

## MEET A MEMBER: SOPRANO LUCY SHELTON MAKES MAGIC

On March 10, Symphony Space welcomes one of its dearest friends, renowned soprano and member **Lucy Shelton**, to the stage for a rare performance of Alberto Ginastera's daring, beautiful, and rarely heard *Cantata Para America Magica*. Performing with her will be pianist Ursula Oppens (also a member!), the Talujon Percussion Quartet, and percussionists from the Brooklyn, Queens, and Purchase College Conservatories of Music playing a stage full of 58 percussion instruments. The concert, part of the season-long **Sonidos** initiative, also features Ginastera's *Guitar Sonata, Op. 47*, performed by David Leisner, and George Crumb's *Voice of the Whale* and *Night Music I*, an exquisite setting of the poetry of Federico García Lorca. Ms. Shelton is delighted to bring these wonderful yet seldom heard compositions to the Symphony Space audience.



Lucy Shelton

class of students at the New England Conservatory of Music and at Tanglewood. She is now on the faculty at Symphony Space's Upper West Side neighbor, Manhattan School of Music.

After attending and performing in many **Wall to Wall** marathons, Ms. Shelton has become a champion of Symphony Space's music programs and joined the roster of the Symphony Space All-Stars. She was recently featured on the Symphony Space stage in a rare performance of Villa-Lobos' *Bachianas Brasileiras* for soprano and eight cellos, a concert that received a positive review in *The New York Times*. Ms. Shelton enjoys attending concerts almost as much as performing here. "It's a magnet!" she says, noting that she catches a show as often as her schedule allows.

Artistic Director Laura Kaminsky reports she spotted her greeting artist friends here three times in just one week last fall—talk about an avid concert-goer!

Ms. Shelton originally hails from California, but this world-renowned artist has called the Upper West Side home since the 1970s. After studying at Pomona College and the New England Conservatory of Music, she went on to win the prestigious Naumburg Award *twice*, first as part of the Jubal Trio and again as a soloist.

Though she is no stranger to the classics, Ms. Shelton is a solo vocalist with a rare passion for new music. In this latter role, she has been the inspiration for a body of important works by many prominent composers such as Joseph Schwantner, Oliver Knussen, and Elliott Carter. Since the 1990s, she has brought her appreciation of non-standard song literature to a large

And why did she decide to become a member? "I completely believe in Symphony Space as a neighborhood institution. Even when I can't make it to a concert, I love to feel special by knowing what's going on. And the discounts—what a bargain! It's just silly *not* to be a member." We couldn't agree more, and we're thrilled to have her.

You can meet Lucy Shelton when she joins Laura Kaminsky on March 10 at 7:00pm for **UNDERSCORE**, Symphony Space's series of intimate pre-concert artist talks. Enjoy cocktails and conversation in the Thalia Café before Ms. Shelton's appearance in the *Para America Magica* concert that evening. Say hello, learn about the music, and, for members only, enjoy your first glass of wine on us.

**"I completely believe in Symphony Space as a neighborhood institution. Even when I can't make it to a concert, I feel special by knowing what's going on."**



La Catrina Quartet: Robert Kaiser, Daniel Binelli and Polly Ferman; Peter SchAAF, Carlos Sánchez-Gutiérrez: courtesy of the artist, and Harlem Quartet: Tia Williams.

## THE SOUNDS OF WALL TO WALL SONIDOS

It's almost time for **Wall to Wall**! This tradition has been going strong every year since the very beginning in 1978, and Symphony Space plans to top them all with this year's **Wall to Wall Sonidos** on May 14.

The 2011 free music marathon will culminate the season-long **Sonidos** initiative celebrating Latino arts and culture. Symphony Space will present its "annual gift to New York City" with a jam-packed day full of a variety of music from Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain, and Venezuela, played by a stellar lineup of musicians. You can explore the depth and breadth of Latino culture with chamber and world music, jazz and tango, pop and classical—in twelve hours, we'll cover it all! And did we mention the live dance performances and all the world premieres?

Artistic Director Laura Kaminsky has stayed busy all season putting together **Wall to Wall**. "The day is shaping up nicely!" she says, adding, "This year's **Wall to Wall** features some of our Symphony Space All Stars, including Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra, flutist Tara Helen O'Connor, guitarist David Leisner, and the Colorado Quartet. The day opens with a dance series featuring colorful Mexican folkloric dancers and a Spanish flamenco group that promises fun for the entire family and a stimulating start to the marathon."

Like to tango? Don't miss the *nuevo tango* segment focusing on the work of Argentine master Astor Piazzolla complete with dancers. Just how many *bandoneón* (concertina or squeeze-box) players does it take to make a **Wall to Wall**? We are counting three so far, including master artist Daniel Binelli. Straight from Rio de Janeiro in their first U.S. tour, the pop crossover group XPLAU brings a multimedia remix of the music of Brazil's pre-eminent composer, Heitor Villa-Lobos.

Exciting new works include two commissioned by Symphony Space. Arturo O'Farrill's composition brings together his Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra with the chorus from LaGuardia High School of the Arts in a work that features Muslim, Jewish, and Christian spiritual music. Roberto Sierra's *Cuarteto para cuerdas No. 2* uses, "rhythmic and melodic gestures that breathe the air of my native Puerto Rico." It will be performed by the dynamic young La Catrina Quartet, traveling from New Mexico to participate. You'll also enjoy a new work by Tania León, artistic advisor to **Sonidos**, for the renowned Harlem Quartet, and a piece by Mexican composer Carlos Sánchez-Gutiérrez for Japanese *shakuhachi* (bamboo flute) and the Colorado Quartet.

**Wall to Wall Sonidos** is presented to the public *absolutely free of charge*, thanks to many generous contributors and members like you. Only Symphony Space members receive priority admission, and members of ten years or more will be invited to an exclusive open rehearsal the Thursday before **Wall to Wall**. For updates on the artist lineup as soon as it is available, keep your eye on [symphonyspace.org](http://symphonyspace.org).

# symphonyspace® Annual Report to Supporters on the 2009/2010 Season

Symphony Space provides opportunities for artists and audiences to come together in a welcoming atmosphere where they can enjoy a wide range of performances and engage in an exchange of ideas.

## PERFORMANCES

These few highlights from the 2009/2010 season demonstrate Symphony Space's commitment to providing access to the arts and a meeting point for artists and audiences.



Sherman Alexie

### Literature

**Selected Shorts** "An Evening with Sherman Alexie" included an interview with the author and a spellbinding performance of one of his stories by B.D. Wong. **Selected Shorts** also reached audiences through broadcast, podcasts, and on tour. Other performers and authors included Aimee Bender, T.C.

Boyle, Staceyann Chinn, E.L. Doctorow, Ira Glass, Robert Sean Leonard, Kelly O'Hara, David Rakoff, and many others.



Colum McCann

Colum McCann and Colm Tóibín came together to discuss their recent books for the **Thalia Book Club**. Other events featured novels by Harper Lee, Lorrie Moore, Elizabeth Strout, and others.

*Even after coming to Selected Shorts for many years, I'm still surprised and delighted by the performances.*

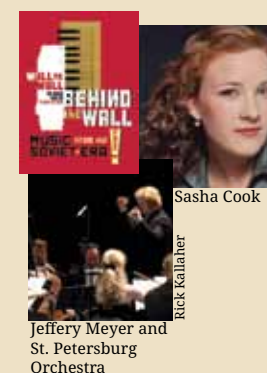
— Susan Beckerman, Member

Judy Blume and Rick Riordan were among the many notable authors who met their young fans at the **Thalia Book Club**.



Judy Blume

**Bloomsday on Broadway XXIX** played to a sold-out house, with performers such as Stephen Colbert, Ira Glass, Fionnula Flanagan, Dana Ivey, Stephen Lang, Malachy McCourt, Marian Seldes, KT Sullivan, and many others.



Sasha Cook

### Performing Arts

More than 30 artists from Eastern Europe participated in **Wall to Wall Behind the Wall**. Three pre-event open rehearsals and conversations helped bring the music into focus, and more than 16,000 people from around the world watched the live webcast of the marathon along with the 2,300 who saw it in person.

Ten compositions premiered in the marathon concert that opened the first annual **Composers Now** festival. Networking breaks allowed composers, performers, and audience members to talk about what they had heard.

Other concert highlights included performances by the Raphael Trio; Del Sol, Colorado, and Cassatt String Quartets; Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg and Anne-Marie McDermott; and Christine Ebersole and Billy Stritch. "Seeing Jazz with George Wein" presented three fascinating evenings of conversation with legendary impresario George Wein and musical performances from colleagues old and new.



Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg

*Symphony Space is a home for New Yorkers on the West Side, for people who love New York, and for the world of music and arts. It is the most welcoming home for a performer.*

— Ursula Oppens, artist

**The Thalia Follies** expanded to five performances of each production, selling out many of them, while keeping its ironic finger on the pulse of politics and world events.



Elizabeth Mitchell

**Just Kidding!** family programs included the ever popular Elizabeth Mitchell and Ralph's World, as well as Cats Paying Dues, a phenomenal tap company.



Misnomer Dance

Misnomer Dance and performance/tap artist Roxanne Butterfly enlivened **Thalia Dance** with their unique performances.

### Film and Media

**Opera in HD** included taped and live broadcasts via satellite from the leading opera houses of Europe, including the festive opening night from Teatro alla Scala in Milan.



Departures

**Thalia Film Sundays** screened a variety of independent and foreign films and documentaries, including *Departures*, a Japanese film that won the 2009 Academy Award for

Best Foreign Film; *Four Seasons Lodge*, a documentary about a resort for Holocaust survivors; and *Seraphine*, a French film about an untutored woman who paints mystical canvases.

**Symphony Space Live**, a new online audio streaming program, was formally launched with scores of live concert recordings of music, literature, cabaret, and kids programs.

## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Some of the most important work done by Symphony Space takes place outside the public eye. The 2009/2010 season saw the launch of **Global Arts: Cultural Literacy and Heritage Project (CAP)**. Like CAP, it offers arts instruction in African, Latin American, Asian, and Native American Studies, as well as in American History,



Bea Kalisher

*CAP brings the kind of learning and experiences that cannot be acquired through textbooks by giving students the sense of being in the past.*

— Teacher at MS 54

while allowing schools and other venues to shape programs more to their particular needs. We also continue to offer the semester-long CAP program.

With literature as such an important part of our programming, it's not surprising that we also offer a program in adult literacy. 870 students from 37 literacy centers in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens took part in **All Write!** last season.

*I never dreamed my story would be picked. Now no one can keep me from writing!*

— All Write! participant

We worked with three local senior centers to distribute more than 400 free tickets, and we presented two performances at Goddard Riverside Senior Center.

## The 2009/2010 Season by the Numbers

Free tickets for seniors	400
All Write participants	870
Education program participants	4,199
Live event attendance	138,817
Total live audience*	144,286
Webcast/streaming	55,600
Podcast downloads	3,600,000
Radio	12,220,000
Total media audience*	15,875,600
Performances on tour	20
Symphony Space productions	154
Film screenings	201
Rental productions	310
Total events	685
Volunteers	25
Interns	26
Board of Directors	28
Staff	38
Teaching artists	50
Total people	167
Income	\$4,486,861
Expenses	\$4,485,456
Net	\$1,405
Funds spent on programs	78%

\*People are counted each time they attend a concert or tune in to a program.

## PERFORMANCE SUBSIDIES

In addition to Symphony Space-produced events, we rent our theatres to a wide range of organizations, 75% of which receive some subsidy. More than 300 events were presented by organizations such as the New York Choral Society, Interscholar Orchestras, Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, American Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Paperbag Players, and the World Music Institute, as well as a host of small music and dance groups.

## LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

The 2009/2010 season began with an announcement of Symphony Space's first transition in artistic leadership in its 32 years: Laura Kaminsky would succeed Isaiah Sheffer as Artistic Director in July 2010, when Executive Director Cynthia Elliott would become President and CEO and Managing Director Peg Wreen would become Senior Vice President for Administration. Joining the Board of Directors last season were Samuel L. Guillory, M.D., and writer and actress Amy Wilson.



Cynthia Elliott, Laura Kaminsky, Peg Wreen, and Isaiah Sheffer

## SPECIAL EVENTS



Isaiah Sheffer and James Naughton

In June 2010, we marked Isaiah Sheffer's retirement with **Isaiah Fest**, a gala evening that brought a long roster of stars to the Peter Jay Sharp Theatre to entertain and toast Isaiah. A more lasting tribute was paid to him with the establishment of **The Isaiah Sheffer Fund for New Initiatives**, a half-million-dollar endowed fund to be used by future artistic directors to nurture new works and projects.

We presented the first annual **Access to the Arts Awards** at our Gala dinner in April. The award honors those who share Symphony Space's dedication to making the arts accessible to everyone. Honorees included Jessye Norman, JP Morgan Chase Foundation, and The 52<sup>nd</sup> Street Project. We also honored five employees who have worked at Symphony Space for 20 years or more: Ed Budz, Madeline Cohen, Denis Heron, Katherine Minton, and Patricia Sinnott.



Kim Jasmín, JP Morgan Chase Foundation, and Geoffrey Holder



Sam Waterston, S. Epatha Merkerson, B.D. Wong, and Sonia Manzano

S. Epatha Merkerson, Sam Waterston, and B.D. Wong of *Law and Order* came together with *Sesame Street*'s Sonia Manzano, Ivy Austin, Jay Leonhart, Lanny Meyers, and Isaiah Sheffer for **New New York Voices**, a performance to benefit All Write!

The legendary Dan Zanes hosted a benefit for family programs in the fall with guest artists Father Goose, Gustafer Yellowgold, and Sonia Manzano with a special friend from *Sesame Street*.



Dan Zanes

## CONTINUING THE SYMPHONY SPACE TRADITION

The 2009/2010 season was very much in the Symphony Space tradition of presenting affordable events with wonderful artists in literature, music, dance, cabaret, film, and family programs. In a year when many cultural organizations were reeling from the effects of the recession, we maintained the level of programming while trimming expenses wherever we could.

*A listing of our individual donors of \$100 or more is enclosed. For a listing that includes the many foundations, corporations, and government agencies that support Symphony Space, please visit our website.*

Many thanks to everyone who supported us by coming to concerts, volunteering, being members, and making contributions. We couldn't have done it without you!

Don't miss Argentinean composer and pianist **Fernando Otero**, who'll bring the sounds of Buenos Aires to **Wall to Wall Sonidos** on Saturday, May 14! Photo courtesy of the artist.

# symphonystories

NEWS FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF SYMPHONY SPACE

PETER NORTON SYMPHONY SPACE  
2537 Broadway at 95th Street, New York, New York 10025-6990

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## SYMPHONY SPACE WELCOMES PENNY JACKSON TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Penny Jackson

Symphony Space is pleased to welcome Pamela Brandt Jackson, who goes by Penny, to the Board of Directors. As a novelist, playwright, teacher, and lifelong Upper West Sider, it's only fitting that Ms. Jackson is now a Board member.

"I have always felt part of the Symphony Space audience," she remarked. Ms. Jackson received her B.A. in English from Barnard College and her M.A. from Teachers' College, Columbia University. She and her husband, Thomas, met when they were both working at the old Shakespeare & Co. bookstore: she in fiction, he in non-fiction. Both are *Bloomsday on Broadway* devotees, who have never missed a June 16 reading.

"I'm passionate about **The Thalia Book Club** and **Selected Shorts**," she says. "Recent Book Club highlights for me were Emma Donoghue's discussion of *Room*, and I thoroughly enjoyed hearing Tom Rachman talk about *The Imperfectionists*. The **Selected Shorts** with Colum McCann was an extraordinary night! The content of the programs is outstanding."

Ms. Jackson published her first novel, *Becoming the Butlers*, in 1990, and since then has received numerous awards and recognitions, including a prestigious MacDowell Colony Fellowship. A supporter of creative writing and girls' education, she taught at Chapin and other New York City schools and continues to volunteer as an instructor at the United Nations. Her enthusiasm for Symphony Space shines through in any conversation. We are delighted to welcome her to the Board of Directors.

## MEMBERS ONLY!

Come mingle with fellow members and connect with Symphony Space artists and curators at exclusive Members Only events! Mark your calendars today for this spring's not-to-be-missed programs. All events are **free**, but don't wait to get your tickets for the associated shows.

Be sure you are signed up to receive our monthly Member Email Updates, which include more information about upcoming events, by sending your email to [erin.watts@symphonyspace.org](mailto:erin.watts@symphonyspace.org).

### March 10 | Para America Magica

Join Artistic Director Laura Kaminsky and soprano (and member!) Lucy Shelton at **UNDERScore**, Symphony Space's series of intimate pre-concert artist talks, in the Thalia Café at 7:00pm. Members enjoy their first glass of wine on us!

### April 6 | Selected Shorts, Etgar Keret and Jonathan Safran Foer

Come early for pre-show refreshments starting at 6:00pm.

### April 16 | Just Kidding Club Day! Thunderbird American Indian Dancers

Stick around after the show for a dance lesson from the artists.

### May 12 | Wall to Wall Sonidos Open Rehearsal

For our members of ten or more years. More information to come!

### May 19 | The Thalia Follies

Drop by the Thalia Studio after the show to toast the last Follies run of the season.

### June 9 | Bloomsday Book Club

Join Founding Artistic Director Isaiah Sheffer for a discussion of *Ulysses* one week before the annual celebration of all things Joyce. We also recommend staying after the talk for *Hello Molly!*, a performance by Irish actress Eilin O'Dea of Molly Bloom's famous monologue. Watch [symphonyspace.org](http://symphonyspace.org) for ticket details.

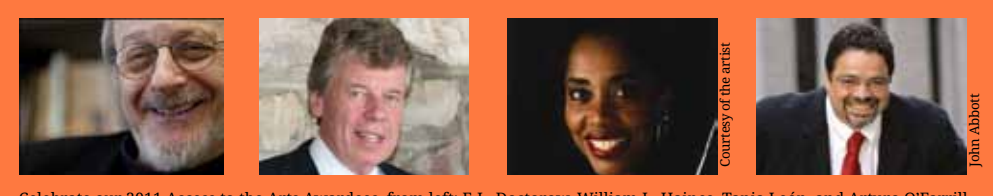
All members holding tickets to these performances are welcome to join us at pre-show events. Reminders will be sent via email a week before each show. To receive these updates or for more information on any upcoming Members Only events, please contact **Erin Watts** at [erin.watts@symphonyspace.org](mailto:erin.watts@symphonyspace.org) or 212.864.1414 x223.

## SAVE THE DATE!

2011 Access to the Arts Awards Gala  
Opens the Door to the Arts

Monday, April 11, 2011  
THREE SIXTY°  
10 Desbrosses Street  
(one block south of the intersection of Hudson and Canal)

6:30pm Cocktails and Silent Auction  
7:30pm Dinner and Award Presentation  
Festive Black Tie



Celebrate our 2011 Access to the Arts Awardees, from left: E.L. Doctorow, William L. Haines, Tania León, and Arturo O'Farrill.

On April 11, we will present the second annual *Access to the Arts Awards* to author **E.L. Doctorow**, composer **Tania León**, and composer/performer **Arturo O'Farrill** of the Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra. Symphony Space Board member **William L. Haines** will also be recognized for his 24 years of leadership which helped to shape the Symphony Space of today. These awards pay tribute to the artists, philanthropists, corporations, and others who share our dedication to providing high-quality arts programming to a wide range of audiences.

The Gala will be chaired by **Steven M. and Evelyn Alden** and emceed by **James Naughton**.

Individual tickets start at \$600 and tables of 10 begin at \$6,000. For more information or to reserve your seats, contact Nicole de Jesús at 212.864.1414 x229 or [nicole.dejesus@symphonyspace.org](mailto:nicole.dejesus@symphonyspace.org). Don't miss this one-night-only celebration of all things Symphony Space! Visit [symphonyspace.org](http://symphonyspace.org) for more details.