

Sunday, February 19, 2017, 7pm
Zellerbach Hall



Briene Lemmitte

Maria Schneider Orchestra *The Thompson Fields*

Composer/Conductor
Maria Schneider

Reeds

Steve Wilson
Dave Pietro
Rich Perry
Donny McCaslin
Scott Robinson

Trumpets/Flugelhorn

Greg Gisbert
Jonathan Heim
Nadje Noordhuis
Mike Rodriguez

Trombones

Keith O'Quinn
Ryan Keberle
Marshall Gilkes
George Flynn

Guitar

Lage Lund

Accordion

Gary Versace

Piano

Frank Kimbrough

Bass

Jay Anderson

Drums

Clarence Penn

*This evening's performance will be performed without intermission
and will last approximately 90 minutes.*

*Jazz residency and education activities generously underwritten
by the Thatcher-Meyerson Family*



Maria Schneider's music has been hailed by critics as "evocative, majestic, magical, heart-stoppingly gorgeous, and beyond categorization." She and her orchestra became widely known starting in 1994 when they released their first recording, *Evanescence*. There, Schneider began to develop her personal way of writing for what would become her 18-member collective, made up of many of the finest musicians in jazz today, and tailoring her compositions to highlight the uniquely creative voices of the group. The Maria Schneider Orchestra has performed at festivals and concert halls worldwide. She herself has received numerous commissions and guest-conducting invitations, and worked with over 85 groups from over 30 countries.

Schneider's music blurs the lines between genres, making her long list of commissioners quite varied, stretching from Jazz at Lincoln Center, to the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, to collaborating with David Bowie. She is among a small group of artists to have received Grammy Awards in multiple genres, having received the honor in both jazz and classical categories, as well as for her work with Bowie.

Schneider and her orchestra have a distinguished recording career, earning 12 Grammy nominations and five Grammy Awards. Unique funding of projects has become a hallmark for Schneider through the trendsetting company ArtistShare. Her album *Concert in the Garden* (2004) made history as the first recording to

win a Grammy with Internet-only sales; even more significantly, it blazed the "crowd-funding" trail as ArtistShare's first release. Schneider has received honors from the Jazz Journalists Association and the *Downbeat* and *Jazztimes* critics and readers polls. In 2012 her *alma mater*, the University of Minnesota, presented Schneider with an honorary doctorate, and in 2014, ASCAP awarded her its esteemed Concert Music Award.

Schneider has become a strong voice for music advocacy and in 2014 testified about digital rights before the United States Congressional Subcommittee on Intellectual Property. She has also appeared on CNN, and has been quoted in numerous publications for her views on Spotify, Pandora, digital rights, and music piracy. Most recently she and concerned colleagues in New York launched a widespread campaign on behalf of music-makers, MusicAnswers.org.

Her collaboration with her orchestra and David Bowie resulted in the single "Sue (Or In A Season of Crime)" and earned Schneider a 2016 Grammy Award for Best Arrangement, Instruments and Vocals. Schneider and her orchestra also received a 2016 Grammy for their latest work, *The Thompson Fields* (Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album).

Ken Jablonski, *sound*
Marie Le Claire, *management*



Donor Spotlight

Cal Performances Salutes the Thatcher Meyerson Family

This season, Cal Performances' jazz residency and education activities are generously underwritten by the Thatcher Meyerson Family. Their generous gift is inspired by—and in loving memory of—family heads David and Shirley Thatcher.

In 1946, David and Shirley met working on a Democratic campaign in Philadelphia. The couple married the following year, and Shirley always said that she fell for David partly because of his jazz record collection.

Shortly thereafter, the Thatchers moved to California to fulfill David's dream of attending UC Berkeley, where he eventually received his Ed.D. Enthusiastic swing dancers, and always actively engaged in community life, David and Shirley soon welcomed three children to the family. As the years passed, the two campaigned for local Democrats, marched against the Vietnam War, volunteered for the PTA, gave citizenship classes, and edited the *Peace and Justice* newsletter. And through it all, they always included jazz concerts, museum visits, films, and adventurous dining in their family activities.

David and Shirley's middle child, Maris Thatcher Meyerson, remembers coming to Zellerbach Hall with her parents shortly after it opened in 1968. Now serving on Cal Performances' board of trustees as co-chair of the Education and Community Outreach Committee, Maris is grateful to continue her parents' legacy of giving back to the community.