

# PCMS Preview Notes

**Ensemble ACJW w/ John Adams & Jeremy Denk**  
**Sunday, May 9, 2010 – 3:00 PM**  
*Perelman Theater*

## **Background**

**Ensemble ACJW** is the performing arm of The Academy—a program of Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School, and The Weill Music Institute in partnership with the New York City Department of Education. **John Adams** is a Pulitzer Prize winner and one of America's most admired and respected composers who has, over the past 25 years, played a decisive role in pushing contemporary musical aesthetics toward a more expansive, expressive language. Pianist **Jeremy Denk** is known for his interpretations of 20<sup>th</sup> century masters such as Ives and Ligeti and the leading composers of today. He is based in New York City and maintains his own weblog at [www.thinkdenk.net](http://www.thinkdenk.net).

## **Program**

### **Son of Chamber Symphony**

#### **John Adams**

*Born: February 15, 1947 in Worcester, MA*

*Composed: 2007*

*Last PCMS performance: PCMS premiere*

*Duration: 22 minutes*

Written for 15 instruments, Adams' work bears a resemblance to its eponymous predecessor, the Opus 9 of Arnold Schoenberg. The choice of instruments is roughly the same as Schoenberg's, although Adams includes parts for synthesizer, percussion, trumpet and trombone.

### **Concerto for Piano and Winds**

#### **Igor Stravinsky**

*Born: June 17, 1882 in Orianenbaum, Russia*

*Died: April 6, 1971 in New York, NY*

*Composed: 1924*

*Last PCMS performance: Curtis Chamber Orchestra in 1998*

*Duration: 19 minutes*

This concerto was the first large-scale concert work to put to use Stravinsky's "new" neo-Classical style. Since its premiere in Paris, it has become one of his best-known and most dearly loved works and is most immediately striking for its lack of a string section.

### ***De Staat***

#### **Louis Andriessen**

*Born: 1939 in Utrecht, Netherlands*

*Composed: 1972-74*

*Last PCMS performance: PCMS premiere*

*Duration: 34 minutes*

Andriessen experienced a creative breakthrough with *De Staat*, a large choral work based on Plato's Republic sung in the original Greek, combining ancient Greek scales, Stravinskyian rhythms, repetition and hocket. The unusual instrumentation includes four women's voices, four oboes, four horns, four trumpets, four trombones, two electric guitars, bass guitar, two pianos, two harps, and four violas.