FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, September 16, 2015

World Premiere Presentation: Duke Performances Commissions
New Work in Honor of John Hope Franklin @ 100
For Virtuosic Quintet Imani Winds

September 16, 2015, Durham, NC — Duke Performances presents the world premiere of American composer Frederic Rzewski's Sometimes, commissioned by Duke Performances and written for quintet Imani Winds in honor of historian, activist, and Duke Professor John Hope Franklin’s centenary, on Thursday, October 29 at 8 PM at Baldwin Auditorium. The concert is part of John Hope Franklin @ 100, a University-wide celebration of Dr. Franklin’s life and considerable legacy—he wrote the authoritative African American history From Slavery to Freedom, chaired President Clinton’s Advisory Board for the Initiative on Race, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in his lifetime.

Imani Winds have been lauded as “the nation’s leading wind ensemble” by The New Yorker. In addition to the Rzewski premiere, based on the spiritual Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child, the program includes compositions and arrangements by Imani Winds’ Valerie Coleman and Jeff Scott. The concert begins with a performance of traditional spirituals by special guests The Fisk Jubilee Singers, an a cappella ensemble operating continuously since 1871 at John Hope Franklin’s alma mater, Fisk University, and praised by NPR as “flawless.” The evening concludes with a performance by The Fisk Jubilee Singers and Imani Winds of arrangements of spirituals for choir and wind ensemble by Imani Winds’ Jeff Scott.

American-born composer and pianist Frederic Rzewski studied with Walter Piston, Roger Sessions, and Milton Babbitt at Harvard and Princeton and with Luigi Dallapiccola in Italy. He was a co-founder of the MEV (Musica Elettronica Viva) group in Rome, which brought together classical and jazz avant-gardists and developed an aesthetic of music as a spontaneous collective process. Two of his best-known works are The People United Will Never Be Defeated and North American Ballads. The GRAMMY-winning eighth blackbird has recorded an entire album of his music, Fred: Music of Frederic Rzewski, which includes his Pocket Symphony, written for the ensemble. Rzewski has earned acclaim for his experiments in form and notation, his explorations of twelve-tone technique, and recordings of his music on labels such as Vanguard and Nonesuch. Rzewski has been Professor of Composition for nearly forty years at the Conservatoire Royal de Musique in Liège, Belgium, and has also taught at such institutions as the Yale School of Music and the California Institute of the Arts.

Duke Performances is at the forefront of university performing arts presenters nationwide, attracting artists of the highest caliber and commissioning, developing, and producing a growing number of forward-thinking new works for the world stage. With the completion this fall of an $8 million renovation of the 1175-seat Page Auditorium — the University’s largest on-campus performing arts venue — as well as the recent $15 million renovation of Baldwin Auditorium, Duke Performances further cements its reputation as an essential contributor to the cultural life of Duke, Durham, and North Carolina.
PROGRAM:
Traditional, arr. Roland Carter: *In Bright Mansions Above*
Traditional, arr. Noah F. Ryder: *My Lord Is So High*
Traditional, arr. R. Nathaniel Dett: *Listen to the Lambs*
Enoch Manyaki Sontonga arr. Valerie Coleman: *Nkosi si ke Leli*
Frederic Rzewski: *Sometimes*
(world premiere DP commission in honor of the centenary of Dr. John Hope Franklin)
Derek Bermel: *Wanderings*
Valerie Coleman: *speech. and canzone*
Traditional, arr. Jeff Scott: *Mr. Banjo, There is a Balm in Gilead, Rockin’ Jerusalem*

DUKE PERFORMANCES’ MEDIA CONTACT: For photographs, interviews, and more information please contact Ariel Fielding, Marketing Director, Duke Performances. ariel.fielding@duke.edu 919-660-3348