

An Evening of Music & Literature

With Rosanne Cash, A. M. Homes, Lan Samantha Chang,
Tameka Cage Conley, and John Leventhal

Thursday, February 6, 2020, at 7:00 pm
Strauss Hall, Hancher Auditorium

PROGRAM

Reading: "Introducing Myself" (Ursula LeGuin)
Read by A. M. Homes

Song: "If I Were A Man"

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Reading: Excerpt #1 (Tameka Cage Conley)
Read by Tameka Cage Conley

Song: "What We Really Want"

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Reading: Reading #1 (Lan Samantha Chang)
Read by Lan Samantha Chang

Song: "The Only Thing Worth Fighting For"

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Reading: "A Real Doll" (A. M. Homes)
Read by A. M. Homes

Song: "She Remembers Everything"

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Reading: Excerpt #2 (Tameka Cage Conley)
Read by Tameka Cage Conley

Song: "God is in the Roses"

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Reading: Reading #2 (Lan Samantha Chang)
Read by Lan Samantha Chang

Song: "Modern Blue"

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Reading: Reading #3 (Lan Samantha Chang)
Read by Lan Samantha Chang

Song: "Motherless Children"

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Reading: "Whose Story is it and Why is it Always On Her Mind?" (A. M. Homes)
Read by A. M. Homes

Song: "Dreams Are Not My Home"

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ROSANNE CASH is one of the country's pre-eminent singer-songwriters. She has released 15 albums of extraordinary songs that have earned four Grammy Awards and nominations for 12 more, as well as 21 top-40 hits, including 11 No. 1 singles. She is also an author whose four books include the best-selling memoir *Composed*, which the *Chicago Tribune* called "one of the best accounts of an American life you'll likely ever read." Her essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, the *Oxford-American*, *The Nation*, and many more print and online publications. In addition to continual touring, Cash has partnered in programming collaborations with Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, San Francisco Jazz, Minnesota Orchestra, and the Library of Congress. She was awarded the SAG/AFTRA Lifetime Achievement Award for Sound Recordings in 2012 and received the 2014 Smithsonian Ingenuity Award in the Performing Arts. She was chosen as a Perspective Series artist at Carnegie Hall and hosted four concerts (including a major show of her own in February 2016) during their 2015-16 season. She continues her association with Carnegie Hall as a Creative Partner. She also served as 2015 Artist-in-Residence at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville. On October 11, 2015, she was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters' Hall of Fame. Cash's landmark 2009 album, *The List*, won the Americana Music Album of the Year Award. With her album *The River & The Thread*, a collaboration with husband/co-writer/producer, and arranger John Leventhal, Cash evokes a kaleidoscopic examination of the geographic, emotional, musical, and historic landscape of the American South. The album has received impressive worldwide acclaim and attained the highest debut in the *Billboard* charts of any of her previous albums. It received three Grammy Awards in 2015.

She Remembers Everything, Rosanne's Cash's highly anticipated follow-up to her triple Grammy-winning masterpiece *The River & The Thread* is a powerfully insightful and strikingly universal collection of new songs. Both confessional and cathartic the material reverberates with an urgency of a woman who has found and owns her story and her voice and who is driven to speak when time feels ever shorter. Songs from this new album will be featured in concert along with gems from her Americana Trilogy (*Black Cadillac*, *The List*, and *The River & The Thread*) and selections from *Norma Rae*—the musical she is writing with John Leventhal (book by John Weidman) based on the 1979 hit film.

A.M. HOMES is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Her most recent book is *Days of Awe*, a collection of short stories. She is the author of the novels, *This Book Will Save Your Life*, which won the 2013 Orange/Women's Prize for Fiction, *Music For Torching*, *The End of Alice*, *In a Country of Mothers*, and *Jack*, as well as the short-story collections, *Things You Should Know* and *The Safety of Objects*, the bestselling memoir, *The Mistress's Daughter* along with a travel memoir, *Los Angeles: People, Places and The Castle on the Hill*, and the artist's book *Appendix A: She teaches in the creative writing program at Princeton*.

LAN SAMANTHA CHANG is the Iowa Writers' Workshop Director and Elizabeth M. Stanley Professor in the Arts. She is the author of a collection of short fiction, *Hunger*, and two novels, *Inheritance*, and *All Is Forgotten, Nothing Is Lost*. Her work has been translated into nine languages and has been chosen twice for *The Best American Short Stories*. She has received creative writing fellowships from Stanford University, Princeton University, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

TAMEKA CAGE CONLEY, PhD, is an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Iowa and is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop. She held the Provost Postgraduate Visiting Writer Fellowship in fiction from 2018-19. As a literary artist, she writes fiction, poetry, plays, librettos, and essays. She received a doctoral degree in English in 2006 from Louisiana State University, where she was a recipient of the Huel Perkins Doctoral Fellowship and was awarded the annual Lewis Simpson Distinguished Dissertation Award. She is currently at work on her first novel, a family epic that chronicles the untimely deaths of African American men over six decades in Caddo Parish.

JOHN LEVENTHAL is a multi-Grammy-winning musician, songwriter, record producer, and recording engineer. Over the course of a thirty-year recording career, he has produced or arranged albums that have been nominated for a total of 18 Grammy Awards. As a songwriter, he has had over 150 songs recorded by artists such as Rosanne Cash, Shawn Colvin, Marc Cohn, William Bell, George Strait, Tedeschi Trucks Band, Joe Cocker, Michelle Branch, Jim Lauderdale, and many others. In 2015, Leventhal received the Americana Music Association's award for Instrumentalist of the Year. He also received his share of Grammy's (two) for his creative contributions to Rosanne Cash's *The River & The Thread*.