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## Harris Theater Announces 2010–2011 Season

Posted by Zachary Whittenburg on April 14th, 2010 at 12:37 am

Our favorite neon-filled basement in Millennium Park has informed us why we'll be heading there on a regular basis for another 12 months. (It really is our favorite: The Harris' acoustics and sightlines are superb, its simplicity puts the work up front, and that journey to the center of the earth keeps ringing phones to a minimum.)

They've sorted the action into three menus: You can "Hear the Music," "See the Dance," or hang out with "The Boys of Broadway."

Tickets to two special "At the Harris" events will be available only to series subscribers. One is Japanese company Sankai Juku—they are to Butoh what John Waters is to camp and are bringing their 1998 work *Hibiki* to the stage in October with the help of Columbia's Dance Center and the MCA Stage (the first time the three performance venues have collaborated on a presentation). The

other is the Chicago premiere of Laurie Anderson's *Delusion*, a characteristically-massive multimedia piece occasioned by the 2010 Winter Olympics. Anderson's complete discography is reportedly being pushed out by Nonesuch Records sometime this summer; you might be able to get through all of it by *Delusion's* January 11 one-night-stand.

On the music tip, you can be excited for some cherry-picked chamber ensembles. Venice Baroque Orchestra performs *The Seasons Project* on October 24, a double-bill of Vivaldi's spring-to-winter chestnut and Philip Glass's take on the same, commissioned by violinist Robert McDuffie, who'll act as soloist and leader. Baltic States group *Kremerata Baltica* appear in November, part of 14 months of *The Soviet Experience*, a city-wide survey of art made behind the Iron Curtain back when there still was one. Venezuelan pianist Gabriela Montero appears in February to tickle the ivory, and Québecois stringmasters *Les Violons du Roy* share the stage with tenor Ian Bostridge.

Along with what will surely be regular concerts by the Chicago dance companies that have made the Harris their home (and for whom it was largely built), New York's *Lar Lubovitch Dance Company* and *Ballet Hispanico* (now under *Luna Negra Dance Theater* founder Eduardo Vilaro) are coming to town, as is *Pilobolus Dance Theater*, who are rightly famous for being able to do just about anything with their bodies. Most significantly, Chicago audiences will finally get a chance to weigh in on the "Mark Morris's *Romeo & Juliet: Brilliant, or B.S.?*" debate in February (our hopes are high).

"Boys of Broadway" calls to mind slick-haired triple threats with booming baritones, but we're happy to report the Harris is instead saying it with a wink and a limp wrist, as the mini-series consists of one-man shows by John Waters (*A John Waters Christmas* on December 14) and Alan Cumming (*I Bought a Blue Car Today* on March 21).

The venue tends to fill in blanks with big-ticket rentals and late-breaking additions throughout the season, so there'll be more to it than that by the time fall is upon us. Still, a good strong start and plenty to look forward to. Subscriptions to the three series go on sale May 1, with leftover single tickets available sometime in August; visit the Harris Theater website, or call 312-334-7777 to have your questions answered by the box office.



Photo of Alan Cumming: Francis Hill