

TEDDY ABRAMS  
LOUISVILLE ORCHESTRA

# LOUISVILLE ORCHESTRA PRESS RELEASE

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## LOUISVILLE ORCHESTRA LAUNCHES THIRD ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF AMERICAN MUSIC

**Festival Focuses on Kentucky Music + Musicians including  
Tyrone Cotton, Joan Shelley and Michael Cleveland**

**Jim James to add 2<sup>nd</sup> performance on April 6**



Louisville, KY (1.6.2018) .... Teddy Abrams and the Louisville Orchestra announce the third annual **Festival of American Music** at The Kentucky Center, beginning with **Kentucky Classics on Saturday, March 24** (8PM). This concert features music inspired by the bluegrass state and homegrown songwriters. The second program of the Festival of American Music, **Play**, will be performed on **Friday, April 6** (11AM) and **Saturday, April 7** (8PM) at The Kentucky Center and explores some of the most potent voices in contemporary American composition; Julia Wolfe, Michael Gordon, and Jim James.

**Individual tickets range from \$27 - \$85 and are available by calling 502.584.7777 or by visiting [LouisvilleOrchestra.org](http://LouisvilleOrchestra.org).**



Joan Shelley/Tyrone Cotton/ Michael Cleveland/ Lizzie No

**Kentucky Classics (March 24)** will celebrate American roots, emphasizing Kentucky-centered music and local musicians such as singer-songwriter **Joan Shelley**, a Louisville native whose “crystal-clear voice meditates on the spaces between people, in arrangements that evoke Bacharach and African blues influences as much as acid-folk” (*UK Independent*). Another Louisville native and singer-songwriter, **Tyrone Cotton**, will perform in a unique style influenced by his classical guitar studies at Western Kentucky University and a period of jazz immersion in Boston. Neo-folk singer and harpist **Lizzie No**, “an exceptionally talented artist with a gift for making an age-old music sound fresh and relevant again” (*Americana UK*), will make her Louisville Orchestra debut. And **Michael Cleveland**, the International Bluegrass Music Association’s most awarded fiddler, returns with his band Flamekeeper after their LO debut on March 10. The program is bookended with *New Piece for Orchestra* by **Edgar Meyer** and *Four Dance Episodes* from **Aaron Copland’s** ballet *Rodeo*.

When putting this program together, Louisville Orchestra’s Music Director, Teddy Abrams said,

“Our 2018 Festival of American Music celebrates music that was quite literally ‘grown’ and nurtured here in our country: a kind of music from the very earth of this nation. The first program features a range of modern soloists who derive inspiration and continue traditions from Kentucky’s folk and Americana genres. Ultimately these different solo sets lead to a special performance of Copland’s *Rodeo*.”



Julia Wolfe/ Gabriel Globus-Hoenich/ Michael Gordon/ Jim James

The second program, **Play** (April 6+7), further broadens the perspective to include a wider range of contemporary American composers. Pulitzer Prize-winner **Julia Wolfe's** *riSE and fLY* will be performed with percussion soloist **Gabriel Globus-Hoenich**, who was also featured on Abrams's *Muhammad Ali: The Greatest* this past fall. *Natural History* by **Michael Gordon** was commissioned for the 2016 National Parks Service Centennial, and premiered at the Britt Festival under Teddy Abrams's leadership on sacred land in Oregon. *Natural History* explores the spiritual connection between the land and the traditions of the Klamath tribe. The Louisville performance will feature the **Steiger Butte Singers and Drummers**, a Native American drumming ensemble who participated in the premiere and both a new recording on the Cantaloupe label and the documentary *Symphony for Nature* from Owsley Brown Presents, currently airing on PBS stations across the country. **Play** is rounded out with music by special guest artist **Jim James**, founding frontman of famed Louisville alt-rock band **My Morning Jacket**. He joins the orchestra for the **world premiere** performance of a song cycle written in collaboration with Abrams.

Teddy Abrams elaborated,

"The second week of our Festival showcases some of the great creative forces in American music today. Julia Wolfe's *riSE and fLY* is a percussion concerto inspired by New York street beats and the rhythm of the American work song. Michael Gordon's *Natural History* is an enormous-scale composition that I commissioned at the Britt Festival to be performed with over 150 musicians on the very edge of Crater Lake National Park, and his work is intimately constructed around a group of musicians from Oregon's Klamath Tribe – for whom Crater Lake is a sacred place. Finally, Louisville's world-renowned Jim James and I have been co-writing a song cycle which will be premiered at this show. His music is very special to me – he combines a beautiful insight into the world around us with a great and readily apparent human spirit."

# Louisville Orchestra: Third Annual Festival of American Music

**March 24 || 8PM || KENTUCKY CLASSICS: Festival of American Music 1 || Kentucky Center || [Tickets](#) || [Info](#)**  
**LO Classics Series is sponsored by Brown-Forman. KENTUCKY CLASSICS is sponsored by Pharmerica.**

Teddy Abrams, conductor || Joan Shelley, vocalist || Tyrone Cotton, vocalist || Michael Cleveland + Flamekeeper || Lizzie No, folk vocalist

PROGRAM::

EDGAR MEYER: *New Piece for Orchestra*

JOAN SHELLEY (Orch. Sebastian Chang): *Even Though/ If the Storms Never Came*

TYRONE COTTON (Orch. Sebastian Chang): *Dreams/ Go Back*

BILL MONROE (Orch. Brad Ritchie): *Northern White Clouds* with Michael Cleveland + Flamekeeper

MICHAEL CLEVELAND (Orch. Brad Ritchie): *Lonesome Desert* with Michael Cleveland + Flamekeeper

JULIAN LENNON (Orch. Brad Ritchie): *Too Late for Goodbyes* with Michael Cleveland + Flamekeeper

LIZZIE NO (Orch. Sebastian Chang): *Monuments/ Hard Won/ The Mountaineer*

AARON COPLAND: Four Dance Episodes from *Rodeo*

**April 2 || 12PM || Robert Simonds Recital || Classical 90.5FM WUOL Performance Studio || FREE || [Info](#)**

**April 6 || 11AM || PLAY: Festival of American Music 2 || Kentucky Center || [Tickets](#) || [Info](#)**

*LO Coffee Series is sponsored by Hilliard Lyons with additional support from Treyton Oak Towers.*

Teddy Abrams, conductor || Steiger Butte Singers + Drummers || Kent Hatteberg, chorusmaster || University of Louisville Collegiate Chorale, chorus || Jim James, vocals

PROGRAM::

MICHAEL GORDON: *Natural History* with Steiger Butte Singers + Drummers || Kent Hatteberg, chorusmaster || University of Louisville Collegiate Chorale, chorus

JIM JAMES + TEDDY ABRAMS: Song Cycle (World Premiere) with Jim James, vocals

**April 7 || 8PM || PLAY: Festival of American Music 2 || Kentucky Center Whitney Hall || [Tickets](#) || [Info](#)**

*LO Classics Series is sponsored by Brown-Forman. PLAY is sponsored by Chase Bank*

Teddy Abrams, conductor || Gabriel Globus-Hoenich, percussionist || Steiger Butte Singers + Drummers || Kent Hatteberg, chorusmaster || University of Louisville Collegiate Chorale, chorus || Jim James, vocals

JULIA WOLFE: *riSE and fLy* with Gabriel Globus-Hoenich, percussionist

MICHAEL GORDON: *Natural History* with Steiger Butte Singers + Drummers || Kent Hatteberg, chorusmaster || University of Louisville Collegiate Chorale, chorus

JIM JAMES + TEDDY ABRAMS: Song Cycle (World Premiere) with Jim James, vocals

**April 27 || 7:30PM || Robert Simonds Recital || Stiefler Recital Hall, IUS || FREE || [Info](#)**

*All dates, programs, and artists are subject to change.*

The mission of the Louisville Orchestra is to change lives throughout our entire community as only the Louisville Orchestra can – by promoting a culture of music through outstanding performances + education. Our sponsors believe in this mission: The Louisville Orchestra receives funding from the Fund for the Arts, The Kentucky Arts Council, and the Association of the Louisville Orchestra.

Brown-Forman sponsors the 2017/18 Classics Series. Hilliard Lyons sponsors the 2017/18 Coffee Series.

Tafel Motors sponsors The Conductors Society Donor Lounge. Treyton Oak Towers is a supporting sponsor of the Coffee Series.

**KENTUCKY CLASSICS is sponsored by Pharmerica. PLAY is sponsored by Chase Bank.**

To learn more about becoming a donor, contact Leslie Antoniel at 502.587.8681