



Purchase College

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

The Performing Arts Center

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MARIA SCHNEIDER ORCHESTRA

TAKES FRESH APPROACH TO JAZZ

PURCHASE — The **Maria Schneider Orchestra**, lauded for providing “the first truly novel approach to big jazz band composition of the new century” (*Los Angeles Times*), tunes up at **The Performing Arts Center, Purchase College** on Friday, Mar. 27 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$52.50 and \$42.50.

Schneider’s music has been described as evocative, majestic, magical, heart-stoppingly gorgeous, and beyond categorization. Her orchestra, founded in 1993, got its start in Greenwich Village and has toured at festivals and concert halls around the world.

Concert in the Garden, released only through her website, earned the 2005 Grammy® Award for “Best Large Ensemble Album” and became the first Grammy-winning recording with Internet-only sales. It also received “Jazz Album

of the Year” in the Jazz Journalists Awards competition and the *Downbeat* Critics Poll. Both also awarded Schneider “Composer of the Year” and “Arranger of the Year,” and the Jazz Journalists also named her group “Large Jazz Ensemble of the Year.”

Most recently, *Cerulean Skies* received the 2008 Grammy for “Best Instrumental Composition.” Writing for *All About Jazz*, music critic Dan McClenaghan called *Cerulean Skies* “a masterpiece within a masterpiece,” “magnificent” and “a magical work of art, from beginning to end.” *Downbeat* concluded, “She has become entrenched among the ranks of America's leading composers.”

For more information, and to buy tickets, contact The Performing Arts Center ticket office (914-251-6200) or log onto The Center’s website at <http://www.artscenter.org>.

The Center's 31st season is made possible, in part, by the Basic Program Support Grant of the Westchester Arts Council with funds from Westchester County Government.

Purchase College is located in Westchester County, minutes from the Connecticut border. The college, part of the State University of New York system, is a major institution of public higher education encompassing the liberal arts and sciences, professional training in the performing and visual arts, and continuing education. The college campus is home to The Performing Arts Center and The Neuberger Museum of Art, which strive to present models of excellence for both the college and its surrounding community.

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