

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Su Byron; [subyron@hermitage-fl.org](mailto:subyron@hermitage-fl.org)

**Hermitage Artist Retreat Presents**

**Hermitage North @ New College**

**Jen Shyu: Groundbreaking Vocalist and Composer**

**Friday, November 16, 2 p.m., at New College of Florida**

*The Hermitage collaborates with New College of Florida to present free art and literary programs.*

(Sarasota County) Gifted creators of all artistic disciplines are invited to live and work at the Hermitage Artist Retreat in Englewood. During their residencies, they share their talents with the community. Hermitage North @ New College is the latest iteration of this outreach. This free series encompasses artist talks and readings, glimpses of the creation of works-in-progress, and live performances of music, theater, poetry and more. The Hermitage North @ New College series launches with experimental vocalist, composer, multi-instrumentalist, dancer, and Fulbright scholar Jen Shyu, Friday, November 16, 2 p.m., at the Music Room at College Hall, New College, 351 College Drive, Sarasota. *Reservations for this series are required and can be requested at www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org. For more information about Hermitage North @ New College or the Hermitage, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.*

“For many years we have valued the relationship between our Hermitage artists and the intellectually curious students of New College,” says Patricia Caswell, the Hermitage’s co-founder and program director. “Now, with Hermitage North @ New College, we will share newly created artistic thinking with audiences at both the north and south ends of Sarasota County.”

“New College of Florida is thrilled to be partnering with the Hermitage Artist Retreat,” says Barbara J. Feldman, Ph.D., provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at New College. “This partnership is made possible in part through a multi-year grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.” (Additional scheduled programming funded through the grant can be found at ncf.edu/connecting-arts-humanities.)

Jen Shyu is widely regarded for her virtuosic singing and riveting stage presence, carving out her own beyond-category space in the art world. New York Times critic, Ben Ratlif, called Shyu’s concerts, “The most arresting performances I’ve seen over the past five years. It’s not just the meticulous preparation of the work and the range of its reference, but its flexibility: She seems open, instinctual, almost fearless.” Shyu has performed her own music on such prestigious world stages as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and at preeminent festivals worldwide.

In this presentation, Shyu will perform her music and include an interactive intermedia improvisation. Shyu offers a glance at her journey from classical music and ballet training into the jazz and creative music worlds. Shyu will explore how her path to becoming a composer was inspired by fieldwork research in Taiwan, Cuba, East Timor, Indonesia, South Korea, and Japan. The artist will also share ideas and inspiration on how musicians can integrate their interests, talents, and passions into their own unique expression outside of any categories.

*All programs are subject to change. Please check the Hermitage website or Facebook page to check program status. For more information about Hermitage North @ New College or the Hermitage, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.*

**About New College of Florida:**

Located in Sarasota, New College of Florida has educated intellectually curious students for lives of great achievement since its founding in 1960. As the State of Florida’s designated honors college, New College provides an exceptional education that transforms students’ intellectual curiosity into personal accomplishment. The 110-acre bayfront campus is home to more than 800 students and 80 full-time faculty engaged in interdisciplinary research and collaborative learning. New College offers nearly 40 areas of concentration for undergraduates and a master’s degree program in Data Science.

**About the Hermitage Artist Retreat:**

The Hermitage is a nonprofit artist retreat located in Englewood, Sarasota County, Florida. It invites accomplished artists in all disciplines for residencies on its beachfront campus which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Its artists, who are asked to interact with the community, touch thousands of Gulf Coast residents and visitors with unique and inspiring programs. Hermitage fellows have included Pulitzer, Tony, Emmy, Grammy and McArthur Fellowship award winners. The Hermitage awards the $30,000 Greenfield Prize for a new work of art, and the Aspen Music Festival awards the annual Hermitage Prize in Composition. For more information about The Hermitage Artist Retreat, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

**The Hermitage is supported by:**

Hermitage programs are supported, in part, by philanthropist Gerri Aaron; by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts; by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax Revenues; and by the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council of Arts and Culture and the State of Florida (Section 286.25 Florida Statutes).