



Vancouver New Music presents
Michael Gordon's *Rushes* performed by Rushes Ensemble

"... like the rippling patterns of the op art it calls to mind, Rushes is full of wonderful, illusory textural effects and little bursts of surprise."—Joshua Kosman, *San Francisco Gate*

Vancouver New Music will open its 2014/2015 concert series with a performance of **Michael Gordon's *Rushes***, on **Saturday, November 22; 8 PM**, at the **Orpheum Annex**. The brilliant and hypnotic work by celebrated American composer, and Bang on a Can co-founder will be performed by **Rushes Ensemble**, established as the premiere interpreter of the piece.

A 60-minute tour-de-force, *Rushes* (2012), features the rich, undulating harmonies of seven bassoons. Gordon shifts polyrhythmic material through timbre and dynamics as well as weaving melodic lines into waves of rhythmic texture in this ground-breaking work. The title *Rushes* is evocative of tall grasses, a nod to the reed of the bassoon as well as referencing a musical *rush* or euphoria. Renowned for pioneering new work in the classical genre, Michael Gordon's *Timber* (2009) was performed in Vancouver as part of VNM 2012/2013 season and was also recognized for opening up the boundaries of single instrument repertoire.

IN BRIEF

Vancouver New Music presents

***Rushes* (Michael Gordon) performed by Rushes Ensemble**

Saturday, November 22, 2014

Pre-show Talk: 7:15 PM (FREE) | Concert: 8 PM

Orpheum Annex (823 Seymour Street, Vancouver) | Tickets: \$35 / \$15

Advance tickets available at www.rushes-vancouver.brownpapertickets.com or 1.800.838.3006. A four-concert subscription pack is also available for \$112.

A brilliant and hypnotic new work by American composer, and Bang on a Can co-founder Michael Gordon performed by Rushes Ensemble. More Information: www.newmusic.org

Formed in 2012, Rushes Ensemble includes US-based bassoonists **Rachael Elliott, Dana Jessen, Michael Harley, Lynn Hileman, Jeffrey Lyman, Saxton Rose, and Maya Stone**. This unique septet is dedicated to expanding and diversifying the contemporary repertoire for the bassoon through live performances, innovative collaborations and commissioning new works. The ensemble commissioned Michael Gordon's *Rushes* through the New Music Bassoon Fund, and went on to release the studio recording in March 2014 (Cantaloupe Records). Rushes Ensemble has performed at Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center in New York, the November Music Festival in 's-Hertogenbosch, University of Michigan's Stamps Auditorium, Amsterdam's Ostadetheater, the Hague's Korzo Theater as well as a Belgium National Radio Broadcast performance at the Concertgebouw Brugge.

Over the past 25 years, Michael Gordon has produced a striking array of compositions, ranging from large-scale works for high-energy ensembles to major orchestral commissions to works conceived specifically for the studio. Transcending categorization, his music merges subtle rhythmic invention with incredible power. Career highlights include orchestral and chamber works: *Rewriting Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, Sunshine of your Love, Potassium, Industry, The Sad Park, and Trance*, and works for theatre and opera: *What To Wear, Acquafetta, Lost Objects, and Van Gogh*. Gordon has been commissioned by the Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the BBC Proms, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Settembre Musica, and the Dresden Festival. He has been honored by the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Foundation for Contemporary Performance Arts, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Gordon holds a bachelor of arts from New York University and a master's in music from the Yale School of Music. He is co-founder and co-artistic director of New York's legendary music collective Bang On a Can. His music is published by Red Poppy Music (ASCAP), and is distributed worldwide by G. Schirmer, Inc.

ABOUT VANCOUVER NEW MUSIC

Vancouver New Music is dedicated to exploring and contextualizing new music and sonic art, through concert presentations, festival, community, and workshop events. VNM regularly commissions and premieres new works by Canadian composers, presents leading and emerging electroacoustic and electronic music artists, international composers and performers, sound installations and music theatre. VNM presents an annual festival that focuses each year on a theme within the new music landscape, and explores the interaction of contemporary music with other disciplines such as theatre, installation and media arts. Other activities include lectures and workshops with visiting artists, ensemble workshops and presentations open to the community, and other sound art and new music related community events.

www.newmusic.org

Vancouver New Music gratefully acknowledges the support of The Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage through Arts Presentation Canada, The Province of British Columbia through the British Columbia Arts Council and Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch, The City of Vancouver, Tom Lee Music, Holiday Inn Downtown, The Georgia Straight and The Tyee.

-30-

