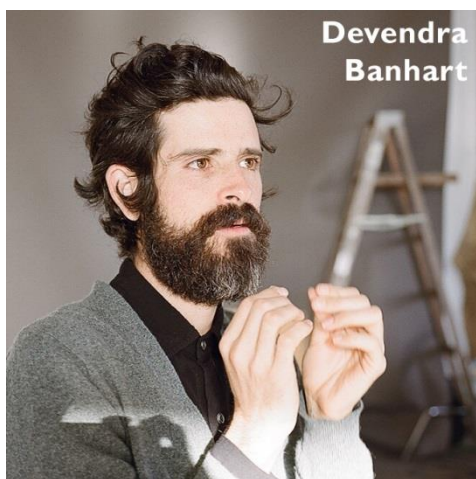


# LIQUID MUSIC



Devendra  
Banhart



Miranda Cuckson

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Stephen Sokolouski | 651.292.4318 | [ssokolouski@spcomail.org](mailto:ssokolouski@spcomail.org)

## THE SPCO'S LIQUID MUSIC SERIES ANNOUNCES ITS 2015.16 SEASON

Performances and world premieres by

Laurie Anderson, Devendra Banhart, Daniel Wohl, Steven Mackey, Wye Oak, Saul Williams, Kid Koala, William Brittelle, Miranda Cuckson, Vicky Chow, Tristan Perich, Michi Wiancko, William Basinski, Rodrigo Amarante, Ted Hearne, Jace Clayton, Hecuba, Mantra Percussion, Nina C. Young, Afiara Quartet, Mivos Quartet, Helado Negro, Sō Percussion's Jason Treuting, Musicians of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and more

Expanded partnership with Walker Art Center, along with new presenting partners MASS MoCA, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Guthrie Theater, Indianapolis Museum of Art, MPR Live Events, Carleton College and The Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul

"Best of Classical." – *The New York Times*

"Ready for an aural workout? The SPCO's border-crossing series offers an unmatched introduction to the rising generation of musical creators, in spaces traditional and un-." – *Star Tribune*

— more —



A portrait of Saul Williams, a Black man with short, dark, spiky hair, wearing a yellow shawl over a dark shirt. He is looking slightly to the right. The background is a colorful, abstract painting.

Saul Williams

**Saint Paul, June 2, 2015** – The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra’s pioneering Liquid Music Series announces today the full schedule of events for its 2015.16 season. Entering its fourth season this fall, Liquid Music expands the world of classical music through innovative new projects, boundary-defying artists, and unique presentation formats. Each program features new works, world or regional premieres, and new collaborations including many artists working together for the first time. Last season, the constantly expanding series gained more attention than ever with all eight of its distinctive shows selling out to eager and diverse audiences. *Mpls.St.Paul Magazine* calls Liquid Music “the epitome of experimental music making,” and the *Star Tribune* hails it a “runaway success.”

In its fourth season, Liquid Music continues to expand its relationships with presenting partners across the Twin Cities. Liquid Music joins the **Walker Art Center** for five copresentations, its largest number of collaborations to date. Noteworthy Walker copresentations include: ***Spiritual America***, an exploration of secular spirituality in America featuring the world premiere of new chamber ensemble art songs by **William Brittelle** and **Michi Wiancko** (commissioned by the Walker Art Center) performed by indie rockers **Wye Oak** at Aria, Minneapolis on October 14; a live-action presentation of Montreal-based DJ/producer **Kid Koala**’s graphic novel ***Nufonia Must Fall*** under the direction of **K.K. Barrett** (Spike Jones’ *Her* and *Where the Wild Things Are*) featuring the dynamic **Afiara Quartet**, April 1 & 2 at the Walker Art Center; the return of the highly influential **Laurie Anderson** (copresented with **MPR Live Events**) at the historic Fitzgerald Theater on March 19; and a special two-night event May 13 & 14 exploring the acid-folk / indie-rock musical world of singer / songwriter / painter **Devendra Banhart**, joined by his friends and fellow interdisciplinary artists **William Basinski**, **Rodrigo Amarante**, **Helado Negro** and **Hecuba** with more to be announced.

A portrait of Laurie Anderson, a woman with short, dark, spiky hair, wearing a dark jacket. She is resting her chin on her hand and looking directly at the camera.

Laurie Anderson

A portrait of Daniel Wohl, a man with short, dark hair, wearing a white shirt. He is looking slightly to the left. The background is a solid teal color.

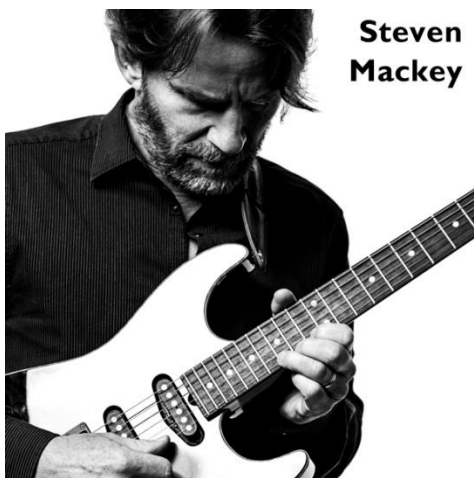
Daniel Wohl

The 2015.16 season also sees Liquid Music moving into new spaces across the Twin Cities. Violist and violinist **Miranda Cuckson** performs a set of works centered around the themes of wind, air and light by contemporary composers **Dai Fjikura**, **Kaija Saariaho**, **Ileana Perez-Velasquez**, **Richard Barrett** and **Nina C. Young** on November 13 & 14 at Bedlam Theatre Lowertown. On March 24, pianist **Vicky Chow** performs **Tristan Perich**’s ***Surface Image*** surrounded by visual art in one of the Walker Art Center’s galleries as part of their Sound Horizons series. Finally, to celebrate National Poetry Month, legendary spoken-word performer **Saul Williams** and the adventurous **Mivos Quartet** take over the James J. Hill Reference Library to weave together strings and voice with two world premieres by **Ted Hearne** and **Jace Clayton (DJ/rupture)** on April 26.

A portrait of Poliça, a woman with short, dark hair, wearing a white shirt. She is resting her chin on her hands and looking directly at the camera.

Poliça

Liquid Music also continues to support the growth and development of emerging artists through two unique commissioning projects. In the same vein as the ***Sisyphus*** album (Sufjan Stevens / Son Lux / Serengeti) co-commissioned with the Walker Art Center during 2013.14 season, Liquid Music has partnered with **MASS MoCA**, the **Baryshnikov Art Center** and the **Indianapolis Music of Art** to fund the creation of ***Holographic***, a new album and performance series by Paris-born composer **Daniel Wohl**. For the Saint Paul iteration of the work, Wohl will be joined by the talents of **Mantra Percussion** and the **Holographic String Quartet** (made up of members of **Flux Quartet** and **String Noise**) to present this sophomore album (out on **New Amsterdam Records** January 29) at the new Ordway Concert Hall on February 11. Liquid Music will also follow the artistic processes of Berlin’s brilliant **s t a r g a z e** (with celebrated violinist/conductor **André de Ridder**) and Minnesota’s own **Poliça** as they



**Steven Mackey**

work together over the course of the year through a “virtual residency” to create a unique musical collaboration for the 2016.17 Liquid Music season. Progress on the collaboration can be followed on the **new Liquid Music website, [liquidmusicseries.org](http://liquidmusicseries.org)**, starting in the fall of 2015. The new site (launched today) features expanded information about this year’s performances, and will grow to include a **blog** and **new podcast series**.

The season ends with the world premiere of ***Orpheus Unsung***, an opera without words by Grammy award winning composer **Steven Mackey** featuring **Sō Percussion’s Jason Treuting, Musicians of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra**, director **Mark DeChiazza** and a small dance troupe. Copresented with the **Guthrie Theater** (with advance residency support from **Carleton College**) in the Guthrie’s Dowling Studio June 16-18, this will be one of the most expansive Liquid Music projects to date, combining music, kaleidoscopic cinematic imagery, and the series’ first endeavor into the realm of dance.



**Vicky Chow**

Liquid Music curator Kate Nordstrum looks forward to the breadth of talent next season holds. “The artists and audience of Liquid Music past, present and future inspire me as a curator to think big, take risks and be alert to new ways of supporting nonlinear artistic ventures. The projects and collaborations that Liquid Music gets behind are hard-won and complex but tremendously fulfilling for everyone involved – they are the product of true partnership and mutual belief in a singular artistic vision.” Referring to the series’ fervent and fast-growing fan base, she noted, “I think Liquid Music audiences are so enthusiastic because they are given regular opportunities to explore, learn and partake in very special, very in-the-moment communal music experiences. We all need this stuff in our lives, not just because the performances are beautiful or mysterious or surprising, but because they open our hearts, minds and eyes to new worlds, new ideas and perhaps even new hope. Discovery is exhilarating.”



**Kid Koala**

Named Minnesota’s “Best independent producer” in 2014 (*Star Tribune*), Nordstrum has been widely praised for her programmatic vision and catholic tastes, with media outlets describing her as “the most adventurous music curator in town” (*MinnPost*), “a presenter of rare initiative” (*Star Tribune*), “an innovative impresario” (*Pioneer Press*), and “Twin Cities’ curatorial powerhouse with international pull” (*Minnesota Public Radio*). Composer Nico Muhly, interviewed by *MPR*, expounded, “She’s got hear ear to the ground, really, and she’s looking for things that are not already happening but she could make happen.”

The most recent Liquid Music season overflowed with eight completely sold out shows featuring world and regional premieres by artists such as Glenn Kotche (Wilco), Dawn of Midi, Nils Frahm, Bryce Dessner (The National), Julia Holter, Helado Negro and Missy Mazzoli (Victoire).



**Wye Oak and William Brittelle: *Spiritual America***

## LIQUID MUSIC SERIES 2015.16 FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### **WYE OAK AND WILLIAM BRITTELLE: *Spiritual America* with special guest Michi Wiancko**

Copresented with the Walker Art Center

In partnership with First & First

Wed, Oct 14, 2015

Doors at 6:30pm | Music at 7:30pm

Aria, Minneapolis

“Shimmering loveliness... a soundscape that borders on the sublime.” – *BBC Music* on the music of Wye Oak

“You might wonder if Jane’s Addiction had discovered the soul of Debussy.” – *The Los Angeles Times* on the music of William Britelle

*Spiritual America* is a new set of electro-acoustic art songs exploring secular spirituality in America composed by William Britelle and featuring indie rock duo Wye Oak. Heralded as “one of the most promising heirs of the vital American maverick tradition” (*Classical TV*), Britelle infuses his rich, classical sounds with the visceral appeal of pop. Wye Oak, known for their “moody, achy, beautifully blustery songs” (*NPR*) will also perform selections from their recent album *Shriek*, presented in world premiere chamber arrangements by Britelle and revered violinist/composer Michi Wiancko. The program opens with a world premiere composition by Wiancko written specifically for the event.

**Tickets:** \$25 (\$22 for Liquid Music subscribers and Walker Art Center members)

### **MIRANDA CUCKSON: *Sun Propeller***

Fri, Nov 13, 2015

Doors at 7:00pm | Music at 8:00pm

Sat, Nov 14, 2015

Doors at 7:00pm | Music at 8:00pm

Bedlam Lowertown, Saint Paul

“Her tonal luster and variety of touch enliven everything she plays.” – *The New York Times*

Violist and violinist Miranda Cuckson, renowned for her “undeniable musicality” (*The New York Times*) and celebrated as “a solo revelation” (*ConcertoNet.com*) presents an investigation of our human fascination with the world above and around us. Cuckson performs a set of contemporary pieces composed on themes of wind, air and light, featuring repertoire from living composers all across the world, including Dai Fujikura, Kaija Saariaho, Ileana Perez-Velasquez, Richard Barrett and Nina C. Young (present on electronics). Utilizing nothing more than Cuckson’s playing and electronics, each piece will showcase the unique “warmth and humanity” (*Cultured Cleveland*) of Cuckson’s unforgettable musical voice.

**Tickets:** \$15 (\$10 for Liquid Music subscribers)



**DANIEL WOHL: *Holographic***  
**With Mantra Percussion and Holographic String Quartet**

Album and live performance co-commissioned by Liquid Music, MASS MoCA, Baryshnikov Arts Center and Indianapolis Museum of Art

In collaboration with The Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul

Thu, Feb 11, 2016  
Doors at 6:30pm | Music at 7:30pm  
Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul

"Rising star composer." – *Time Out New York*

"An original voice" – *Pitchfork*

Liquid Music joins forces with pioneering organizations MASS MoCA, Baryshnikov Art Center and Indianapolis Museum of Art in commissioning and presenting *Holographic*, a new album and performance series created by Paris-born composer Daniel Wohl. Critics have celebrated Wohl's work as a "boldy surreal aural experience" (*The New York Times*) and applauded his aptitude for crafting music that can "transport, unsettle and delight all at once" (*NPR*). Wohl's sophomore album (releasing January 29 on New Amsterdam Records) produced by Paul Corley (Oneohtrix Point Never, Ben Frost) expands his lush sound world through collaborations with guest artists Lucky Dragons, Olga Bell, Caroline Shaw and ensembles Bang on a Can All-Stars, Mantra Percussion, Mivos Quartet and Iktus Percussion. For the Saint Paul iteration of *Holographic*, Wohl calls on the talents of Mantra Percussion and the Holographic String Quartet (featuring members of Flux Quartet and String Noise), blending the virtuosic talents of his performers with rich electronic creations to bring his spellbinding musical vision to life.

**Tickets:** \$20 (\$15 Liquid Music subscribers)

**LAURIE ANDERSON: *The Language of the Future***  
Copresented with the Walker Art Center and MPR Live Events

Sat, Mar 19, 2016  
Doors at 7:00pm | Music at 8:00pm  
Fitzgerald Theater, Saint Paul

"Laurie Anderson is a singer-songwriter of crushing poignancy – a minimalist painter of melancholy moods who addresses universal themes in the vernacular of the commonplace." – *Rolling Stone*

Laurie Anderson delicately explores the inextricable link between the past, present and future through her custom-curated songs and stories for this tailor-made evening of music. Lacing together a sonic landscape of electronics, voice and violin along with her signature surrealism, Anderson captures an irreverent snapshot of the American Now and "continues to imbue her work with a singular perspective that is both haunting and timeless" (*The New York Times*). Onstage at the historic Fitzgerald Theatre, she coalesces the ephemeral and the nostalgic in a truly extraordinary evening.

**Tickets:** \$39 (\$36 for Liquid Music subscribers, Walker Art Center members, and MPR members)

**VICKY CHOW AND TRISTAN PERICH: *Surface Image***

Copresented with the Walker Art Center

Thu, Mar 24, 2016

*Observations* performed at 6:00pm

*Surface Image* performed at 7:00pm

Walker Art Center galleries, Minneapolis

“A masterpiece of (Post)Romantic proportions: an epic struggle between man and machine, pushing the piano beyond the limits of playability. There are moments of breakneck virtuosity and profound lyricism, beauty and menace. It is both an alien landscape and one that’s eerily familiar.” – *Feast of Music*

Through a string of groundbreaking works pairing acoustic instruments with handmade 1-bit electronics, composer Tristan Perich has transformed the way in which traditional forms of composition can be enhanced and reinvigorated by the aesthetic simplicity of math, physics and code. Perich's *Surface Image* brings together his inspired electronic aesthetic and pianist Vicky Chow's fiercely virtuosic playing. Chow, “one of the new stars of new music” (*Los Angeles Times*) intertwines her nuanced and dynamic playing with a sublime flurry of dazzling 1-bit sounds, artfully crafted by Perich who focuses electronic and compositional micro-processes into music whose “power comes from the sublime, sheer power of its whole” (*WQXR*). *Surface Image* as well as Perich's *Observations* (for two sets of crotales and 6-channel 1-bit music) will be performed in conjunction with the Walker's Sound Horizon series and presented in two Walker galleries, allowing listeners to craft their own multimedia experience, engaging visual art and live music at their leisure.

**Tickets:** Free event as part of the Walker Art Center's Sound Horizon series

**KID KOALA AND AFIARA QUARTET: *Nufonia Must Fall***

Copresented with the Walker Art Center

Fri, Apr 1, 2016

Doors at 7:30pm | Performance at 8:00pm

Sat, Apr 2, 2016

Doors at 7:30pm | Performance at 8:00pm

The Walker's William and Nadine McGuire Theater, Minneapolis

“Whether the audience opted to get lost in the music, marvel at the live puppetry or simply follow the charming, heartfelt silent film unfolding onscreen, the stage inspired awe.” – *Fast Forward Weekly* (Calgary)

Imagined as a graphic novel animated in real time with a live soundtrack, Montreal-based scratch DJ, music producer and composer Kid Koala has created a magical, multidisciplinary reworking of his book *Nufonia Must Fall*. Directed by recent Oscar nominee K.K. Barrett (Spike Jonze's *Her*, *Where the Wild Things Are*) this clever live adaptation unfolds via GoPro video with a dozen miniature stages and a cast of puppets in a tender robot meets office girl love story. Kid Koala and Toronto's dynamic Afiara Quartet provide live scoring on piano, strings, turntables and electronics.

**Tickets:** \$25 (\$22 for Liquid Music subscribers and Walker Art Center members)

### **SAUL WILLIAMS AND MIVOS QUARTET: *No One Ever Does***

World premieres by Ted Hearne and Jace Clayton in celebration of National Poetry Month

Tue, Apr 26, 2016

Doors at 6:30pm | Performance at 7:30pm

James J. Hill Reference Library, Saint Paul

"Hip hop's poet laureate." – *CNN* on Saul Williams

"This vital young New York string quartet embraces toothy modernism with punk-rock verve." – *The New York Times*

The adventurous Mivos Quartet, hailed as "one of America's most daring and ferocious new-music ensembles" (*The Chicago Reader*), joins legendary poet and performer Saul Williams for a memorable night of new music. Williams, known for his distinctive marriage of "firebrand politics with metaphysical word play" (*AV Club*), presents the Minnesota premiere of *NGH WHT*, a collaboration with composer Thomas Kessler. *NGH WHT* integrates the sounds of a string quartet with Williams' singular voice to create an organic and provocative interaction between hip hop and contemporary classical styles. The program will also feature world premieres by composers Jace Clayton (DJ/rupture) and Ted Hearne along with new solo and collaborative work by Williams and Mivos, including a broad new interpretation of Williams's *No One Ever Does*.

**Tickets:** \$15 (\$10 for Liquid Music subscribers)

### **DEVENDRA BANHART AND FRIENDS: *Wind Grove Mind Alone***

Copresented with the Walker Art Center

Fri, May 13, 2016

Doors at 7:30pm | Music at 8:00pm

Sat, May 14, 2016

Doors at 7:30pm | Music at 8:00pm

The Walker's William and Nadine McGuire Theater, Minneapolis

"At his core, Banhart is an urban aesthete, an art-school kid and street skater influenced by the Incredible String Band, Tropicália and the Fugs." – *Rolling Stone*

Join us for a two-evening exploration of the musical worlds of singer/songwriter/painter Devendra Banhart. An acknowledged leader of the acid-folk/indie-rock movement, he is revered for his idiosyncratic career of defying expectations and inspiring musical trends. Curated by the artist, this specially conceived convergence begins with performances by Banhart featuring expansive music drawn from each of his seven critically acclaimed records – look for an intimate solo set on Friday and his full band on Saturday. Each night the celebration then continues with bands led by his friends and fellow interdisciplinary artists such as Hecuba and Rodrigo Amarante (Friday), Helado Negro and William Basinski (Saturday) and many more to be announced.

**Tickets:** \$28 for one night, \$50 for both nights

(\$24 for one night/\$40 for both nights for Liquid Music subscribers or Walker Art Center members)

## **STEVEN MACKEY: *Orpheus Unsung* (WORLD PREMIERE)**

Copresented with Guthrie Theater

Featuring Sō Percussion's Jason Treuting, musicians of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and director Mark DeChiazza

Thu, Jun 16, 2016

Doors at 7:00pm | Performance at 7:30pm

Fri, Jun 17, 2016

Doors at 7:00pm | Performance at 7:30pm

Sat, Jun 18, 2016

Doors at 7:00pm | Performance at 7:30pm

The Guthrie's Dowling Studio, Minneapolis

"Mackey's mastery of musical styles allows him to fill [his work] with a cavalcade of disarming and jolting sonic ideas." – *Gramophone*

A volatile combination of music, kaleidoscopic cinematic imagery and dance form the narrative engine of *Orpheus Unsung*, an opera without words, composed by Grammy award winning composer Steven Mackey in collaboration with percussionist/composer Jason Treuting. Mackey, known for his "explosive and ethereal imagination" (*Gramophone*), offers a fresh 21st century interpretation of the legend that has inspired so many artists and composers before him. Orpheus, portrayed by the electric guitar and performed by Mackey himself, is cast into chaos searching for sense and meaning in his own story. Mackey's twist on the operatic form will be anchored by wildly ambitious director Mark DeChiazza, renowned for his arresting collaborations with eighth blackbird, Sō Percussion and John Luther Adams. DeChiazza and Mackey's multimedia creation will be presented alongside two of Mackey's most engaging and personal string quartets, *Physical Property* and *Ars Moriendi*, performed by musicians of The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra.

**Tickets:** \$25 (\$22 for Liquid Music subscribers)

## **S T A R G A Z E AND POLIÇA: Liquid Music artists in virtual residence**

"Orchestral support can often feel self-indulgent and egotistical with the orchestra often only there to serve the band. But here it feels entirely equal; two like-minded musical entities fluidly playing and communicating with each other." – *Huffington Post* on the work and philosophy of s t a r g a z e

"A beguiling mix of warped R&B and heavily Auto-Tuned vocals" – *The Guardian* on the music of Poliça

Liquid Music follows the artistic collision of two innovative ensembles, Berlin's vibrant and forward-thinking s t a r g a z e, dubbed a "renegade new classical ensemble" (*Boiler Room*) founded by prominent European conductor Andre De Ridder and Minneapolis' own Poliça, internationally renowned for their "dark conviction" (*Pitchfork*) and "beautifully melancholic" (*The Guardian*) sound. The two ensembles are working together over the course of the year to create a unique musical collaboration for the fall of 2016. Liquid Music will allow audiences the unprecedented opportunity to enter into the artists' process through a "virtual residency," following this exciting collaboration through its development and offering a window into the work and creativity that goes into putting a major new music project on the stage.

Project documentation, blog posts, video coverage and process insights at [liquidmusicseries.org](http://liquidmusicseries.org) beginning fall 2015.



### ABOUT LIQUID MUSIC:

Liquid Music is a concert series presented by The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra that seeks to expand the world of classical music through innovative new projects, boundary-defying artists, adventurous collaborations, and unique presentation formats. Liquid Music performances invite adventurous audiences of all ages to discover the new and the fascinating in the colorful landscape of classical music today. Visit [liquidmusicseries.org](http://liquidmusicseries.org) to learn more.

### ABOUT WALKER ART CENTER:

The Walker Art Center is one of the top-five most visited contemporary art centers in the U.S. expressly dedicated to be a catalyst for the creative expression of artists and the active engagement of audiences that examines the questions that shape and inspire us as individuals, cultures, and communities. Focusing on the visual, performing, and media arts of our time, the Walker takes a global, multidisciplinary, and diverse approach to the creation, presentation, interpretation, collection, and preservation of art. Its 16-acre campus includes the intimate 385-seat McGuire Theater – home to one of the largest museum-based performing arts programs in the U.S. annually presenting 40 to 50 performances of innovative work from emerging, mid-career, and internationally-renowned artists. A multi-disciplinary center with a long-held international reputation, the Walker is called “one of America’s foremost experimental art spaces” (UK’s *The Guardian*).

### TICKET INFORMATION:

Subscription packages featuring all nine ticketed 2015.16 Liquid Music programs are available for \$177 per person. The complete Liquid Music series includes the November 13 Miranda Cuckson performance, the April 1 Kid Koala performance, both May 13 and 14 Devendra Banhart events, and the June 16 Steven Mackey event. Packages and tickets to individual events can be purchased online at [liquidmusicseries.org](http://liquidmusicseries.org) or via phone at 651.291.1144 Monday through Friday, from 12:00-5:00pm.

### THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS LIQUID MUSIC SPONSORS:



The Augustine Foundation  
Carleton College  
The Aaron Copland Fund for Music

### LIQUID MUSIC PARTNERS:



Jayme Halbritter+PHOTOGRAPHY WALKER ART CENTER

###