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November 7, 2013 | Contact: Sarah Baird Knight | sarah@dotdotdotmusic.net | t. 718/344-3690 | www.dotdotdotmusic.net

**AMERICAN MODERN RECORDINGS:
ROBERT PATERSON'S
WINTER SONGS
and other vocal works**



ISSUED TUESDAY, DEC. 3

**PRODUCED BY
ADAM ABESHOUSE**

**FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY
NANCY ALLEN LUNDY • JESSE BLUMBERG •
DAVID NEAL • DIMITRI PITTAS • ROBERT
GARDNER • BLAIR MCMILLEN • AMERICAN
MODERN ENSEMBLE**

ALBUM RELEASE SHOW AT THE DIMENNA CENTER, DEC. 3, 8PM

American Modern Recordings, American Modern Ensemble (AME)'s lively outpost for studio albums, issues Robert Paterson's finely crafted and expertly performed *Winter Songs and other vocal works* on Tuesday, December 3. To fete the occasion, AME presents an evening of selected winter songs from Paterson and others at the **Dimenna**

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Center's Cary Hall (450 W 37th St, New York, NY 10018) on December 3 at 8PM.

Produced by GRAMMY Award-winner Adam Abeshouse, the album is comprised of five song cycles by Paterson, pristinely captured and performed by a host of notable vocal talents. Anchoring the recording is Paterson's song cycle, *Winter Songs*, an artful setting of six selected poems inspired by the coldest season, featuring AME and the resounding depth of bass-baritone **David Neal**. The cycle reflects the contemplative and the whimsical, with "Icicles filled the long window" from *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird* by **Wallace Stevens**; "Dark Day, Warm and Windy" from *The Snow Poems* by **A. R. Ammons**; "The Snow Man," from *The Collected Poems of Wallace Stevens*; "Boy at the Window" from *Things of This World* by **Richard Wilbur**; "Old Story" from *The Collected Poems of Robert Creeley*; and "Neither Snow" by **Billy Collins**.

A vegan and top-notch cook featured in *Vegetarian Times* (October 2012), Paterson takes on **Ron Singer's** witty text for *The Eating Variations*, a light-hearted cycle of five songs based on Singer's collection by the same name. Baritone **Robert Gardner** joins AME, bringing life to Paterson's pithy and picturesque musical depictions of "My Body, A Temple," "The Hog," "Even the Dyspeptic Must Eat," "The Dietary Moralist," and "The Happy Medium."

With lesser texts, Paterson's knack for supreme vocal writing and effective, elegant structures becomes all the more apparent in *CAPTCHA*. Sung by baritone **Jesse Blumberg**, even nonsense will do. Says Paterson, "I decided to use CAPTCHA texts. To find interesting words and phrases, I spent many tedious hours in front of my computer loading CAPTCHAs. Actually, what I ended up using are reCAPTCHA texts, which are derived from a free version of CAPTCHA that uses combinations of real words from scanned books that need human confirmation and gibberish text." (The term CAPTCHA, for Completely Automated Public Turing Test To Tell Computers and Humans Apart, was coined in 2000 by scientists at Carnegie Mellon University and is a program that protects websites against Internet bots by distorted text presented as a graphic.) Adds Paterson, "Ultimately, my goal is to create an emotionally moving experience, despite the nonsensical nature of the words."

Two piano-vocal cycles composed on the texts of collaborators **Kenny Berkowitz** and **Bridget Meeds** complete the album. In *Thursday*, each movement paints a literary picture of the central character via voice messages left by various people related to her. Soprano **Nancy Allan Lundy** sings the six short movements, each representing a different character. Tenor **Dimitri Pittas** takes over for *Batter's Box*, loosely based on the life of baseball giant Mike Piazza of the New York Mets. Each movement represents a different phase of the game, and thoughts of Piazza's ailing father bring the protagonist home. *Batter's Box* was featured in *Sports Illustrated* and on the Mets Jumbotron in an exclusive interview feature in 2012.

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The “Winter Songs” program at the DiMenna Center on **Tuesday, December 3** features two song cycles from the AMR album – *CAPTCHA* (world premiere) and *Winter Songs*. Adding weight to the program is the New York premiere of **Aaron Jay Kernis's** *Pieces of Winter Sky*, along with presentations of *Two Whitman Panels* by **Russell Platt**, *The Snowman* by **Steven Burke**, and *Turning* by **Tania Leon**. American Modern Ensemble is joined by Nancy Allen Lundy (soprano), John Matthew Myers (tenor), Jesse Blumberg (baritone), and David Neal (bass baritone). **Robert Paterson** conducts with **all composers present**. AME personnel: Amelia Lukas, flute; Benjamin Figland, clarinet; Robin Zeh, violin; Arash Amini, cello; Matt Ward, percussion; Blair McMillen and Stephen Gosling, piano. [Tickets: \\$10 online, \\$25 at the door.](#)

A B O U T R O B E R T P A T E R S O N

Composer **Robert Paterson** continues to gain attention at home and abroad for “vibrantly scored and well-crafted” music that “often seems to shimmer” (*NewMusicBox*). His works are praised for their elegance, structural integrity, and a wonderful sense of color. Paterson was named Composer of the Year at Carnegie Hall by the Classical Recording Foundation in 2011. *The Book of Goddesses* was nominated for a GRAMMY in Best Contemporary Classical Composition and was named one of the Top 10 favorite pieces by NPR's Best Music of 2012.

Stretching from whimsy to wit, from tenderness to conviction, from the sublime to the picturesque, Paterson's exceptional output of orchestral, opera, vocal, chamber, and solo percussion works encompasses a broad expressive range, underpinned by expert craftsmanship and attention to form. A first-rate percussionist, Paterson pioneered the development of a six-mallet marimba technique, presenting the world's first all six-mallet marimba recital at the Eastman School of Music in 1993, and releasing the first-ever album of six-mallet music, *Six Mallet Marimba* in 2012 to a sold out crowd at the Rubin Museum in Chelsea, NYC. In 2005, Paterson founded the American Modern Ensemble (AME), which spotlights American music via lively thematic programming. He serves as artistic director for AME as well as house composer, frequently contributing new pieces to the ensemble, and he directs the affiliated record label, American Modern Recordings (AMR), which will be distributed by Naxos in 2014. He holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music (BM), Indiana University (MM), and Cornell University (DMA).

Paterson resides in New York City with his wife, Victoria, and son, Dylan, and summers at the Rocky Ridge Music Center in Colorado where he is composer-in-residence. Upcoming engagements include *Dark Mountains* with the Austin Symphony, and an album of Paterson's choral works to be recorded with Musica Sacra and conductor, Kent Tritle. He is currently writing two opera works with librettist David Cote via an American Opera Projects fellowship with Composers & The Voice. <http://robpaterson.com>

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A B O U T A M E R I C A N M O D E R N R E C O R D I N G S +
A M E R I C A N M O D E R N E N S E M B L E

American Modern Recordings (AMR) specializes in recordings of contemporary classical music, with an emphasis on music by living American composers. AMR is the house label for the American Modern Ensemble (AME) and its affiliated ensembles. <http://americanmodernrecordings.com>

American Modern Ensemble is a dynamic, creative force in the American new music scene, noted by the *New York Times* for its "first-rate" performers and "strong fan base," coupled with "exceptional energy" (*MusicWeb International*).

Founded in New York City in 2005 by violinist Victoria Paterson and house composer Robert Paterson, AME celebrates and showcases American music, with a focus on living composers. The ensemble is especially devoted to presenting the widest possible repertoire to audiences outside the contemporary music field. AME regularly presents premieres, and conducts three annual competitions for young, emerging and professional composers. A flexible, robust ensemble pulling from a large roster of top New York City artists, the group has performed and premiered over 150 works by living American composers in venues ranging from Lincoln Center to Galapagos Arts Space. AME is committed to connecting audiences directly with those composers: 90% of composers whose work has been programmed by AME have attended the concerts and joined in lively discussions, including John Luther Adams, Chen Yi, John Harbison, Aaron Jay Kernis, Steven Mackey, Christopher Rouse, Paul Moravec, Peter Schikele, Steven Stucky, Joan Tower and David Del Tredici.

Incorporating the traditional and the cutting edge, stretching from the bawdy to the brilliant, AME has "consistently demonstrated a flair for inventive programming" (*The New York Times*). Notable successes include the group's sold out "Powerhouse Pianists" program, featuring ten varied composers from Nancarrow to Joan Tower; "XXX," the ensemble's tribute to "horizontal cameos," including composers Glenn Crytzer and David Del Tredici; and "m&m's: Microtones and Minimalism," of which the *Times* declared: "Devoting a program to Minimalist and microtonal compositions could easily amount to an egghead agenda; leave it to the American Modern Ensemble to make it a party instead." Sold out crowds at Merkin Hall, Dimenna Center, and the Rubin Museum is a winning testament to the group's fan base and ever expanding popularity.

AME is the ensemble-in-residence at the CUNY Graduate Center in NYC. In 2009, American Modern Recordings was formed as the in-house record label, which will have worldwide distribution through Naxos by 2014. AMR's releases document repertoire commissioned and expertly performed by the ensemble and associated artists, extending the organization's mission into the recording field. Videography and streaming are new, integral components of each show that serve the music on a worldwide level. <http://www.americanmodernensemble.com>