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Contact: Phil Cardone x33
Leenda Bonilla x23
Phone: 718-931-9500
E-Mail: Phil@bronxarts.org
Leenda@bronxarts.org
Website: www.bronxarts.org

BxIndie Musician Jen Shyu performs at Lincoln Center on Thursday, April 22, 2010
A Musical Evening of Asian-Classical Jazz Fusion presented by the Bronx Council on the Arts

(April 12, 2010 — Bronx, NY) The Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts present a musical evening of Asian-classical jazz fusion with BxIndie musician Jen Shyu. Ms. Shyu, a vocalist, composer, dancer, multi-instrumentalist, and band leader, will perform on Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 8:30pm at Lincoln Center's David Rubenstein Atrium, across from Josie Robertson Plaza and the Revson Fountain on Broadway between West 62nd and 63rd Streets. All are invited. Admission is free.

This concert is presented in salute to BCA's 20th anniversary of its prestigious BRIO award (Bronx Recognizes Its Own) — one of the longest standing individual support mechanisms for artists in the country and which recognizes the creative excellence of Bronx artists in all disciplines. Ms. Shyu is a two-time winner of the award in 2009 for instrumental performance and in 2007 for music composition.

Internationally-known lead vocalist in Steve Coleman's Five Elements, **Jen Shyu** will present "Jade Tongue", original music for voice, piano, dance, erhu, and moon guitar. She sings in various "tongues" including Taiwanese, English, Portuguese, Spanish, and Mandarin, featuring her own arrangements of Taiwanese folk music on piano and the two-stringed moon guitar.

Jen's music is set to poetry by Brazilian poet Patrícia Magalhães and Tang Dynasty poets Li Bai and Mengjiao with text by Cuban slave Esteban Montejo. Her haunting and powerful music is influenced by jazz, classical music, her research in Cuba, Brazil, and China, and indigenous music from Taiwan and other parts of the world.

Born in Illinois from Taiwanese and East Timorese parents, Bronx-based Jen Shyu has established herself as a pioneer and original voice in the improvisational, experimental jazz, and creative music worlds. Her work has been influenced over the years by her musical collaborations with Asian improv artists, poets, duo artists, and additional New York City artists on the burgeoning improvisational scene.

Among her achievements, Jen is a 2008-2009 MacDowell Colony National Endowment for the Arts Fellow, an awardee of fellowships and commissions from the Asian Cultural Council, Jerome Foundation, Roulette Space, the Jazz Gallery, and the Bronx Council on the Arts. During her 2009 tour in Taiwan, the mayor of Hengchun named her the first "Ambassador of Hengchun Folk Song." Tracts from Jen's albums, "For Now" and "Jade Tongue", can be downloaded from www.jenshyu.bandcamp.com.

This event is a part of BxIndie programming sponsored by the Bronx Council on the Arts. BxIndie events are designed to encourage artists and arts collectives to explore new performance sites, to break new ground in various disciplines and to get closer to their audience, thus increasing community participation while fostering an environment for the arts to thrive. BxIndie is a NYC Cultural Innovation Fund project funded by the Rockefeller Foundation.

This event was made possible with funding by the NYS Council on the Arts, the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs Greater New York Arts Development Fund, Department of Youth & Community Development, Scherman Foundation, Carnegie Corporation, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., the Bronx Delegation of the City Council, and Council Members Maria del Carmen Arroyo and James Vacca.

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BxIndie Musician Jen Shyu, vocalist, composer, dancer, multi-instrumentalist, and band leader, and Bronx Council on the Arts BRIO award winner, will perform a free concert at Lincoln Center's David Rubenstein Atrium on Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 8:30pm. All are welcome.

Photo by Steven Schreiber