

For Immediate Release Please

For National Poetry Month, Arts > World Financial Center adds Music to Pablo Neruda:

SONGS OF LOVE & DESPAIR:

A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO PABLO NERUDA

**Featuring performances/readings by Clogs, Irene & Vojtech Havel, Colin Stetson,
Pedro Soler with Beñat Achiary, Bob Holman, Laurie Anderson & Cecilia Vicuña.**

Wednesday, April 15, at 8pm

Free in the World Financial Center Winter Garden

NEW YORK - **Pablo Neruda**, one of the greatest and most influential poets of the last century and the 1971 Nobel Prize for Literature winner, will be celebrated with his words and music from musicians from around the globe in the Arts > World Financial Center presentation ***Songs of Love & Despair: A Musical Tribute to Pablo Neruda*** for one-night-only Wednesday, April 15, at 8:00pm.

The collection of musicians coming to the World Financial Center, 220 Vesey Street, for this free event hail from Australia, France, Spain, Czech Republic (Neruda's pen name was derived from Czech writer and poet Jan Neruda) and the United States.

Curated and produced by **David Spelman**, known worldwide for his biannual New York Guitar Festival, ***Songs of Love & Despair: A Musical Tribute to Pablo Neruda*** will feature readings and the world premiere of new music as settings for Neruda's poetry.

New music is being created by Australian composer **Padma Newsome** (Clogs, The National), who will be joined on stage by the four members of the Clogs, other guest musicians and a children's choir and composer **Colin Stetson** (Sway Machinery, Bell Orchestre, Arcade Fire), who



Pablo Neruda

will perform a piece that features a recording of Neruda reading his own work accompanied by electronic manipulations and Mr. Stetson's live performance on baritone saxophone.

Also performing are the Czech experimental musicians **Irene & Vojtech Havel**, who perform on cello and *viola da gamba*, and Flamenco guitarist **Pedro Soler**, who will be joined by Basque vocal improviser **Beñat Achiary**.

Reading selections of poetry by Neruda will be Chilean poet and artist **Cecilia Vicuña**, American poet and founder of the Bowery Poetry Club **Bob Holman**, and American experimental performance artist **Laurie Anderson**. **Bob Holman** will present his own praise poem for Neruda, written for this event.

Pablo Neruda (1904 - 1973) is considered one of the greatest and most influential poets of the 20th century. Columbian novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez called the Chilean-born poet "the greatest poet of the 20th century in any language." His works have been translated and published all over the globe.

David Spelman is the New York-based producer, curator and musician whose career has embraced jazz, rock, classical, avant garde, and world music, as well as spoken-word poetry and the visual arts. In 1999 he launched the first **New York Guitar Festival**, now a biennial event that presents the world's finest guitarists in innovative, cross-genre and multi-media presentations. Following on the success of the New York Guitar Festival, he's been engaged as a guest curator or artistic director for major festivals all over the globe, including the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at the University of Illinois, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Australia's Adelaide Festival Centre, and Toronto's Luminato Festival.

"For over two decades, we've presented exceptional music, art, theater and film in the World Financial Center Winter Garden, making it the center of the downtown arts scene," said Debra Simon, Artistic Director of Arts World Financial Center.

Arts World Financial Center is sponsored by American Express, Battery Park City Authority, Brookfield Properties and Merrill Lynch.

Admission is free for all events. For information, call (212) 945-0505 or click www.artsworldfinancialcenter.com.