

BANG ON A CAN



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Press contact: Christina Jensen, Jensen Artists
646.536.7864 x1 | christina@jensenartists.com

Bang on a Can All-Stars & Gong Linna Release *Cloud River Mountain* on July 21 on Cantaloupe Music



Press download, not for publication (password crm2017):
www.cantaloupepress.net/cloud-river-mountain

www.bangonacan.org

Cantaloupe Music releases *Cloud River Mountain*, a new album from the **Bang on a Can All-Stars** and Chinese superstar singer **Gong Linna** on **July 21, 2017**. A spectacular journey into Chinese myths and ancient poetry, *Cloud River Mountain* combines the stories of the past with the sounds of the future in new music composed by Gong Linna's musical partner, composer **Lao Luo**, and Bang on a Can co-artistic directors **Michael Gordon**, **David Lang**, and **Julia Wolfe**. The All-Stars and Gong Linna perform *Cloud River Mountain* on **July 14 and 15, 2017** at 8pm presented by **Lincoln Center Festival** at Gerald W. Lynch Theater at John Jay College (524 W. 59th St.).

Cloud River Mountain exemplifies the connections that Bang on a Can strives to create across boundaries. Weaving together ancient Chinese storytelling and Western songwriting, *Cloud River Mountain* honors the “sound worlds” of both China and the West, fusing texts sung in both Mandarin and English with a wide range of contemporary musical languages. The lyrics are inspired by the tales, myths, and poems of gods, spirits, and the world of the shamans, primarily drawn from Qu Yuan, the famous Chinese poet and minister who lived during the Warring States period and whose poems were first published during the Han Dynasty in the *Chu Ci* anthology (also known as *Songs of the South*).

The “extraordinary” (*The New York Times*) and charismatic **Gong Linna** is a classically-trained Chinese singer from Beijing, passionate about creating a new “Chinese Art Music” but who is also a very recognizable pop star in China. In 2010, her performance of the song *Tan Te* on Chinese national television to billions of viewers made her an overnight sensation, vaulting her to celebrity status. With her stratospheric vocalizations and adventurous artistic range, she embraces Chinese folk, pop, and avant-garde music in a manner that channels the experimental spirit of artists like Björk. In recent years, she has starred on television in China – but she is virtually unknown to the Western World.

Bang on a Can co-founder and composer Michael Gordon became mesmerized by Gong Linna during visits to China, originally having seen her on Chinese television followed by a chance meeting with her and her musical partner, composer Lao Luo. Gong Linna first performed an initial set of the *Cloud River Mountain* song cycle with the Bang on a Can All-Stars at the Bang on a Can Marathon in 2015. *The New York Times* raved, “Her voice, a mixture of traditional and contemporary styles, was commanding and full of feeling in ‘Cloud-River-Mountain,’ a song cycle by Lao Luo, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Lang and Ms. Wolfe set to Chinese poetry. Whether belting, keening or murmuring, insinuating or girlish, Ms. Gong is a star.”

About Gong Linna

Even today, with China being omnipresent in the world, Chinese superstar Gong Linna is still almost unknown to the rest of the world. This is may be because Gong Linna’s music, though steeped in Chinese tradition, defies neat categorization into any musical genre. Her outstanding vocal style merges together a fast number of extremely contrasting traditional vocal techniques from Chinese opera and Folk song traditions, resulting in a musical program encompassing sophisticated art songs based on Classical Chinese lyrics, highly experimental songs with vocal acrobatics, and an art-pop-style that is unique Gong Linna. Born in Guizhou, a largely ethnic minority province in China known for its flamboyant singing culture, precocious Gong Linna first performed on stage at the age of five. Seven years of vocal education at the *Chinese Conservatory of Music*, a position as soloist at China’s renowned *Central Chinese Orchestra* and numerous awards and prizes marked the early part of her career. After intense study of Chinese traditional vocal techniques, Gong Linna developed her unique style and became the most important innovator of contemporary Chinese vocal music. Today Gong Linna is respected throughout all genres in China and is loved by her fans who often unite three generations of a family. Several of Gong Linna’s songs have exceeded 100 million views online and her TV appearances often top the ratings. Gong Linna has been performing extensively with her own chamber music ensemble as well with many major Chinese orchestras, including the Hong Kong Chinese orchestra, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, and Beijing Broadcast Orchestra. Besides her live performances, Gong Linna dedicates her work to creating a modern and academic teaching system for Chinese vocal techniques, which will lead more Chinese singers to find a new and personal, yet tradition-based vocal style.

About the Bang on a Can All-Stars

Ashley Bathgate, Cello; Robert Black, Bass; Vicky Chow, Piano; David Cossin, Percussion; Mark Stewart, Electric Guitar; Ken Thomson, Clarinets/Saxophone; Jody Elff, Sound Engineer

Formed in 1992, the Bang on a Can All-Stars are recognized worldwide for their ultra-dynamic live performances and recordings of today’s most innovative music. Freely crossing the boundaries between classical, jazz, rock, world and experimental music, this six-member amplified ensemble has consistently forged a distinct category-defying identity, taking music into uncharted territories. Performing each year throughout the U.S. and internationally, the All-Stars have shattered the definition of what concert music is today. Together, the All-Stars have worked in unprecedented close collaboration with some of the most important and inspiring musicians of our time, including Steve Reich, Ornette Coleman, Burmese circle drum master Kyaw Kyaw Naing, Tan Dun, DJ Spooky, and many more. The group’s celebrated projects include their landmark recordings of Brian Eno’s ambient classic *Music for Airports* and Terry Riley’s *In C*, as well as live performances with Philip Glass, Meredith Monk, Don Byron, Iva Bittova, Thurston Moore, Owen Pallett and others. The All-Stars were awarded Musical America’s Ensemble of the Year and have been heralded as “the country’s most important vehicle for contemporary music” by the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Current and recent project highlights include the touring performances and recording of Julia Wolfe’s Pulitzer Prize winning *Anthracite Fields* for the All-Stars and guest choir, the record release of Wolfe’s acclaimed *Steel Hammer*, featuring Trio Mediaeval, plus a moving theatrically staged collaboration with SITI Company and director Anne Bogart; *Field Recordings*, a major multi-media project and CD/DVD now featuring 30 commissioned works by Tyondai Braxton, Mira Calix, Anna Clyne, Bryce Dessner, Florent Ghys, Michael Gordon, Jóhann Jóhannsson, David Lang, Christian Marclay, Steve Reich, Todd Reynolds, Julia Wolfe, and more; the Lincoln Center Festival 2017 world premiere of *Cloud River Mountain*, a new collaboration featuring Chinese superstar singer Gong Linna; the world premiere performance and recording of Steve Reich’s *2x5* including a sold-out performance at Carnegie Hall, and much more. With a massive repertoire of works written specifically for the group’s distinctive instrumentation and style of performance, the All-Stars have become a genre in their own right. The All-Stars record on Cantaloupe Music and have released past recordings on Sony, Universal and Nonesuch.