



**Press Contact:**  
Gamall Awad - 917-627-8868; g@backspinpromo.com

-----  
**EVENT INFO IN BRIEF**

**WHEN:**

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 6<sup>th</sup> 2011**

**WHAT:**

**UN SOUND FESTIVAL NEW YORK: OPENING NIGHT**

**PRESENTED BY:**

Unsound Festival New York

Sacrum Profanum

**ORGANIZED WITH:**

The Krakow Festival Office

The Adam Mickiewicz Institute

*Unsound Festival New York is presented by Fundacja Tone, the Polish Cultural Institute in New York and the Goethe-Institut New York. The Krakow Festival Office and the Adam Mickiewicz Institute are the co-organizers of this event.*

**ARTISTS:**

\* **KRZYSZTOF PENDERECKI (Poland) performed by SINFONIETTA CRACOVIA (Poland)**

\* **STEVE REICH (USA) performed by SINFONIETTA CRACOVIA (Poland)**

\* **Music for SOLARIS (North American Debut) performed by BEN FROST (Iceland / Australia), DANIEL BJARNASON (Iceland), SINFONIETTA CRACOVIA (Poland) with film manipulations from BRIAN ENO / NICK ROBERTSON (UK)**

**WHERE:**

**Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, 1941 Broadway, New York, NY / Box Office - 212.671.4050**

**TIME: 20:00**

**PRICE: \$20-\$30**

**LINKS:** <http://www.unsound.pl/en>

<http://www.sacrumprofanum.com/en>

**UN SOUND FESTIVAL NEW YORK JOINS FORCES WITH SACRUM PROFANUM FOR A STUNNING OPENING NIGHT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011, AT ALICE TULLY HALL, LINCOLN CENTER, NEW YORK**

**UN SOUND FESTIVAL NEW YORK** returns to New York for a second year with its biggest concert to date - a stunning opening night at Lincoln Center's **Alice Tully Hall** presenting the North American debut of an Unsound commissioned piece "*We Don't Need Other Worlds – We need Mirrors*" – "**Music for SOLARIS**" featuring **BEN FROST, DANIEL BJARNASON** and **SINFONIETTA CRACOVIA** with film manipulations from **BRIAN ENO / NICK ROBERTSON** alongside the music of **STEVE REICH** and **KRZYSZTOF PENDERECKI** performed by **SINFONIETTA CRACOVIA**.

This special event is presented with the acclaimed **SACRUM PROFANUM**, Unsound Festival's sister festival in Krakow, which regularly blurs the line between contemporary classical music and ambitious pop. **The Krakow Festival Office** and **The Adam Mickiewicz Institute** are the co-organizers of this event. **Unsound Festival New York** is presented by **Fundacja Tone**, the **Polish Cultural Institute in New York** and the **Goethe-Institut New York**.

**ABOUT "We don't need other worlds. We need Mirrors" - Music for SOLARIS**

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of Krakow writer, **Stanislaw Lem's** novel *Solaris*. It's a book about people lost in the cosmos and obliged, whether they like it or not, to take one more step up the ladder of knowledge. Lem uses the novel to explore what happens when our unending quest for knowledge becomes a source of impossible tension. Reflecting on the time in which the novel was written, the characters in *Solaris* are dogged by disappointments, and the way out offered to them by Lem is illusory – through dreams. Unsurprisingly, given its universal themes, the novel continues to have a large following to this day, both on its own account and as a result of highly regarded film adaptations by Russian director **Andrei Tarkovsky** and American director Stephen Soderburgh.

The seed for **Music For Solaris** began simply enough during a casual conversation between Australian composer **Ben Frost**, who lives in Iceland, and Unsound Festival Director Mat Schulz about **Eduard Artemyev's** score for the Tarkovsky film. Ideas were planted and Schulz seized the moment and decided to commission a new work from Frost for **Unsound Festival 2010** – based in the very birthplace of Stanislaw Lem's novel – Krakow.

Within the last five years, Reykjavik-based **Ben Frost** has made a worldwide reputation for himself with two albums for the **Bedroom Community** label "*Theory of Machines*" (2007) – inspired in part by Soderburgh's *Solaris* and "*By The Throat*" (2009), as well as his work with artists such as Tim Hecker, Amiina, Björk and label mates Sam Amidon, Nico Muhly and Valgeir Sigurdsson. Following work for contemporary dance productions by Wayne McGregor/Random Dance, Chunky Move and the Icelandic

Dance Company, Frost has also increasingly worked in film music. In 2009 he composed the score to "I Am You" and a series of short films by Gael Garcia Bernal and Marc Silver for Amnesty International called "The Invisibles". This year his music will also grace the Australian film "Sleeping Beauty." This work has led to Frost becoming more and more engaged with orchestral music, so it's fortunate that within a short time of receiving the *Solaris* commission from Unsound, Frost was also presented with the opportunity to work with one of the most exciting orchestras in Europe – the Krakow-based **Sinfonietta Cracovia**.

This exceptional orchestra emerged from an initiative of young musicians at the Music Academy in Krakow. Thanks to the artistic leadership of violinist **Robert Kabara**, **Sinfonietta Cracovia** has grown and transformed into an ensemble renowned throughout Europe. Sinfonietta Cracovia is characterized by outstanding spontaneity and exceptional professionalism. Their artistic achievements have opened doors to collaboration with the most remarkable composers and conductors including Krzysztof Penderecki, Antoni Wit, Jerzy Maksymiuk, Christoph Eschenbach, Lorin Maazel, Valery Gergiev and American John Axelrod. Sinfonietta Cracovia have also appeared at Unsound Festival many times, performing music with artists like Stars of The Lid, Jóhann Jóhannsson and others.

Realizing the potential for this collaboration, Frost also smartly recruited Icelandic composer / conductor **Daniel Bjarnason** to join the mix. Bjarnason is also a member of the Bedroom Community collective. His debut album for the label "Processions" (2010) saw him work with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra and illustrated to a larger audience his skill with modern chamber music.

Composed for twenty-nine string players, two percussionists, prepared piano, guitars and electronics, ***We don't need other worlds. We need Mirrors - Music for SOLARIS*** is a re-imagined soundtrack for a film so still as to become almost absent, a story in sound, and an exploration of an interior cosmos. You could call it both strange and unique but you'd only be describing part of the picture. It is filled with ideas and borne of concepts, not the least of which is a series of "film manipulations" that are integral to the project. Brian Eno and Nick Robertson specially created these images. Brian Eno is currently mentoring Frost in the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative. The dialogue in that mentorship led to this collaboration, which sees Eno and Robertson drawing on moments from the original Tarkovsky film to create a visual parallel to the music of Frost, Bjarnason and Sinfonietta Cracovia.

A recording of "Music For Solaris" will be released on CD later this year by Iceland's Bedroom Community label. This project has received strong support from the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, as part of the Polish Presidency of the EU, which starts on July 1st 2011.

**Music for SOLARIS** will be preceded by a selection curated by the highly respected **SACRUM PROFANUM** festival in Krakow. Sacrum Profanum is devoted to acclaimed ensembles performing the music of the 20th and 21st centuries. Firstly **Sinfonietta Cracovia** will perform music from **Krzysztof Penderecki**, one of the most recognized Polish composers of our time. His 1960 composition "Threnody to the Victims of Hiroshima" has received

acknowledgement far beyond the boundaries of contemporary classical music – even Johnny Greenwood from Radiohead has cited it as a key influence on his own writing for strings. To this day "Threondy..." clearly demonstrates a distinctly unique language for strings. Additionally, his work with Don Cherry brought him exposure in other fields. But Penderecki is held in the most high esteem within classical music circles and has received many prestigious prizes including Classical music Grammy Awards in 1987, 1998 and 2001. **Sinfonietta Cracovia**, having collaborated and performed with Penderecki in person many times, will open this evening with the lush harmonies and emotional intensity of his **Serenade For String Orchestra** followed by **Sinfonietta per Archi** and **Chaconne in memoria del Giovanni Paolo II**.

Following these three pieces by Penderecki, **Sinfonietta Cracovia** will give the audience a taste of a New York composer whose music will be featured extensively later this year at the Sacrum Profanum Festival in Krakow - **Steve Reich**. In September 2011 Krakow celebrates Reich's 75th birthday by featuring five concerts of his work with the composer's participation. Steve Reich is perhaps the most well known modern composer in America. His own form of minimalist music, or at least the reverberations from it, have influenced almost everyone working in music today – whether they realize it or not. **Sinfonietta Cracovia** will perform the rarely heard 1995 Reich composition **Duet for Two Violins and String Orchestra**, which is dedicated to Yehudi Menuhin – an appropriate selection since Sinfonietta Cracovia's **Robert Kabara** has been building a reputation as one of Europe's great violin soloists. This will be followed by a performance of Reich's 1999 composition **Triple Quartet** for three string quartets and pre-recorded tape. Steve Reich will be in attendance.

**Sinfonietta Cracovia** will also be featured during Unsound Festival New York the following night Thursday, April 7th, performing the music of Polish composer **Henryk Mikolaj Górecki**.

*Ben Frost will be available for phone interviews on Monday February 28<sup>th</sup>.*

*Robert Kabara from Sinfonietta Cracovia is available for interviews.*

*Please note: Brian Eno will not be available for interviews.*

**Unsound Festival New York is presented by Fundacja Tone, the Polish Cultural Institute in New York and the Goethe-Institut New York**

**In Cooperation With The Trust For Mutual Understanding, The Adam Mickiewicz Institute, City of Krakow, Krakow Festival Office, 6 Senses, Austrian Cultural Forum in New York, Instituto Cervantes de New York, Consulate General of Finland in New York, Royal Consulate of Norway New York, Pro Helvetia**

**BAMcinématek, Backspin Promotions, Bedroom Community, The Blackened Music Series, Beyond Booking, The Bunker, The David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center, Electronic Music Foundation, European Cities of Advanced Sound, International Cities of Advanced Sound, Film Comment Selects,**

**ISSUE Project Room, Kiss&Tell, (le) Poisson Rouge, Littlefield, No Fun Productions, RVNG Intl /FRKWYS, Goethe-Institut Wyoming Building.**

**Unsound Festival New York 2011** runs from **April 1st to April 10th 2011**, with **April 1st - April 5th** being devoted to **Unsound Festival New York Labs**, a series of more experimental events, workshops and panels based around the theme of "Festival as lab." This Wednesday **April 6th** event is the official opening event of Unsound Festival New York so please do not be confused by it appearing to be happening mid-festival. Celebrating the concepts, ideas and joy of creative music in its many forms - from lowbrow to high - **Unsound Festival** has built a reputation as one of Europe's most original events. Known for pushing boundaries and a unique visionary curatorial approach, Unsound Festival has inspired visitors and locals alike in their hometown of Krakow, Poland, since its inception in 2003. 2011 marks the second year Unsound Festival has come to New York. For further detailed information press information on all the events happening during Unsound Festival New York 2011 please contact festival publicist Gamall Awad at Backspin Promotions – 917.627.8868 / [g@backspinpromo.com](mailto:g@backspinpromo.com)

**Sacrum Profanum** is co-presenter of the Unsound Festival New York's opening night. Sacrum Profanum is a unique festival of contemporary music that invites the world's leading ensembles to perform in unique post-industrial spaces across Krakow, Poland. Having worked with acclaimed contemporary music ensembles like Ensemble Modern, Ensemble Intercontemporain, London Sinfonietta, Klangforum Wien as well as figures such as Aphex Twin, Chris Cunningham, Kraftwerk, Jonsi and Mum, Sacrum Profanum has earned a position as one of the most sought-after musical events in Europe. This special concert in New York with Unsound Festival New York is their first ever event in North America. It celebrates the theme of Sacrum Profanum's 2011 festival in Krakow, which will focus on the music of Steve Reich and American Minimalists. The artistic director of the festival is Filip Berkowicz. The Krakow Festival Office, also a partner of both Unsound Krakow and Unsound Festival New York, organizes Sacrum Profanum. For more information visit <http://www.sacrumprofanum.com/en>

**Krakow Festival Office** is a leading Polish promoter of the most renowned cultural events of national and international significance. The number of the cultural undertakings organised by Krakow Festival Office includes prestigious musical festivals and huge open-air spectacles that attract hundreds of thousands spectators (WOW!Night, Selector), as well as innovative projects in the field of the contemporary arts (Art Boom), theatre (Divine Comedy), and literature (Conrad Festival). Many of their events have been highly praised by international critics throughout Poland and across the world. Their music festivals include the Misteria Paschalia Festival that emphasises the atmosphere of Easter Week and the avant-garde spirit of Sacrum Profanum. Additionally, the Office coordinates the programme Six Senses (6 Zmysłów), which brings together major events in Krakow. Six Senses was established in 1997 when Krakow was awarded of the title of European City of Culture of the Year 2000. For more information visit <http://www.biurofestiwalowe.pl>

**The Adam Mickiewicz Institute** is a state cultural institution whose task is to promote Polish culture around the world and actively participate in international cultural exchange. In the years 2001-2010, the Adam Mickiewicz Institute realized promotional projects in 26 countries, among them Great Britain, Russia, Israel, Benelux countries, Spain, Austria, Sweden, France, Germany, Ukraine, Lithuania, Algeria, Morocco, India and China. As part of these projects IAM organized over 3,000 cultural events which gathered an audience of 18,000,000 people on three continents. In 2011 the Adam Mickiewicz Institute will pursue a cultural programme accompanying the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The project will include 10 capital cities: within the European Union - Brussels, Paris, London, Berlin, Madrid - as well as beyond - Moscow, Kiev, Beijing and Tokyo.

**Fundacja Tone** is a non-profit, non-governmental organization established in 2008, to promote new forms of art – sonic and visual, initiating intercultural dialogue by fostering international collaborations. Based in Krakow, Fundacja Tone organizes **Unsound Festival** in Krakow. Like Unsound, Fundacja Tone is committed to promoting music and artists from the eastern side of the EU and creating bonds between the East and West of Europe. Fundacja Tone has realized various cultural projects thanks to support of, and in collaboration with, major Polish and international public institutions and partners.

**The Polish Cultural Institute in New York**, established in 2000, is a diplomatic mission dedicated to nurturing and promoting cultural ties between the United States and Poland. The Institute initiates, organizes, promotes, and produces a broad range of cultural events in theater, music, film, literature, and the fine arts. It has collaborated with such cultural institutions as Lincoln Center Festival, BAM, Film Society of Lincoln Center, The Museum of Modern Art, Jewish Museum, PEN World Voices Festival, Yale University, and many more. For more information visit <http://www.PolishCulture-NYC.org>

**The Goethe-Institut New York** is a branch of the Federal Republic of Germany's global cultural institute, established to promote the study of German and German culture abroad, encourage international cultural exchange, and provide information on Germany's culture, society, and politics. For more information visit <http://www.goethe.de/newyork>



**Media Sponsors**

