WEDS@7 Tiger Duo

OCTOBER 10, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. Conrad Prebys Concert Hall







Program will be announced from the stage.

Myra Melford, Piano and Joëlle Léandre, Bass

About the Artists

Tiger Duo, the inspired union of pianist Myra Melford and bassist Joëlle Léandre, brings an uncommon lucidity to the art of spontaneous composition. On their 2016 release Unleashed (RogueArt), the two pioneering women exhibit a mode of interplay that is "remarkably disciplined and focused, with an emphasis on ... mutuality that gives each track a unified feel" (freejazzblog.com).

The duo began as a result of Melford's Doris Duke Building Demand for the Arts Residency at the Yerba Buena Center of the Arts in San Francisco (2013-15), intended to aid the center in building an audience for their jazz and improvised music program. This culminated in the New Frequencies Fest: Jazz@YBCA in February of 2015. For her own performance on that festival, Melford chose to invite Léandre, whose duo work on Sisters Where (RogueArt) and collaborations with Thomas Buckner, Michael Dessen and others have shown a potent simpatico. The performance at YBCA revealed a wonderful chemistry, and the two decided to continue working as a collectively led duo.

Although the chamber-like texture of the full duo predominates, Tiger Trio weighs all options in terms of orchestration, venturing combinations, solo interludes and other unexpected strategies as the music unfolds.

In addition to Melford's Doris Duke funded residency at YBCA, she has received the Doris

Duke Performing Artist Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Alpert Award in the Arts. A professor at the University of California-Berkeley, she is among the most celebrated pianist-composers of her time, "an explosive player, a virtuoso who shocks and soothes" (San Francisco Chronicle).

Léandre, from France, served as Darius Milhaud Visiting Professor at Mills College in Oakland; it was during that time that she and Melford first met and played together. Léandre also received the DAAD grant in Berlin for two years, as well as a Villa Kujoyama Kyoto residency. Prior to that she was Creative Associate at the Center for Performing Arts in Buffalo, NY, working with Morton Feldman and John Cage. Heard on more than 180 CDs, she has been likened by fellow bassist William Parker to "a sculptor carving and shaping musical poems from large blocks of sonic matter."

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