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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASEContact: Joel Samberg 1.973.857.8070
media@markbattypublisher.com**New Book Sings the Praises of Musical Scores that Double as Instruments of Graphic Creative Expression****“Notations 21,” from Mark Batty Publisher, surveys illustrated musical notations from more than one hundred international composers**

Contact Joel Samberg for review copies or author interview requests at 1.973.857.8070 or via email at media@markbattypublisher.com. Information on “Notations 21” is also available online at <http://markbattypublisher.com/books/notations-21/>

New York, NY, March 31, 2009 —Mark Batty Publisher springs into its new season of distinctive volumes covering the graphic and communication arts with a comprehensive anthology of illustrated musical notation. “Notations 21,” by New York-based musician and musicologist Theresa Sauer, features more than 300 pages of incredibly varied images that show how some composers use musical scores for much more than just instructions for musicians to play. Using a variety of nontraditional symbols, colorful paints and inks, and photographic images and text, these composers turn musical scores into instruments of expression that graphically convey new information about the meanings or performances of their pieces.

With hundreds of illustrations provided by more than 100 composers from every continent on the globe, and original essays by most of the artists, “Notations 21” taps into such intriguing themes as how composers communicate effectively with performers through the styles of their musical notations, and how these notations engage listeners even when they have no knowledge of what the notations look like.

The book is also a testament to how music can inspire visual art.

“Regardless of their ages or nationalities, what all of the composers featured in this book have in common is the need to express their musical ideas visually, incorporating mixed media, cutting-edge technologies and groundbreaking philosophies,” says Sauer, who is also a composer and educator. “The book also pays homage to composer John Cage and his book, ‘Notations,’ which

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was published 40 years ago. Cage's celebrated 1969 book presented a vast array of his own compositions as stark visual concepts.

According to Sauer, the continuing development of illustrated scores and innovative notation brings along with it an expansion of artistic freedom and advancements in musical improvisation. That becomes quite evident in "Notations 21," where the images range from standard notes on staff lines, to wild geometric shapes and patterns, to hand-drawn artwork and scribbles, to combinations of two or more styles in a single composition.

"This book is meant both to introduce people to the fascinating world of innovative notation and graphic scores, and to provide a forum for composers in search of new ways of bringing awareness of their compositions and philosophies to the forefront of the musical collective consciousness," Sauer says. "There are new technologies and media today that were not available to John Cage in the 1960s."

About Mark Batty Publisher

Mark Batty Publisher is an independent publisher dedicated to making distinctive books on the visual art of communicating, showcasing the visual power and innovation of contemporary culture in all of its varied poses. Today, the visual comes at us from more places than ever, and its dissemination is faster and more advanced every year. Books from Mark Batty Publisher capture this acceleration on the pages of every book. Affordable, well designed, thoughtfully created, and produced to last, MBP books are artful products that readers want to hold onto forever. For more information, visit www.markbattypublisher.com

"Notations 21"

Theresa Sauer

Music, Art

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