



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Claire Forrest

Forrest.Claire@macphail.org

612-767-5382

MACPHAIL CENTER FOR MUSIC AWARDS FOUR \$25,000 MCKNIGHT MUSICIAN FELLOWSHIPS TO TOP MINNESOTA ARTISTS

MINNEAPOLIS—May 14, 2018—MacPhail Center for Music is proud to announce the four recipients of the 2018-19 McKnight Fellowships for Musicians: Jonatha Brooke, Kill the Vultures (Alexei Casselle and Stephen Lewis), MaLLy and Clara Osowski.

The process began in January when 79 solo and ensemble musicians applied for the McKnight Fellowship with recordings, artist statements and resumes. From this group, nine finalists were selected by a panel of national judges to audition live on May 4. Following the audition, four recipients were awarded the \$25,000 McKnight Fellowship for Musicians.

For the 22nd year, MacPhail Center for Music administered the McKnight Fellowships for Musicians, which are a component of the McKnight Artist Fellowships Program. Founded on the belief that Minnesota thrives when its artists thrive, The McKnight Foundation's arts program is one of the oldest and largest of its kind in the country. Support for individual working Minnesota artists has been a cornerstone of the program since it began in 1981. The McKnight Artist Fellowships Program provides annual, unrestricted cash awards to outstanding mid-career Minnesota artists in 10 different creative disciplines. Program partner organizations administer the fellowships and structure them to respond to the unique challenges of different disciplines. Currently the foundation contributes about \$1.7 million per year to its statewide fellowships.

The 2018-2019 McKnight Musician Fellows:



Jonatha Brooke, singer-songwriter, Minneapolis: Jonatha Brooke has been writing songs, making records and touring since the early '90's. After four major label releases, she started her own independent label, Bad Dog Records in 1999, and has since released eight more albums - her two most recent, the companion CD to her critically acclaimed, one woman, Off-Broadway musical *My Mother Has Four Noses*; and 2016's *Midnight. Hallelujah*.

Jonatha has co-written songs with Katy Perry and The Courtyard Hounds. She's also written for four Disney films, numerous television shows, and she composed and performed the theme song for Joss Whedon's *Dollhouse*.

Ms. Brooke recently finished a month-long run of *My Mother has 4 Noses* at the Jungle Theater in Minneapolis, and is currently touring nationally and internationally, teaching songwriting workshops along the way, and working on two new musical projects - *Quadroon*, with the late legendary jazz pianist/composer Joe Sample; and *Switched* with playwright Geoffrey Nauffts.



Kill the Vultures, hip-hop artists, Minneapolis: Kill the Vultures have a nocturnal, urban sound, which is undeniably avant garde, yet rooted in the traditions of hip-hop. In addition to their American audience, vocalist Crescent Moon and producer Anatomy have cultivated a sizeable fan base in Europe, where they headlined six successful tours, garnered praise from *Rolling Stone*, *Les Inrocks*, and *Blogotheque* and had a “Hip-hop Album of the Year” cover story in respected Italian music magazine, *Blow Up*. Before KTV, Moon and Anatomy were part of hip-hop group Oddjobs, a member of the Third Earth crew along with Jean Grae, Mr. Len (Company Flow), and Juggaknotts. They have toured with rap acts De La Soul, Talib Kweli, DJ Shadow, and more. Their most recent album, *Carnelian*, was released by Totally Gross National Product, with support from FIX. In addition to touring for the album and playing the Eaux Claires Festival, they performed at the collaborative Funkhaus 'happening' in Berlin with Bon Iver, The National and Stargaze Orchestra (best known for the soundtrack from the film “The Revenant”). Kill The Vultures' most notable performance at Funkhaus was an epic live arrangement of their song “The Jackal”, featuring orchestration by Stargaze and vocals by Channy Leaneagh of Polica.



MaLLy, hip-hop artist, Minneapolis: MaLLy continues to rise in the world of music with a strong discography boasting three critically acclaimed albums—*The Passion*, *The Last Great...*, and *The Colors of Black*. He has toured nationally with Atmosphere on their “Welcome to Minnesota” tour in 2012, and with Brother Ali on his “Home Away From Home” tour in 2014. His wordplay, tonal variety and universal subject matter are highlights of MaLLy’s content which appeals to a broad spectrum. He continues to perform, participate and serve as an educator in community-oriented organizations dedicated to the arts such as Kulture Klub Collaborative, TruArtSpeaks and Plymouth Youth Center. MaLLy is currently working on a new album entitled *The Journey To A Smile*.



Clara Osowski, vocalist (mezzo-soprano), Brooklyn Center: Clara Osowski, who sings "from inside the music with unaffected purity and sincerity" (UK Telegraph), is an active soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States and Europe. In her most recent competition success in 2017, Clara became the first ever American prize winner when she placed second at Thomas Quasthoff's International Das Lied Competition in Heidelberg, Germany, and in September she was awarded the Richard Tauber Prize for the best interpretation of Schubert Lieder at the Wigmore Hall/Kohn Foundation Song Competition in London. Recent recital appearances include the Dame Myra Hess Series in Chicago and the Schubert Club International Artist Series in St. Paul. Active also as an educator, Clara will be on faculty at Aspen Music Festival's Professional Choral Institute in partnership with Seraphic Fire in August of 2018. She currently studies voice with Emma Small of Minneapolis.

In addition, five solo musicians or ensembles from the finalist round will receive \$1000: Christopher Atzinger of Dundas (classical piano), Karla Colahan and Olivia Diercks of the Minneapolis-based ensemble The OK Factor (cello and violin new-classical crossover duo), Gao Hong of Northfield (Chinese Pipa), Charlie Parr of Duluth (Americana guitar and vocals) and Chadwick "Niles" Phillips of Minneapolis (hip-hop artist).

The McKnight Foundation, a Minnesota-based family foundation, seeks to improve the quality of life for present and future generations. Program interests include regional economic and community development, Minnesota's arts and artists, education equity, youth engagement, Midwest climate and energy, Mississippi River water quality, neuroscience research, international crop research, and rural livelihoods. Founded in 1953 and independently endowed by William and Maude McKnight, the Foundation has assets of approximately \$2.4 billion and grants about \$90 million a year.

MacPhail Center for Music is a non-profit organization committed to transforming lives and enriching the community through exceptional music learning experiences. Each year, MacPhail opens its doors to more than 16,000 students offering programming for all ages, backgrounds and abilities, at

locations in Minneapolis, White Bear Lake, Chanhassen, Apple Valley and Austin, as well as 127 community partnerships across the Twin Cities and online at MacPhail Online. MacPhail has a 110-year history of excellence, promoting life-long learning and building long-term relationships between students and teachers. For more information, visit www.macphail.org.

###