Big Band & Jazz Sensation
MARIA SCHNEIDER ORCHESTRA
Makes VPAC Debut!

Wednesday, February 22 at 8pm

Los Angeles, CA, January 27, 2017 – Five-time Grammy Award-winning Maria Schneider Orchestra will bring their big-band sound to Valley Performing Arts Center stage for one-night only on Wednesday, February 22 at 8pm.

Schneider’s music has been hailed by critics as “evocative, majestic, magical, heart-stoppingly gorgeous, and beyond categorization.” She and her orchestra became widely known in 1994 when they released their first recording, *Evanescence*. Schneider and her orchestra have a distinguished recording career with 12 Grammy nominations and 5 Grammy Awards including the 2016 Grammy Award for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album, *The Thompson Fields*. In 2016, *The Thompson Fields* was awarded Jazz Album of the Year by *Downbeat Magazine*.

“We can’t wait to experience Maria Schneider and her 18-member orchestra play live on our stage,” said VPAC’s Executive Director, Thor Steingraber. “Schneider is one of the few musical artists who compose for large-scale jazz ensembles. It will be a privilege to hear her unique artistry in our venue, especially pieces from her exceptional new album, *The Thompson Fields*."

Schneider’s music blurs the lines between genres, making her long list of commissioners quite varied, stretching from Jazz at Lincoln Center, to The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, to collaborating with David Bowie. She is among a small few to have received GRAMMYS in multiple genres, have received the award in both jazz and classical categories. Her recent collaboration with her orchestra and David Bowie resulted in his single called, “Sue (Or In A Season of Crime),” which brought her a second 2016 GRAMMY (*Best Arrangement, Instruments and Vocals*).

*The Guardian* said of Maria Schneider’s album, *The Thompson Fields*: ★★★★★ “The music echoes that quality of both huge and intimate...Everything connects and comes full circle, which is not the least of the pleasures of this fascinating and moving album.”

*The New York Times* calls Maria Schneider, “a composer and orchestrator of extravagant insight. Ms. Schneider has her own trademark way of using timbre and harmony to bring a tactile presence to the dimensions of sound—and more impressively, of applying the same tools to illuminate emotional terrain.”

In an interview with the *New York Times*, Maria Schneider herself said, “Like dreams are a way to process your psyche, music is a way to process and share memory.”
**About Maria Schneider Orchestra**

Maria Schneider’s music has been hailed by critics as “evocative, majestic, magical, heart-stoppingly gorgeous, and beyond categorization.” She and her orchestra became widely known starting in 1994 when they released their first recording, *Evanescence*. There, Schneider began to develop her personal way of writing for what would become her 18-member collective, made up of many of the finest musicians in jazz today, tailoring her compositions to distinctly highlight the uniquely creative voices of the group. The Maria Schneider Orchestra has performed at festivals and concert halls worldwide. She herself has received numerous commissions and guest-conducting invites, working with over 85 groups from over 30 countries.

Unique funding of projects has become a hallmark for Schneider through the trend-setting company, ArtistShare. Her album, *Concert in the Garden* (2004) became historic as the first recording to win a GRAMMY with Internet-only sales, even more significantly, it blazed the "crowd-funding" trail as ArtistShare’s first release. She’s been awarded many honors by the Jazz Journalists Association and DOWNBEAT and JAZZTIMES Critics and Readers Polls. In 2012, her alma mater, the University of Minnesota, presented Schneider with an honorary doctorate, and in 2014, ASCAP awarded her their esteemed Concert Music Award.

Schneider has become a strong voice for music advocacy and in 2014, testified before the US Congressional Subcommittee on Intellectual Property about digital rights. She has also appeared in CNN, and has been quoted in numerous publications for her views on Spotify, Pandora, digital rights and music piracy. Most recently, she and concerned colleagues in New York have launched a widespread campaign on behalf of music-makers, MusicAnswers.org.

**Calendar Listing for Maria Schneider Orchestra**

**Venue:** Valley Performing Arts Center  
18111 Nordhoff Street  
Northridge, CA 91330

**Date:** Wednesday, February 22 at 8:00pm

**Tickets:**  
**Price:** Starting at $33  
**In Person:** VPAC Ticket Office, located in the VPAC Courtyard  
**By Phone:** (818) 677-3000  
**Online:** ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org

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**Photos:** Click here for photos from the 2016-17 Season:  

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