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For Immediate Release

## **The Kitchen presents music by Alicia Hall Moran and Gordon Voidwell, December 4 and 5**

New York, NY, November 23, 2009—On **Friday and Saturday, December 4 and 5, The Kitchen** presents **Alicia Hall Moran** and **Gordon Voidwell** in a shared evening of live music. Accompanying Hall Moran in her new music experiment, *the motown project*, will be **Tarus Mateen** on electric bass guitar, **Thomas Flippin** on classical guitar and **Clare Bathé** providing additional vocals. Musicians **Tecla Esposito, Kassa Overall** and **Guillermo Brown** will join Voidwell, the alter ego of musician and writer **Will Johnson**. Curated by **Rashida Bumbray**, the performances will take place at **8:00 P.M.** at The Kitchen (512 West 19<sup>th</sup> Street). Tickets are \$10.

In *the motown project*, Alicia Hall Moran integrates her diverse musical influences with years of classical training, merging the emotional depths and dramatic narratives of two diverse genres: opera and the soul music produced during the 60s and 70s Motown era. Hall Moran's aim is to showcase the beauty and drama of each musical form by interpreting it through the other – searching for that common thread shared by opera and Motown and performing the result. *Carmen* will be re-imagined through Stevie Wonder; Marvin Gaye will be heard via the power of Italian *recitativo* and its free-flowing storytelling.

Esposito, Overall and Brown, who have significantly influenced Gordon Voidwell's music, will perform with him at The Kitchen. The music draws heavily from Johnson's roots: folk music of the South Bronx ghetto and electronic music. For these shows, Voidwell will juxtapose experimental/analog-pop music and interspersing noise sections to make dance music with intellectual aspirations. His Kitchen shows will also feature live dancers and video by various artists.

### About the Artists

**Alicia Hall Moran** is a vocalist and composer known for her adventurous performances in opera, art song, cabaret and jazz. With music degrees from Barnard College/Columbia University and the Manhattan School of Music, she has trained with opera stars and classical greats: Shirley Verrett, Adele Addison, Betty Allen, Hilda Harris and Martina Arroyo. She also draws inspiration from her ancestor Hall Johnson, the legendary choral director, composer and preserver of the Negro Spiritual. Her compositions and improvisation can be heard on Jason Moran's albums *Same Mother* and *Milestone*, on Blue Note Records. She has contributed to and performed in commissions for the Philadelphia Art Museum (*Live: Time* by Jason Moran) and the Walker Art Center (The Bandwagon's *Milestone*). Other performances include: *Rough Crossings* at Symphony Space, a collaborative work with historian/filmmaker Simon Schama; *The Revival* for Performa07 with painter Adam Pendleton; and Pendleton's *three scenes* for ArtistSpace. In Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company's *Chapel/Chapter*, which won a Bessie for Musical Collaboration, Hall Moran's singing garnered a New York Times rave.

Hall Moran's composition *The Field* was recently selected and choreographed by Alonzo King's LINES Ballet in San Francisco as part of a suite of work commissioned of Jason Moran. Other recent work includes helping create vocals for artist Joan Jonas' *Reading Dante* for Performa09 and Pendleton's reprisal of *three scenes* for Franklin Furnace. Next, she will perform in the soprano role of Bach Cantata 129 in Connecticut.

**Gordon Voidwell** is a fictional character created by Will Johnson to personify his embrace of the void between seemingly disparate concepts: past and future, popular and independent. Born in the Bronx,

Johnson started out as a choral singer and grew to be a serious rap music aficionado. A multi-instrumentalist, trained vocalist and a published fashion writer, his music is subversive pop and funk, following the influence of legendary artists like Tom Tom Club, Madonna, Prince, David Bowie and George Clinton. He uses analog synthesizers and chunky drum machines as the backdrop for silky, reverb-drenched vocals – reminiscent of Cameo, New Edition and other championed R&B crooners from the 1980s. Blending old sounds with an updated lexicon, Johnson creates a sonic collage that is strikingly familiar but at the same time strange and unusual.

Recent releases include *Ivy League Circus EP* in May 2009 and a free, 26-track, original mixtape called *The Voided Checks* in October 2009. A piece of Johnson's visual art, a stencil/collage, was featured in the New Museum's *Younger than Jesus* book of young, up-and-coming artists, which was released Summer 2009. In April 2010, Johnson will perform in Apollo Theater's Salon Series. There are also plans to release a 7-inch record of *Ivy League Circus EP* in early 2010.

### **Funding Credits**

Music programs at The Kitchen are made possible with generous support from the Amphion Foundation, the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, the Aaron Copland Fund for Music, and with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.



### **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

The Kitchen

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