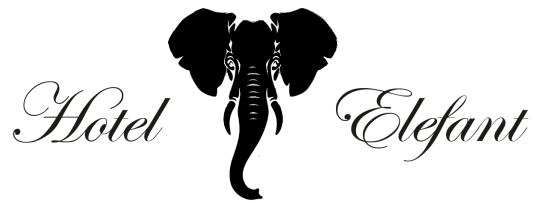


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Hotel Elephant speakOUT Season III Opens September 14

Featuring the works of Sahba Aminikia

“One of New York’s fastest-rising new-music outfits.”

—Time Out New York

New York, N.Y.—The “bold and exuberant” (*The Box if Empty*), contemporary music ensemble **Hotel Elephant** enters its third season, “**speakOUT**,” focusing on music of personal or political nature and highlighting artists and issues that look inward, bear witness, and report back on their findings. Season III “speakOUT,” offerings pull from pop culture, minimalism, noise, the Middle East, and classicism, to present a sum larger than its parts. The season opens on **September 14 at 7:30 p.m.** at (Le) Poisson Rouge.

Anchoring the opening concert is the music of Iranian-born composer **Sahba Aminikia**, who will present a snapshot of the tensions of Iran. Described as “fabulous, colorful, and persuasive” by composer John Adams, Aminikia has cultivated “his own unique voice through which his personal experiences and memories have been refracted” (*San Francisco Examiner*). The performance will feature *Shetaban (In Haste)*; *One Day, Tehran*; and *Sooge Sohrab (The Tragedy of Sohrab)*.

Sunday, September 14, 2014
at 7:30 pm

(Le) Poisson Rouge
158 Bleecker Street
New York, N.Y.

Sahba Aminikia,
She’tābān (In Haste)
One Day, Tehran
Sooge Sohrab (The Tragedy of Sohrab)

Hannis Brown
*Sewing Room Daguerreotype**

Matt Marks
This Will Hurt Someone+

Mary Kouyoumdjian
*Samar’s Song**

Leaha Maria Villarreal
Piano Trio I

and

Interview with Sahba Aminikia
Moderated by James Holt

Tickets: \$15 advance/\$20 at the door

Info:
hotelelephant.org/events

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*written for Hotel Elephant
+arranged for Hotel Elephant

The concert will include world premieres by noise enthusiast **Hannis Brown** and folk-influenced **Mary Kouyoumdjian** (executive director); a new arrangement for Hotel Elefant by composer & pop-culture aficionado **Matt Marks**; and a piano trio elegy by Artistic Director **Leaha Maria Villarreal**.

About Hotel Elefant

Hotel Elefant is a contemporary music ensemble dedicated to the works of innovative, living composers. Founded by composers Leaha Maria Villarreal and Mary Kouyoumdjian, Hotel Elefant brings an awareness of today's music to the general public through commissions, performances, and moderated discussions between composers, performers, and audiences. Committed to modern sounds and sonic explorations, this "audacious and unafraid" (*New Music Box*) ensemble highlights living composers who are blurring lines, pushing boundaries, and fostering creativity. With a flexible roster of over twenty musicians, *Time Out New York* hails Hotel Elefant as "one of New York's fastest rising new-music outfits."

About Sahba Aminikia

Born in 1981 in Tehran, Iran, Aminikia studied music composition in Russia at the St. Petersburg State Conservatory under Boris Ivanovich Tishchenko, a post-graduate student of Dimitri Shostakovich. In his homeland, Aminikia studied under renowned Iranian pianists Nikan Milani, Safa Shahidi and Gagik Babayan. He was perhaps most influenced by work with his first teacher and renowned composer, Dr. Mehran Rouhani, a post-graduate of Royal

Performers

James Holt
moderator

Meg Zervoulis
conductor

Matt Marks
voice

Domenica Fossati
flute

David Friend
piano

Nick Gleason
percussion

Josh Perry
percussion

Hannis Brown
electric guitar

Andie Tanning Springer
violin

Kallie Ciechowski
violin,viola

Gillian Gallagher
viola

Carrie Bean
cello

Peter Bussigel
electronics

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Academy of Music and former student of Sir Michael Tippett. He is the recipient of many various commissions from theatre troops to contemporary classical ensembles, film scores, Persian traditional music groups to jazz bands including Kronos Quartet, Symphony Parnassus, San Francisco Conservatory of Music New Music Ensemble, Mobius Trio, Delphi Trio and Living Earth Show.

About Hannis Brown

Hannis Brown has performed under the direction of notable musicians including former *Tonight Show* bassist Joel DiBartolo, jazz composers Maria Schneider and Ed Neumeister, legendary guitarist John Abercrombie, trumpet great Bobby Shew, and Quincy Troupe, poet and Miles Davis biographer. His résumé includes extensive tours of the Western United States with the noise-funk outfit LOBE as well as performances in New York City, the 2011 POP Montreal Festival, and a tour of Poland as bandleader of the Hannis Brown Ensemble.

About Mary Kouyoumdjian

Mary Kouyoumdjian is a composer with projects ranging from concert works to multimedia collaborations and film scores. As a first generation Armenian-American and having come from a family directly affected by the Lebanese Civil War and Armenian Genocide, she uses a sonic pallet that draws on her heritage, interest in folk music, and background in experimental composition to progressively blend the old with the new. She has received commissions from the Kronos Quartet, Carnegie Hall, American Composers Forum/JFund, REDSHIFT, Nouveau Classical Project, Friction Quartet, Experiments in Opera, and Ensemble Oktoplus. In her work in film, she recently orchestrated on *The Place Beyond the Pines*.

About Matt Marks

Matt Marks' work has been called "staggeringly creative" by *The New York Times* and "bright, catchy and continually turn[ing] Broadway clichés on their heads in surprising ways." by the *Los*

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Angeles Times. His *The Little Death: Vol. 1* was one of *Time Out New York's* Top Ten Classical albums of 2010 and had one of *Huffington Post's* Top Ten Alternative Art Songs of the Decade. Recent projects include his *Strip Mall* for the Los Angeles Philharmonic, *Bluetooth Islands* for the Brooklyn Philharmonic, a remix for Meredith Monk's latest album, and a live realization of The Dirty Projectors' album *The Getty Address*.

About Leaha Maria Villarreal

Composer Leaha Maria Villarreal brings a contemporary focus to classical music. With works described as "visceral" (*Lucid Culture*) and "austere" (*New Music Box*), her output includes music for dance, film, opera, and the concert hall. She has worked with organizations and ensembles such as Wild Rumpus, W4, Ear Heart Music, Boston New Music Initiative, BODYART, The Box is Empty, and PUBLIQuartet. Past composition teachers include Pulitzer Prize winner Roger Reynolds, Steven Kazuo Takasugi, and Chinary Ung. Villarreal holds a B.A. from the University of California, San Diego and studied at New York University with Julia Wolfe and Michael Gordon.

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