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MEREDITH MONK: *MEMORY GAME*

Featuring Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble and the Bang on a Can All-Stars

First Track “Downfall” Released Today Exclusively on Apple Music

Listen: <https://apple.co/2PNSM2P>



Album Release Date: March 27, 2020

Cantaloupe Music

Upcoming Performances of *MEMORY GAME*:

Big Ears Festival, March 26-29, 2020 – Knoxville, TN

Bang on a Can's Long Play Festival, May 1-3, 2020 – Brooklyn, NY

www.cantaloupemusic.com | www.bangonacan.org | www.meredithmonk.org

New York, NY — **Cantaloupe Music** will release **Meredith Monk's** new album ***MEMORY GAME***, featuring **Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble** and the **Bang on a Can All-Stars**, on March 27, 2020. The first track from the album, “Downfall,” is available today, exclusively from Apple Music. **Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble and the Bang on a Can All-Stars** will perform ***MEMORY GAME*** at the **Big Ears Festival (March 26-29, 2020; Knoxville, TN)** and **Bang on a Can's inaugural Long Play Festival (May 1-3, 2020; Brooklyn, NY)**.

MEMORY GAME is both a look back at a pivotal point in Meredith Monk's storied career and a richly layered portrait of how vocal music, under the guidance of an indefatigable master, can play with our

expectations in poignant and compelling ways. What emerges from *MEMORY GAME* is a suite of songs that flows with a remarkable narrative cohesion, stemming in large part from the composer's willingness to revisit the past with an insatiably curious eye.

"The first time that I ever worked with Bang on a Can, it was in the late '90s," Monk tells *DownBeat* magazine in a recent interview. "That was really, in a way, the beginning of this project. It's exciting to hear these songs again in a new way, with more of an instrumental aspect added onto the vocal."

For composer Michael Gordon, whose arrangement of "Spaceship" opens the album, his own memories of Monk's music go back to his earliest days in New York City. He says, "I first saw Meredith perform when I came to New York as a teenager in the 1970s. Her first appearance on the Bang on a Can Marathon was in 1989, and we've had a close association ever since. In 1999, we arranged some of Meredith's music for her to sing with the Bang on a Can All-Stars. It was magic and sparks flew! *MEMORY GAME* is a collection of pieces we've performed together in New York and on tour, and some new arrangements that we've yet to play live."

Teaming up here with members of her renowned Vocal Ensemble (featuring **Theo Bleckmann, Katie Geissinger** and **Allison Sniffin**) and the **Bang on a Can All-Stars**, Monk explores all-new arrangements of never-before-recorded selections from her award-winning sci-fi opera *The Games*, as well as new versions of several pieces originally released on *Do You Be* (1987) and *impermanence* (2008). The actor and singer **Michael Cerveris** joins as guest artist. The album includes arrangements by Monk, Michael Gordon, David Lang, Julia Wolfe, Bang on a Can All-Stars member Ken Thomson, and Vocal Ensemble member Allison Sniffin.

Monk says of the new album, "Right from the beginning of conceiving *MEMORY GAME*, the prospect of uniting the magnificent singers and players from Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble and Bang on a Can All-Stars filled me with excitement. My hope is that our rich and joyous experience of making music together inspires and resonates with the listener."

About Meredith Monk: Meredith Monk is a composer, singer, and creator of new opera and music-theater works. Recognized as one of the most unique and influential artists of our time, she is a pioneer in what is now called "extended vocal technique". Her groundbreaking exploration of the voice as an instrument, as an eloquent language in and of itself, expands the boundaries of musical composition, creating landscapes of sound that unearth feelings, energies, and memories for which there are no words. Over the last six decades, Ms. Monk has been hailed as one of National Public Radio's 50 Great Voices and "one of America's coolest composers". Her numerous awards and honors include a MacArthur "Genius" award and Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters by the Republic of France. In conjunction with her 50th Season of creating and performing, she was appointed the 2014-15 Richard and Barbara Debs Composer's Chair at Carnegie Hall. Recently Monk received three of the highest honors bestowed on a living artist in the United States; induction into the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the 2017 Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize and a 2015 National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama. Celebrated internationally, her work has been presented at major venues around the world.

About Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble: Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble consists of some of the finest and most adventurous singer/ instrumentalist/ performers active in new music. Founded in 1978 to further expand Monk's groundbreaking exploration of the human voice, the Ensemble has received

multiple awards and critical acclaim, including a 2008 GRAMMY nomination for *impermanence*. Appearing in festivals, theaters and concert halls around the world, Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble can also be heard on numerous recordings on the ECM New Music Series label.

About the Bang on a Can All-Stars: Known worldwide as some of the best contemporary musicians, the Bang on a Can All-Stars formed in 1992 and are recognized for their ultra-dynamic live performances and recordings of today's most innovative music. Freely crossing the boundaries between classical, jazz, rock, world and experimental music, this six-member amplified ensemble has consistently forged a distinct category-defying identity. With a massive repertoire of works written specifically for the group's distinctive instrumentation and style of performance, the All-Stars have become a genre in their own right.

Performing throughout the U.S. and internationally, the Bang on a Can All-Stars have shattered the definition of what concert music is today. The group's celebrated projects include their landmark recording of Brian Eno's ambient classic *Music for Airports* and Terry Riley's *In C*, as well as live performances with Philip Glass, Meredith Monk, Don Byron, Iva Bittova, Thurston Moore, and others. Recent project highlights include *Road Trip*, an immersive and visually stunning concert collaboratively-composed by Michael Gordon, David Lang, and Julia Wolfe to commemorate the 30+ year journey of Bang on a Can; the premiere performances and recording of Julia Wolfe's Pulitzer Prize winning *Anthracite Fields* including their recent sold out performance at Carnegie Hall; *Field Recordings*, a major multi-media project featuring over 30 commissioned works by Tyondai Braxton, Mira Calix, Anna Clyne, Bryce Dessner, Michael Gordon, Jóhann Jóhannsson, David Lang, Christian Marclay, Steve Reich, Caroline Shaw, Julia Wolfe; the world premiere and album release of *Cloud River Mountain*, a collaboration featuring Chinese superstar singer Gong Linna; and more. The All-Stars record on Cantaloupe Music and have released past recordings on Sony, Universal, and Nonesuch.

About Bang on a Can: Bang on a Can is dedicated to making music new. Since its first Marathon concert in 1987, Bang on a Can has been creating an international community dedicated to innovative music, wherever it is found. With adventurous programs, it commissions new composers, performs, presents, and records new work, develops new audiences, and educates the musicians of the future. Bang on a Can is building a world in which powerful new musical ideas flow freely across all genres and borders. Bang on a Can plays "a central role in fostering a new kind of audience that doesn't concern itself with boundaries. If music is made with originality and integrity, these listeners will come." (*The New York Times*)

Bang on a Can has grown from a one-day New York-based Marathon concert (on Mother's Day in 1987 in a SoHo art gallery) to a multi-faceted performing arts organization with a broad range of year-round international activities. "When we started Bang on a Can, we never imagined that our 12-hour marathon festival of mostly unknown music would morph into a giant international organization dedicated to the support of experimental music, wherever we would find it," write Bang on a Can Co-Founders Michael Gordon, David Lang and Julia Wolfe. "But it has, and we are so gratified to be still hard at work, all these years later. The reason is really clear to us – we started this organization because we believed that making new music is a utopian act – that people needed to hear this music and they needed to hear it presented in the most persuasive way, with the best players, with the best programs, for the best listeners, in the best context. Our commitment to changing the environment for this music has kept us busy and growing, and we are not done yet."

In addition to the **People's Commissioning Fund**, current projects include its festivals **LOUD Weekend at MASS MoCA** and **LONG PLAY**; the **Bang on a Can All-Stars**, who tour to major festivals and

concert venues around the world every year; recording projects; the **Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival at MASS MoCA** - a professional development program for young composers and performers led by today's pioneers of experimental music; **Asphalt Orchestra**, Bang on a Can's extreme street band that offers mobile performances re-contextualizing unusual music; **Found Sound Nation**, a new technology-based musical outreach program now partnering with the State Department of the United States of America to create **OneBeat**, a revolutionary, post-political residency program that uses music to bridge the gulf between young American musicians and young musicians from developing countries; cross-disciplinary collaborations and projects with DJs, visual artists, choreographers, filmmakers and more. Each new program has evolved to answer specific challenges faced by today's musicians, composers and audiences, in order to make innovative music widely accessible and wildly received. Bang on a Can's inventive and aggressive approach to programming and presentation has created a large and vibrant international audience made up of people of all ages who are rediscovering the value of contemporary music. www.bangonacan.org

MEREDITH MONK | *Memory Game*

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Meredith Monk & Vocal Ensemble

Theo Bleckmann, Katie Geissinger, Meredith Monk, Allison Sniffin: voices

Allison Sniffin: bowed psaltery

Michael Cerveris: guest artist

Bang on a Can All-Stars

Ashley Bathgate: cello and voice

Robert Black: electric and acoustic bass

Vicky Chow: piano, keyboard and melodica

David Cossin: percussion

Mark Stewart: electric guitar, banjo and voice

Ken Thomson: clarinets and saxophones

1. Spaceship - 4:18

2. Gamemaster's Song - 5:12

3. Migration - 7:37

4. Memory Song - 6:44

5. Downfall - 3:56

6. Waltz in 5s - 3:54

7. Tokyo Cha Cha - 9:45

8. Totentanz - 3:12

9. Double Fiesta - 5:42

Total Time - 50:20

Produced by David Cossin and Rob Friedman

All music composed by Meredith Monk