Merkin Concert Hall

A division of the Elaine Kaufman Cultural Center

Composer John Zorn to Present Chimeras *at Merkin Concert Hall on Saturday, June 1, 9–10 PM*

John Schaefer will host panel discussion about Zorn's work

New York, NY, 5/08/02—On **Saturday, June 1, from 9–10 PM, Merkin Concert Hall** offers the final performance in the series, ***Zoom: Composers Close Up,*** which highlights new works and new composers. The program will focus on ***Chimeras*** by **composer John Zorn**—an ethereal and multilayered classical chamber composition featuring piano, percussion and a virtuosic, wordless soprano line. Premiered in 2001 by the Seattle Chamber Players with soprano Sarah Coburn, the Merkin Hall performance of *Chimeras* will feature Beth Anne Hatton and Ilana Davidson, soprano; Tara Helen O'Connor, flute; Michael Lowenstern, clarinet; Jenny Choi, violin; Fred Sherry, cello; Stephen Drury, piano; and William Winant, percussion.

The hour-long event includes a panel discussion hosted by New York City's new music radio voice, **John Schaefer.** A meet-the-artists reception will immediately follow the discussion.

Merkin Concert Hall is located at 129 W. 67th Street, between Broadway and Amsterdam. **Tickets to this event are sold on a "pay-what-you-wish" basis, with a suggested price of $10.** All tickets are available at the Box Office or by calling **(212) 501-3330.**

About John Zorn

"He is so prolific and so various a musician that any quick characterization will have to await the Zorn scholars of the 21st Century."

—PAUL GRIFFITHS, The New York Times

New Yorker JOHN ZORN was born in 1953. He traveled extensively before coming back home to become a central figure in the downtown music scene, playing saxophone and keyboards in addition to composing. He has listed among his early inspirations American innovators Charles Ives, John Cage, and Harry Partch as well as Ornette Coleman and Jimmy Giuffre, to name a few. His compositional output is diverse, reflecting his experience in a variety of genres, including jazz, rock, hardcore punk, classical and improvised music.

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" . . . [Zorn] seems to have joined the many strands of his music experience into a mode of communication that's as compelling and individual as the sound of his alto horn."

—LARRY BLUMENFELD, *Jazziz*

His music has been performed worldwide to great acclaim, and groups such as the New York Philharmonic, Eos Orchestra, the American Composers Orchestra and the Kronos Quartet have commissioned his works. In addition to performing and composing, John Zorn has built his own record label, Tzadik, which has become an important forum for works by today's leading experimental composers and artists. Last year, John Zorn received the 2001 Jewish Cultural Award in Performing Arts from the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.

About Merkin Concert Hall

Merkin Concert Hall is a division of the ELAINE KAUFMAN CULTURAL CENTER, which also includes the Lucy Moses School for Music and Dance and the Special Music School of America. A not-for-profit organization founded in 1952, the Kaufman Center occupies is own facility, the award-winning Abraham Goodman House, located in the heart of Manhattan's Upper West Side. Through its three divisions, the Center is an unsurpassed cultural resource where people of all ages experience the joy of artistic creation, expression and appreciation.