Juilliard Orchestra at Alice Tully Hall; György Ligeti’s Piano Concerto with Alan Gilbert at the New York Philharmonic Biennale; Pierre Boulez’s sur Incises with James Levine at Carnegie Hall; and the world premiere of Matthew Aucoin’s Piano Concerto with the Alabama Symphony. Connor is a solo piano faculty artist at the Music Academy of the West and holds degrees from Northwestern University and The Juilliard School, where he completed his Master’s and Doctorate studying with Yoheved Kaplinsky and Matti Raekallio.

YIANNIS LOGOTHETIS (GUEST ARTIST)
Yiannis Logothetis is a dancer, performer, actor, choreographer, teacher, and mentor. He grew up in Thessaloniki, Greece and moved to New York in 2013. He recently took part in the creation of Destination, a dance-theatre performance directed by Yang Zhen and sponsored by Menno Plukker which premiered in Münster in September of 2019. His love for improvisation and instant composition led him to co-create Performance & Party alongside Elia Mrak and Hannah Wendel. Yiannis received his BFA in dance from Marymount Manhattan College while receiving the "Gold Key" award for choreographic recognition. His professional performance experience began when he became a part of Punchdrunk’s Sleep No More NYC where he played the roles of Macbeth and Banquo. Later collaborations include Crystal Pite and Jonathan Young’s Betroffenheit tour with Kidd Pivot, Bobbi Jene Smith’s Caldera with CORPUS, and Boaz Yakin’s feature film AVIVA.

BOBBI JENE SMITH
Bobbi Jene Smith was born in Centerville, Iowa. From 2005 - 2014, she was a member of the Batsheva Dance Company under the artistic direction of Ohad Naharin. She is an alumnus of the Juilliard School, North Carolina School of the Arts, and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. Her work has been presented by The Batsheva Dance Company, The Israel Museum, Machol Shalem, Sacramento Ballet, The CCA, The San Francisco Conservatory of Dance, and The Juilliard School. Bobbi is a certified GAGA teacher and has taught Ohad Naharin’s repertory in schools and universities around the US. In 2015, Smith relocated to New York City, NY.

CARLOS SOTO
Carlos Soto is a director, designer and performer based in New York City. Credits include: Solange’s Witness! (Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg); When I Get Home (as associate director and designer for film and concert tour); Metatronia (Metatron’s Cube), Hammer Museum, LA; Scales, Chinati Foundation, Marfa, TX; Cosmic Journey/Orion’s Rise tour (Hollywood Bowl, Radio City, Sydney Opera House, etc.) Scenic, Costume Design and Image Curation: Triptych (Eyes of One on Another) by director Bryce Dessner (The National), librettist Korde Arrington Tuttle, director Kaneza Schaal, Roomful of Teeth, with the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation (BAM, Holland Festival, Kennedy Center, UMS). Sets and Costumes: The Black Clown with Davóne Tines, directed by Zack Winokur (ART). Costumes: Perle Noire: Meditations for Joséphine by Julia Bullock, Claudia Rankine, Tyshawn Sorey,
and Peter Sellars, director Zack Winokur; The Mile-Long Opera, by Anne Carson, Claudia Rankine, David Lang, Ragnar Kjartarsson, and Diller Scfidio + Renfro. With Robert Wilson (as designer and performer): Adam’s Passion, Einstein on the Beach, Garrincha, The Life and Death of Marina Abramovic, and Oedipus Rex. Upcoming: Wilson’s staging of Händel’s Der Messias (Mozartwoche, Salzburg); Sunday in the Park with George, director Zack Winokur (LA Philharmonic); Wagner’s Tristan und Isolde, director Zack Winokur (Santa Fe Opera); Rise with Jennifer Koh and Davóne Tines, director James Darrah; Amahl and the Night Visitors, director Robert Wilson (Peak Performances, Montclair, NJ)

DAVÓNE TINES
Heralded as “a singer of immense power and fervor” by The Los Angeles Times, Davóne Tines came to international attention during the 2015 - 16 in breakout performances at the Dutch National Opera premiere of Kaija Saariaho’s Only the Sound Remains directed by Peter Sellars and at the Ojai Music Festival presenting works by Caroline Shaw and Kaija Saariaho with the Calder Quartet and the International Contemporary Ensemble. Tines was co-creator with Zack Winokur and composer Michael Schachter, as well as co-librettist of The Black Clown, a music theater experience inspired by Langston Hughes’ poem of the same name that animates a black man’s resilience against America’s legacy of oppression by fusing vaudeville, opera, jazz, and spirituals to bring Hughes’ verse to life onstage. The world premiere was given by the American Repertory Theater in autumn 2018 and presented by Lincoln Center in summer 2019.

JOHN TORRES
John Torres’ work includes designs for dance, theater, music, fashion, and print. Recent opera projects include The Black Clown at Lincoln Center’s Mostly Mozart’s Festival, Tristan and Isolde at La Monnaie de Munt in Brussels, Atlas by Meredith Monk with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and director Yuval Sharon, and The Mile-Long Opera (collaboration with Anne Carson, Claudia Rankine, David Lang, Ragnar Kjartarsson, and Diller Scfidio + Renfro) on the High Line. In collaboration with Robert Wilson, Cheek to Cheek Live! with Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga for PBS Great Performances, and Turandot at Teatro Real in Madrid. Recent theater credits include Twelfth Night with director Oskar Eustis, Shakespeare in the Park at the Delacorte Theatre. Recent music credits include Taylor Mac: A 24-Decade History of Popular Music; Solange Knowles’ Cosmic Journey; and Joni 75: A Birthday Celebration. Recent Dance credits include Toss and Rogues with Trisha Brown, Théâtre National de Chaillot; Available Light with Lucinda Childs at Walt Disney Concert Hall, and Lost Mountain with Bobbi Jene Smith at La MaMa. In fashion, Givenchy S/S 2015 on Pier 26 in TriBeCa, Proenza Schouler, and Yeezy 3 by Kanye West at Madison Square Garden.

ZACK WINOKUR
With his work recently being described as “pure poetry” (The Boston Globe), stage director, choreographer, and dancer Zack Winokur is recognized as one of the most innovative and exciting talents working in opera today. Future highlights include directing Sondheim's Sunday in the Park with George with the Los Angeles Philharmonic conducted by Gustavo Dudamel and Wagner’s Tristan und Isolde – the centerpiece of Santa Fe Opera’s 2020 season.

Highlights from this season include his “rich, seamless” (The New York Times) production of The Black Clown, an adaptation of the Langston Hughes poem starring Davóne Tines with music by Michael Schachter, at the Mostly Mozart Festival at Lincoln Center and the American Repertory Theater; his
“darkly captivating” (New York Times) production of Perle Noire: Meditations for Joséphine, with music by Tyshawn Sorey, text by Claudia Rankine, and starring Julia Bullock on the grand staircase of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; Sondheim’s A Little Night Music with the Nederlandse Reisopera in collaboration with design firm Charlap Hyman & Herrero and visual artist Cynthia Talmadge; a new production of Hans Werner Henze’s El Cimarrón starring Davóne Tines, also at the Met Museum; and a new piece for the Los Angeles Dance Project at the Luma Foundation in Arles, France. Recent highlights include Monteverdi’s L’incoronazione di Poppea starring Anthony Roth Costanzo at the Cincinnati Opera; an immersive pairing of Gluck’s Orfeo and Matthew Aucoin’s Orphic Moment at Lincoln Center’s Rose Theater; Monteverdi’s Il ballo delle Ingrate with William Christie, Il Barbiere di Siviglia with Lotte de Beer at the Dutch National Opera and Rameau’s Hippolyte et Aricie with Stephen Wadsworth at Juilliard.

A truly multi-disciplinary artist, Winokur has collaborated with a diverse group of artists in a range of media, including Academy Award-nominated director Mike Figgis, pianist Rosey Chan, fashion house Boudicca, grime artist Pepstar, DJ crew A Tribe Called Red, artists Gerard & Kelly in venues from David Lynch’s Club Silencio, the Centre Pompidou, the Mies van der Rohe Farnsworth House, the Royal Opera House and the Supreme Court of the United States. Winokur was born in Boston, Massachusetts and is a graduate of The Juilliard School.

ABOUT AMOC

AMOC is an opera company on a new model. Led by Artistic Directors Matthew Aucoin and Zack Winokur, the company serves as the artistic home for seventeen of the most exciting singers, dancers, and instrumentalists of the rising generation. AMOC’s artists are committed to reimagining what it means to make opera in the twenty-first century: unlike a typical opera company, which features a constantly-changing roster of artists in one particular theater, AMOC focuses on deep, long-term artistic relationships among its core members. The company’s goal is to create a body of new, discipline-colliding music- and dance-theater works, conceived, developed, and performed by our artists.

AMOC’s previous season included the premiere of With Care, a new work co-commissioned by ODC Theater in San Francisco and AMOC, created by dancer Bobbi Jene Smith in collaboration with Keir GoGwilt; a second, expanded Run AMOC! Festival at the American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, MA; performances of John Adams’s El Niño, arranged specially for AMOC, at the Cloisters; and the company’s first fully-staged chamber opera production, Hans Werner Henze’s El Cimarrón, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. AMOC has additionally been Artist-in-Residence at Harvard University and Park Avenue Armory.

ABOUT AMERICAN REPERTORY THEATER

American Repertory Theater (A.R.T.) at Harvard University is a leading force in the American theater, producing groundbreaking work that is driven by risk-taking, artistic inquiry, and passionate inquiry. A.R.T. was founded in 1980 by Robert Brustein, who served as Artistic Director until 2002, when he was succeeded by Robert Woodruff. Diane Paulus began her tenure as Artistic Director in 2008. Under the leadership of Paulus as the Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director and Executive Producer Diane Borger, A.R.T. seeks to expand the boundaries of theater by programming transformative theatrical experiences, always including the audience as a central partner.
Throughout its history, A.R.T. has been honored with many distinguished awards including the Tony Award for Best New Play for *All the Way* (2014); consecutive Tony Awards for Best Revival of a Musical for *Pippin* (2013) and *The Gershwins’ Porgy and Bess* (2012), both of which Paulus directed, and sixteen other Tony Awards since 2012; a Pulitzer Prize; a Jujamcyn Prize for outstanding contribution to the development of creative talent; the Regional Theater Tony Award; and more than 100 Elliot Norton and IRNE Awards. Under Paulus’s leadership, A.R.T.’s club theater, OBERON, has been recognized annually as a top performance venue in the Boston area, and has attracted national attention for its innovative programming and business models.

As the professional theater on the campus of Harvard University, A.R.T. is committed to playing a central role in the cognitive life of the University, catalyzing discourse, interdisciplinary collaboration, and creative exchange among a wide range of academic departments, institutions, students, and faculty members. A.R.T. is engaged in a number of multi-year initiatives with partners at Harvard that explore some of the most pressing issues of our day, including a collaboration with the Harvard University Center for the Environment to develop new work that addresses climate change. A.R.T. plays a central role in Harvard’s undergraduate Theater, Dance & Media concentration, teaching courses in directing, dramatic literature, acting, voice, design, and dramaturgy. A.R.T. staff also mentors students in the Harvard Radcliffe Dramatic Club working at the Loeb Drama Center and OBERON.

Dedicated to making great theater accessible, A.R.T. actively engages more than 5,000 community members and local students annually in project-based partnerships, workshops, conversations with artists, and other enrichment activities both at the theater and across the Greater Boston area.

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