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JAZZ GREAT DARCY JAMES ARGUE AND WRITER/DIRECTOR ISAAC BUTLER EXPLORE CONSPIRACY THEORIES IN REAL ENEMIES

The concert premiere on October 2 features the 18-piece big band Secret Society

Stanford, CA, September 4, 2015—“Belief in conspiracies is one of the defining aspects of modern culture,” says the Canadian-born bandleader and composer Darcy James Argue. On October 2, Stanford Live presents his stellar 18-piece big band Secret Society in an evening-length, jazz-fueled exploration of American paranoia titled Real Enemies, a work co-created with writer/director Isaac Butler and produced by Beth Morrison Projects. The performance, which will be the work’s concert premiere, takes place at 7:30 p.m. in Bing Concert Hall.

With titles like “Trust No One” and “The Enemy Within,” the 12 musical vignettes of Real Enemies evoke a shadow history of postwar America — from LSD to aliens to Edward Snowden — that may or may not be true.

Real Enemies is the product of extensive research into a broad range of conspiracies, from the familiar and well-documented to the speculative to the outlandish. It traces their historical roots, their iconography and the language they use to persuade and examines conspiratorial thinking as a distinct political ideology.

An innovative marriage of music and hybrid nonfiction, Real Enemies also marks the first collaboration between Butler and the composer who Newsweek says offers “a wholly original take on big band’s past, present and future.”
The score draws heavily on 12-tone techniques even as it departs at times from conventional notions about how those techniques should be employed,” says Argue. “This isn’t the first time I’ve written music that contains 12-tone elements but in the case of Real Enemies, the 12-tone row becomes a deep structural device, not just for the music but the formal development of the entire work. It’s going to be an intense musical and sensory experience and I’m very much looking forward to unveiling it this fall.”

Following the performance, Argue and Butler will join professor Kathryn Olmsted (chair of history at the University of California, Davis, and author of Real Enemies: Conspiracy Theories and American Democracy, World War I to 9/11) for a conversation about the curious prevalence of “conspiracism” in American culture — from wild speculations about the John F. Kennedy assassination to the “9/11 truth movement,” that inspired the performance. For tickets and information, visit live.stanford.edu.

Real Enemies was co-commissioned by the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), The Fromm Music Foundation and Beth Morrison Projects. It was developed and produced by Beth Morrison Projects. The performance is funded by The Koret Jazz Project, a multi-year initiative to support, expand and celebrate the role of jazz in the artistic and educational programming of Stanford Live.

TICKET INFORMATION
Tickets for Real Enemies, presented by Stanford Live on October 2, range from $30-$65 for adults (subject to change, check the website) and are $15 for all current Stanford students. Tickets are available at the Bing Ticket Office, by phone at 650-724-2464 (BING) or online at live.stanford.edu.

VENUE INFORMATION
Bing Concert Hall is located on the Stanford University campus at 327 Lasuen Street on the corner of Lasuen and Campus Dr. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 PM and on weekends at all times, and may be found in the Galvez Lot across Campus Drive from Bing Concert Hall. Maps and directions are available at http://live.stanford.edu/Venues/parkingmapsdirections.php.

ABOUT STANFORD LIVE
Stanford Live presents a wide range of the finest performances from around the world fostering a vibrant learning community and providing distinctive experiences through the performing arts. With
its home at Bing Concert Hall, Stanford Live is simultaneously a public square, a sanctuary and a lab, drawing on the breadth and depth of Stanford University to connect performance to the significant issues, ideas and discoveries of our time.

**CALENDAR EDITORS NOTE:**

What: **Darcy James Argue’s Secret Society**

When: Friday, October 2, 7:30 p.m.

Program: **Real Enemies** (concert premiere)

Where: Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen Street, Stanford University

Tickets: $30-$65 (prices subject to change), visit live.stanford.edu

Presented by: Stanford Live

Description: Composer and arranger Darcy James Argue leads his 18-piece ensemble in a captivating work that musically explores the subject of conspiracy theories and the public’s attraction to them.

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