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CONTACT

Henny Linn Kjellberg
Companion Star

+46 708 686212
info@comapnionstar.org

Sneak-Peak of New Tranströmer Opera by Companion Star

Västerås, Sweden --- The avant-garde performing arts group Companion Star has been working here in residence once again since the beginning of June and will present a work-in-progress performance of its flagship project, *dream seminar*, at Västerås Concerthjuset on Thursday June 18 at 7:00 PM.

With texts from the great Tomas Tranströmer and score by composer Ellen Lindquist, *dream seminar* is a new opera created collaboratively per Companion Star's unique process. The 25-member ensemble has been gathering alternately in Sweden and the US for the past three years to create, and now shape, the material for the opera. This performance will be an audience's first glimpse at design elements, and will place some of the finished work into a full production context. The group will also debut new composition derived from improvisations that have taken place during the workshop.

The multi-national group of vocalists and instrumentalists includes Floutist Malin Trast, Clarinetist Robert Ek and Bass Vocalist Michael Douglas Jones, the founder of Companion Star, who was first seen by Swedish audiences in the critically acclaimed Kafkha's Schimpans produced by Piteå Kammaropera. The players are supported by Music Director Tim Long, Stage Director Pat Diamond and renowned choreographer, pedagogue and dancer Helena Högberg. The design team includes Lighting Designer Torkel Skjaerven, Constumer Camille Assaf and Ceramic Artist Henny Linn Kjellberg, who has created one-of-a-kind percussion instruments and set pieces for the production.

The performance on Thursday will be the audience's last chance to participate in *dream seminar's* development, and Companion Star's last appearance in Sweden until the premiere in 2011.

Work-in-Progress Performance

Torsdag 2009-06-18 Tid: 19:00

Västerås Konserthus Lilla salen

Biljetter: Västerås Turistbyrå 021-39 01 00 och Tinet

Pris: 100/145 kr

dream seminar

<i>Composer</i>	Ellen Lindquist (USA)
<i>Stage Director</i>	Patrick Diamond (USA)
<i>Music Director</i>	Timothy G. Long (USA)
<i>Movement Choreographer</i>	Helena Högberg (Sweden)
<i>Set Designer</i>	Henny Linn Kjellberg (Sweden)
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Torkel Skjaerven (Norway)
<i>Costume Design</i>	Camille Assaf (France)
<i>Videographer</i>	Brian M. Hedden (USA)
<i>Company Manager</i>	Marci Skolnick (USA)
<i>Technical Director</i>	Katya Khellbau (USA)
<i>Flute</i>	Malin Trast (Sweden)
<i>Oboe</i>	Laura Karney (USA)
<i>Clarinet</i>	Christa VanAlstine (Canada)
	Robert Ek (Sweden)
<i>Horn</i>	Angela Wilmot (USA)
<i>Trombone</i>	Benjamin Lanz (USA)
<i>Violin</i>	Aaron Packard (USA)
<i>Viola</i>	David Marks (Canada)
<i>Cello</i>	Fanny Bray (France)
<i>Bass</i>	Felix Pastor (Spain)
<i>Harp</i>	Nicolas Tulliez (France)
<i>Piano</i>	Laura Barger (USA)
<i>Percussion</i>	Michael McCurdy (USA)
<i>Soprano Vocalist</i>	Kathleen Flynn (Canada)
<i>Bass Vocalist</i>	Michael Douglas Jones (USA)

Companion Star is an international performing arts collaborative that creates, produces and presents breakthrough music theatre reflecting the spectacular diversity of our world. Companion Star's productions are developed through a workshop system that dissolves conventional performance boundaries and provides a haven for artists across many disciplines to shape raw creativity into finished music-theatre.