

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2014

**KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES
TWO NEW PERFORMANCES AS PART OF THE
2014-2015 KAUFFMAN CENTER PRESENTS SEASON**

*Art Spiegelman's WORDLESS! and Organist Cameron Carpenter build on
Kauffman Center mission of diverse programming*

Kansas City, MO – Today, the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts announced that celebrated cartoonist Art Spiegelman will perform WORDLESS!, an innovative hybrid of slides, talk and musical performance created in collaboration with acclaimed jazz composer Phillip Johnston on Sunday, October 19 in Helzberg Hall. Ticket prices range from \$29 to \$69 and will go on sale July 17th.

GRAMMY Award nominated organist Cameron Carpenter will return to the Kauffman Center after his previous sold out engagement in Helzberg Hall in 2012. Carpenter's performance will feature his completed international touring organ on Sunday, October 26 in Muriel Kauffman Theatre. Ticket prices range from \$19 to \$49 and will go on sale Monday, July 21st.

"The 2014-2015 *Kauffman Center Presents* series showcases diversity and excellence in the performing arts," said Paul Schofer, President and CEO of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. "It is exciting to announce that renowned cartoonist and father of the graphic novel Art Spiegelman will present WORDLESS! and we look forward to Cameron Carpenter's return to the Kauffman Center this fall to perform on his international touring organ in Muriel Kauffman Theatre. The Kauffman Center is thrilled to welcome these two artists whose passion and talent continue to entertain audiences."

Tickets will be available through the Kauffman Center Box Office at (816) 994-7222 or online at www.kauffmancenter.org.

ABOUT ART SPIEGELMAN

Art Spiegelman has almost single-handedly brought comic books out of the toy closet and onto the literature shelves. In 1992, he won the Pulitzer Prize for his masterful Holocaust narrative *Maus*— which portrayed Jews as mice and Nazis as cats. *Maus II* continued the remarkable story of his parents' survival of the Nazi regime and their lives later in America. His comics are best known for their shifting graphic styles, their formal complexity, and controversial content.

ABOUT PHILLIP JOHNSTON

A saxophonist and composer of both jazz and new music, Phillip has been a significant figure in the underground music scene of New York's downtown since the beginning of the 1980's. He has composed extensively for film including Paul Mazursky's *Faithful*, Philip Haas' *The Music of Chance* and *Money Man*, Dorris Dörrie's *Paradise* and *Geld*, *Stolen Life* by Peter Rasmussen & Jackie Turnure (which won a New York Machinima Award for Best Music Score) & *Noise* by Henry Bean. He currently performs in Australia with Phillip Johnston and the Coolerators, and Tight Corners: The Phillip

Johnston/Jex Saarelaht Quartet play the music of Thelonious Monk, Steve Lacy and Herbie Nichols, and in the US and Europe with The Microscopic Septet and The Spokes. His original scores for silent film have been performed in Australia at the Sydney Opera House, the Melbourne Festival and the Sydney and Perth Film Festivals. Other current projects include *Do Good And You Will be Happy*, with Hilary Bell, a musical based on *Cole's Funny Picture Book*, a new silent film score for Lotte Reiniger's *The Adventures of Prince Achmed* (1926) and, of course, *Wordless* with graphic artist Art Spiegelman.

ABOUT WORDLESS!

Spiegelman, noted as a historian and theorist of comics as well as an artist, collaborates with Phillip Johnston, the critically acclaimed jazz composer performing live with his sextet. Johnston's music accompanies the cartoonist's personal tour of the first legitimate "graphic novels"—silent picture stories made by early 20th century masters like Frans Masereel, Lynd Ward and Milt Gross—and their influence on him. As Spiegelman explores "the battle between Words and Pictures", he smashes at the hyphen between High and Low Art in a presentation featuring a new work drawn specifically for this project, "Shaping Thought."

ABOUT CAMERON CARPENTER

Cameron challenges the ways in which the organist is promoted and the organ is played. His repertoire includes the complete organ works of Bach, Franck and Liszt, but he has adapted more than 200 works not for the organ: from the piano music of Liszt and Rachmaninoff to Debussy's "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun" and Mahler's "Fifth Symphony," to music from animé and film ("Howl's Moving Castle," "Spirited Away," and scores by John Williams and Bernard Herrmann), and re-imaginings of songs by Kate Bush, Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan and Annie Lennox. Bringing increased physicality to the organ as a former dancer, his super virtuosic organ transcriptions of Chopin *Études* have led to comparisons as diverse as Vladimir Horowitz and Fred Astaire. Cameron's embrace of fashion on the concert stage includes concert wear of his own design. His original compositions are published by Edition Peters.

Cameron was a child prodigy who performed Bach's complete "Well-Tempered Clavier" at age 11 before touring as a boy soprano with the American Boy choir for two years. He graduated from The Juilliard School in 2006 and lives in Berlin.

ABOUT THE KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts – a major not-for-profit center for music, opera, theater and dance designed by Moshe Safdie – opened in 2011. Serving as a cultural cornerstone for Kansas City and the region, the Kauffman Center delivers extraordinary and diverse performing arts experiences. Honored as one of the World's 15 Most Beautiful Concert Halls, the Kauffman Center attracts some of the world's most renowned performers and entertainers.

Through educational outreach programs and community enrichment, the Kauffman Center supports Kansas City as a cultural destination. More information on the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts is available at kauffmancenter.org.

WORDLESS! is sponsored by Lawrence and Donna Gould Cohen and Martha Gershun and Don Goldman in memory of Gloria P. Gershun, a professional librarian and passionate booklover with deep ties to the Jewish community.

The Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts would like to thank our official building sponsors and Kauffman Center Presents series sponsors, Aristocrat Motors and Mercedes-Benz of Kansas City. We also thank our premier business member Sprint, for their generous support of our 2014–2015 season.

Follow the Kauffman Center on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to get details about upcoming performances and behind-the-scenes access.



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