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For Immediate Release

The Kitchen presents Doveman and Peter Pears: An Evening with Thomas Bartlett and Nico Muhly Thursday and Friday, March 18 and 19

New York, NY, February 18, 2010—On **Thursday and Friday, March 18 and 19, The Kitchen** will present new music by the composer-musicians **Thomas Bartlett** and **Nico Muhly**. For these nights, Bartlett brings together two of his ongoing collaborative projects: **Doveman** and **Peter Pears**. Bartlett and Muhly will first perform as their duo project, Peter Pears. Then, Doveman, Bartlett's band with a rotating ensemble of musicians, will perform songs from his latest release, *The Conformist*. Muhly and **Sam Amidon** are Bartlett's most frequent collaborators on Doveman albums, and will both perform in these shows, along with other special guests. Curated by **Matthew Lyons**, the performances will take place at **8:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19th Street). Tickets are \$15.

The duo project Peter Pears grew out of Bartlett's and Muhly's shared love of Canadian composer Colin McPhee's transcriptions of gamelan music. McPhee is credited for having introduced English composer Benjamin Britten to gamelan, which they went on to play together often. The namesake of this project is Britten's muse and lifetime partner, Peter Pears. On these evenings, Bartlett and Muhly will play their own collaborative works, as well as McPhee's gamelan transcriptions for two pianos.

In Doveman, Bartlett is the songwriter and frontman. *The Conformist*, his latest album, features Bartlett's closest cohorts—including Muhly, Amidon, and many others. These guests and others will join him at The Kitchen to play selections from *The Conformist*, as well as works from his first album, *With My Left Hand I Raise the Dead*, and his 2008 release, a complete cover of the soundtrack to *Footloose*.

Thomas Bartlett grew up in Vermont, and began playing ukulele at the age of three when he was found strumming a block in day care. At five, he began playing piano and never stopped—dropping out of high school to study in London with Maria Curcio, the classical music teacher responsible for shaping Radu Lupu, Mitsoku Uchida, Pierre-Laurent Aimard and many other renowned pianists. Bartlett went on to Columbia University for a year but dropped out again to concentrate on his classical music studies. He soon departed from his studies to play with bands, becoming one of New York's most active and exceptional collaborators.

Bartlett has worked with Antony, The National, Glen Hansard, Bebel Gilberto, Martha Wainwright and many others. Formed in 2005, Doveman is the project through which Bartlett steps forward as a songwriter and front man. The newest release from this project is *The Conformist*, which came out in October 2009 on Brassland. Following Doveman's acclaimed, start-to-finish cover of the *Footloose* soundtrack in 2008, *The Conformist* is Bartlett's first collection of original material since 2007's *With My Left Hand I Raise the Dead*.

Produced by Grammy Award winner Patrick Dilleit (David Byrne, Caetano Veloso, Mary J. Blige), *The Conformist* finds Bartlett singing in his unique voice throughout, in addition to playing multiple instruments. The album's eleven tracks are mostly straightforward pop-rock songs; much of their richness lies in the atmospheric soundscape in which Bartlett situates his compositions. He performs the music with a core band that includes The National members Aaron Dessner, Bryce Dessner and Bryan Devendorf; Nico Muhly; longtime Doveman member Sam Amidon; and a string section. *The*

Conformist also features a number of surprising guest vocal performances, with turns by Martha Wainwright, Matt Berninger (The National) and Norah Jones, among others.

Nico Muhly was born in Vermont in 1981 and raised in Providence, Rhode Island. He graduated from Columbia University in 2003 with a degree in English Literature, and received a Masters in Music from the Julliard School the following year.

In a short time, Muhly has amassed a string of commissions, collaborations, and premieres. He has written orchestral pieces for the Boston Pops, the Chicago Symphony MusicNOW, the American Symphony Orchestra, the Julliard Orchestra, the Boston University Tanglewood Institute Orchestra and the American Ballet Theatre (for choreographer Benjamin Millepied). His works have been premiered on the BBC and at New York's St. Thomas Church, Carnegie Hall, the Whitney Museum and the New York Public Library - the latter, a special collaboration with designer/illustrator Maira Kalman in honor of her illustrated edition of *The Elements of Style*. Muhly has worked extensively with Philip Glass as editor, keyboardist, and conductor for numerous film and stage projects, and contributed to projects by a striking constellation of pop figures, among them Rufus Wainwright, Antony, Bjork, Teitur, Will Oldham and The National.

These personal connections highlight one of the more important aspects of Muhly's musical life—in a word, community. The contributing artists who appear on *Mothertongue* include his closest collaborators: violist Nadia Sirota, folk singer Sam Amidon and Icelandic producer Valgeir Sigurdsson. Sigurdsson's and Muhly's view on musical relationships was, in part, the inspiration for Bedroom Community, the label Sigurdsson founded and which created both *Mothertongue* and *Speaks Volumes*, Muhly's 2006 debut.

Funding Credits

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ABOUT THE KITCHEN

The Kitchen is one of New York City's oldest nonprofit performance and exhibition spaces, showing experimental work by innovative artists, both emerging and established. Programs range from dance, music, and theatrical performances to video and media arts exhibitions to literary events, film screenings, and artists' talks. Since its inception in 1971, The Kitchen has been a powerful force in shaping the cultural landscape of this country and has helped launch the careers of many artists who have gone on to worldwide prominence.

Box Office Information:
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Tue-Sat, 2-6pm

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