University of Florida Performing Arts

presents

UFPA Co-commissioner
Laurie Anderson’s
HOMELAND

featuring

Kevin Hearn, Eyvind Kang, Skuli Sverrisson

Tuesday, September 16, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by

Worldwide Tour Representation
Pomegranate Arts

Commissioned in part by: The Barbican Centre, London; Cal Performances at UC Berkeley; Luminato Festival of Arts and Creativity, Toronto; Melbourne International Arts Festival; Society for the Performing Arts, Houston, Texas; University of Florida, Gainesville.
PROGRAM

The Lark
Why Do People Hate Us?
Transitory Life
Only an Expert
Mambo and Bling
Maybe If I Fall
Short Fall
Underwear Gods
Out of the Heart
Callin’ Em Up
Strange Perfumes
Pictures and Things
Bodies in Motion
Sky Flying Birds
Lost Art of Conversation
No Man’s Land

Program order is subject to change.
Program is performed without an intermission.
Laurie Anderson

Laurie Anderson is one of today's premier performance artists. Known primarily for her multimedia presentations, she has cast herself in roles as varied as visual artist, composer, poet, photographer, filmmaker, electronics whiz, vocalist and instrumentalist.

_O Superman_ launched Anderson's recording career in 1980, rising to number two on the British pop charts and subsequently appearing on _Big Science_, the first of her seven albums on the Warner Brothers label. Other record releases include _Mister Heartbreak_, _United States Live_, _Strange Angels_, _Bright Red_ and the soundtrack to her feature film _Home of the Brave_. A deluxe box set of her Warner Brothers output, _Talk Normal_, was released in the fall of 2000 on Rhino/Warner Archives. In 2001, Anderson released her first record for Nonesuch Records, titled _Life on a String_, which was followed by _Live in New York_, recorded at Town Hall in New York City in September 2001, and released in May 2002.

Anderson has toured the United States and internationally numerous times with shows ranging from simple spoken word performances to elaborate multimedia events. Major works include _United States I-V_ (1983), _Empty Places_ (1990), _The Nerve Bible_ (1995) and _Songs and Stories for Moby Dick_, a multimedia stage performance based on the novel by Herman Melville. _Songs and Stories for Moby Dick_ toured internationally throughout 1999 and 2000. In the fall of 2001, Anderson toured the United States and Europe with a band, performing music from _Life on a String_. She has also presented many solo works, including _Happiness_, which premiered in 2001 and toured internationally through spring 2003.

Anderson has published six books. Text from Anderson's solo performances appears in the book _Extreme Exposure_, edited by Jo Bonney. She has also written the entry for New York for the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Laurie Anderson’s visual work has been presented in major museums throughout the United States and Europe. In 2003, The Musée Art Contemporain of Lyon in France produced a touring retrospective of her work titled _The Record of the Time: Sound in the Work of Laurie Anderson_. This retrospective included installation, audio, instruments, video and art objects and spanned Anderson’s career from the 1970s to her most current works. It continued to tour internationally from 2003 to 2005. As a visual artist, Anderson is represented by the Sean Kelly Gallery in New York where her exhibition, _The Waters Reglitterized_, opened in September 2005.

As a composer, Anderson has contributed music to films by Wim Wenders and Jonathan Demme; dance pieces by Bill T. Jones, Trisha Brown, Molissa Fenley, and a score for Robert LePage’s theater production, _Far Side of the Moon_. She has created pieces for National Public Radio,
The BBC and Expo '92 in Seville. In 1997 she curated the two-week Meltdown Festival at Royal Festival Hall in London. Her most recent orchestra work, Songs for A.E., premiered at Carnegie Hall in February 2000 performed by the American Composers Orchestra, and later toured Europe with the Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Dennis Russell Davies.

Recognized worldwide as a groundbreaking leader in the use of technology in the arts, Anderson collaborated with Interval Research Corporation, a research and development laboratory founded by Paul Allen and David Liddle, in the exploration of new creative tools, including the Talking Stick. She created the introduction sequence for the first segment of the PBS special Art 21, a series about art in the 21st century. Her awards include the 2001 Tenco Prize for Songwriting in San Remo, Italy, and the 2001 Deutsche Schallplatten prize for Life On A String, as well as grants from the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

In 2002, Anderson was appointed the first artist-in-residence of NASA out of which she developed her solo performance, The End of the Moon, which premiered in 2004 and toured internationally through 2006. Other recent projects include a commission to create a series of audio-visual installations and a high definition film, Hidden Inside Mountains, for the World Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan; and a series of programs for French radio called Rien dans les Poches/Nothing in my Pockets. Her score for Trisha Brown’s acclaimed piece O Composite premiered at the Opera Garnier in Paris in December 2004. Anderson was also part of the team that created the opening ceremony for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. Currently she is working on a series of documented walks, a new album for Nonesuch Records, Homeland, and an accompanying touring performance. Anderson lives in New York City.

Kevin Hearn (Keyboard) Though best known as a skilled multi-instrumentalist and writer for the platinum-selling international pop favorite Barenaked Ladies, Kevin has consistently produced original solo and collaborative work outside of the band. Over the course of four solo albums, Mothball Mint (1997), H-Wing (2001), Nightlight (2004) and The Miracle Mile (2006), he has earned a loyal international following with his idiosyncratic yet tuneful sound. In May 2008, Barenaked Ladies released SNACKTIME!, their first CD for children, with an accompanying book that features Kevin’s humorously twisted artwork. Recently, Kevin toured the United States as keyboardist and vocalist in Lou Reed’s band. He also appears as a guest on the most recent recordings from Broken Social Scene and Ron Sexsmith.

Eyvind Kang (Viola) is from Winnipeg. Among Eyvind’s most recent releases are his choral piece Athlantis (2007) and The Yelm Sessions (2007). Other recordings include Virginal Co Ordinates (2004), Orchestra Dim Bridges (2004), The Story of Iceland (2000), Theater of Mineral Nades (1998), 7 NADEs (1996), and The Sweetness of Sickness (1996). Among the musicians he has worked with are Jessika Kenney, Bill Frisell, the Sun City Girls, Sunn O))), Secret Chiefs, Blonde Redhead, Napoli 23, Dr. Hossein Omoumi, Amir Koushkani, Jamshied Sharifi, Yungchen Lhamo, Raz Mesinai, Badawi and Mike Patton. He has also composed extensively for theater and modern dance performances.

Skuli Sverrisson (Bass) Born in Reykjavik, Iceland in 1966, Skuli Sverrisson now lives in New York. Sverrisson mostly works with relatives of improvised music, both acoustic and electronic. He composes for his group Seria, records with Ryuichi Sakamoto, Blonde Redhead and David Sylvian. Recent works include A Thousand Incidents Arise with Anthony Burr, When We Were Blue with Jennifer Reeves and Ama with Jungchen Lhamo. Since 1999, Skuli has been an ongoing collaborator with Laurie Anderson. He has received five Icelandic music awards and was nominated for the Nordic Music Prize in 2000.
Pomegranate Arts (Worldwide Tour Representation) Founded in 1998 by Linda Brumbach, Pomegranate Arts is an independent production company dedicated to the development of international contemporary performing arts projects. Since its inception, Pomegranate Arts has conceived, produced, or represented projects by Philip Glass, Laurie Anderson, London’s Improbable, Sankai Juku, Dan Zanes, and Goran Bregovic. Special projects include Dracula: The Music and Film with Philip Glass and the Kronos Quartet; the music theater work Shockheaded Peter; Brazilian vocalist Virginia Rodrigues; Drama Desk Award-winning Charlie Victor Romeo; Healing the Divide, A Concert for Peace and Reconciliation, presented by Philip Glass and Richard Gere; and Hal Willner’s Came So Far for Beauty, An Evening of Leonard Cohen Songs. In addition to Laurie Anderson’s Homeland, recent projects include Philip Glass’ Book of Longing, based on the poetry and images of Leonard Cohen. Pomegranate Arts is currently developing the remounting of Einstein on the Beach in 2009. www.pomegranatearts.com

CREDITS
Production:
Original Lighting Design Aaron Copp
Set Consultant Willie Williams
Production Manager/Lighting Supervisor Bill Berger
Sound Marc Urselli
Company Manager Dan Mapp
Software Design Jody Elff
Travel Agency Tzell Travel
Jean Furukawa

Worldwide Tour Representation for Homeland:
Pomegranate Arts
www.pomegranatearts.com
info@pomarts.com
Director Linda Brumbach
Associate Director Alisa E. Regas
Business Manager Kaleb Kilkenny
Senior Tour Manager Jim Woodward
Administrative Assistant Amanda Shank

For further information contact:
Canal Street Communications
www.laurieanderson.com
mail@difficultmusic.com

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