

BANG ON CAN ALL-STARS PROGRAMS 2014-15

FIELD RECORDINGS

Field Recordings, Bang on a Can's major new project, features 18 hot-off-the-press commissioned works by: **Tyondai Braxton, Mira Calix, Anna Clyne, Dan Deacon, Bryce Dessner, Florent Ghys, Michael Gordon, Johann Johanssen, David Lang, Alvin Lucier, Christian Marclay, Paula Matthusen, Richard Reed Parry, Todd Reynolds, Steve Reich, Daniel Wohl, Julia Wolfe, and Nick Zammuto**. For 135 years recorded sound has permeated every corner of our lives, changing music along with everything else. Bartok and Kodaly took recording devices into the hills of central Europe and modern music was never the same; rock and roll's lineage comes from artists revealed to the world by the Lomaxes, the Seegers, and other archivists. Hip-hop culture democratized sampling: popular music today is a form of *musique concrète*, the voices & rhythms of the past mixing with the sound of machinery and electronics. For our own *Field Recordings* we've asked fourteen composers (and counting) to go into the field of recorded sound itself – to find something old or record something new, and to respond with their own music, in dialogue with what they found. Using archival audio, found sound and video, *Field Recordings* builds a bridge between the seen and the unseen, the present and absent, the present and the past, channeled through the "unstoppable, sexy, and loud" Bang on a Can All-Stars.

BRIAN ENO: MUSIC FOR AIRPORTS

Bang on a Can offers its landmark live performances of Brian Eno's ambient classic *Music for Airports*. In 1978 Brian Eno redefined how we relate to music in our everyday lives with this mesmerizing, dreamy, intense sonic landscape. In his analog studio, looping bits of tape, Eno never imagined that a new generation of musicians would take his music out of the studio and perform it live. The explosive Bang on a Can All-Stars bring this masterpiece to life.

Since their celebrated 1998 recording of Brian Eno: Music for Airports (Universal), Bang on a Can All-Stars have brought this work to live audiences across the globe with concerts at many of the most prestigious festivals and venues including Lincoln Center, UCLA Live, Royal Festival Hall in London, the Sydney Opera House, and even public performances at Brussels International Airport, Schipol Airport in Holland, John Lennon Airport in Liverpool, and more. Having performed the work on tour most often in their traditional sextet lineup, the All-Stars are now resurrecting the original 'all live' performances, calling upon local musicians and chorus to join in on strings, winds, brass, and voice.

BIG BEAUTIFUL DARK & SCARY

GORDON LANG WOLFE REICH ANDRIESEN

Bang on a Can All-Stars present a concert of new work by its co-founding composers Michael Gordon, David Lang, and Julia Wolfe, plus premiere performances of Steve Reich's new "double rock quintet" 2x5 written for two sets of two electric guitars, electric bass, piano, and drums – recently recorded by Bang on a Can on Nonesuch, and Dutch master Louis Andriessen's brand new work *Life* with films by Dutch film-maker Marijke Van Warmerdam. [Additional rep on this concert may include new work by composer-guitarist **David Longstreth** of indie rock sensations *Dirty Projectors*].

DAVID LANG: DEATH SPEAKS, featuring SHARA WORDEN

Commissioned by Carnegie Hall as a companion for his Pulitzer Prize winning piece 'the little match girl passion,' 'death speaks' was designed to cross between the intimate, expressive world of indie rock and the structural directness of the songs of Franz Schubert. Both of these worlds can be dark and emotional - Lang went through the lyrics of every song Schubert ever wrote, mining them for all the instances when Death sends a message to the living. Then he set those texts to his own music, written specifically as an indie band project, starring Shara Worden (My Brightest Diamond). The ultimate in crossover, from 1820 Vienna to 2013 Brooklyn, from the world before us to the World to Come.

JULIA WOLFE: STEEL HAMMER, featuring TRIO MEDIAEVAL

***PLUS New theatrical collaboration with SITI Company, directed by Anne Bogart for 2014-15**

Premiered to critical acclaim including runner-up for the 2010 Pulitzer Prize, Wolfe's *Steel Hammer* is inspired by her love for the legends and music of Appalachia, and culls from both the music and oral traditions of the region. The text is taken from over 200 versions of the John Henry ballad – based on hearsay, recollection, and tall tales – and through the radiant voices of Trio Mediaeval, explores the subject of human vs. machine in this quintessential American legend. *Steel Hammer* stretches the standard instrumentation of Bang on a Can All-Stars with wooden bones, mountain dulcimer, banjo, and more, to evoke the rich instrumental colors of Appalachia. *The New York Times* calls it a "wild hybrid" and an "obsessive study of the song's many versions."

Julia Wolfe: ANTHRACITE FIELDS, featuring Bang on a Can All-Stars + Choir

Wolfe goes to her home state of Pennsylvania to follow the life of a Pennsylvania coal miner - from the child "breaker", to family picnics, to union protests, to weddings, and more. Drawing from personal biographies and letters among other original sources, *Anthracite Fields* weaves together a tapestry of an American life, creating a unique art-folk ballad and a terrific follow-up to Wolfe's acclaimed *Steel Hammer*. The Bang on a Can All-Stars team up with chorus and bring their virtuosity and broad musicianship to the mix - employing banjo, accordion, raucous singing, and metal cans along with their standard instrumentation.

DAVID LANG: THE KNOWN WORLD RADIO ATLAS, featuring Lila Downs [2016]

Part concert, part theater piece, part internet archive - this piece is an evening length collaboration between composer David Lang and NPR world music correspondent Betto Arcos, and the music combines some of

the most exciting world music artists working today with Lang's edgy avant sound. Every performance is different, incorporating changing repertoire, live interviews with musicians, and special guests, and all performances will be recorded and archived and available for future listeners on the web. The first 'special guest' will be acclaimed Mexican singer Lila Downs.

BANG ON A CAN ALL-STARS PROGRAMS (ONGOING)

AT THE MOVIES

Bang on a Can All-Stars perform visually stunning music and film collaborations including **David Lang's** *Heroin* (new setting of the **Lou Reed/Velvet Underground** classic) with film by **Doug Aitken**; Dutch master **Louis Andriessen** with film by celebrated Dutch video artist **Marijke Van Warmerdam**; British minimalist **Michael Nyman's** *Manhatta* with film by the iconic 1920s American photographer **Paul Strand**; new video scores by video-art phenom **Christian Marclay** and indie rock sensation **Nick Zammuto** of The Books.

BANG ON A CAN PLAYS STEVE REICH

Bang on a Can All-Stars and special guests combine for landmark performances of Reich's new electric **2x5**, the Pulitzer Prize winning **Double Sextet**, the unique multi-media arrangement **Piano/Video Phase**, and more. Composer Steve Reich joins the group on select occasions.

UnPOP

The immediacy of the rhythm, the intensity of the sound, even the instruments of pop music have bled into the world of Bang on a Can since its inception. In UNPOP the All-Stars play music that shows how ideas from American popular music including jazz, rock, swing, boogie-woogie, has filtered into and combined with traditional classical music and other musical expressions from around the world. Repertoire may include music by Don Byron, Bryce Dessner, Thurston Moore, Michael Nyman, Lee Ranaldo, Steve Reich.

BANG ON A CAN ALL-STARS with KYAW KYAW NAING

New York's high-energy electric chamber ensemble and Burmese drumming sensation Kyaw Kyaw Naing come together for an unforgettable evening of high energy and fast fingers. Burmese Drum Circle Master Kyaw Kyaw Naing challenges the All-Stars with his world of tuned drums and virtuosic speed - some of his first works with Western musicians ever.

RENEGADE HEAVEN

Bang on a Can brings its gritty urban spirituality to the masses. Prayers, incantations, and miracle cures come forth in a program dedicated to the complicated faith of renegades looking toward heaven. Michael Gordon's classic *I Buried Paul* picks up on the closing riff of *Strawberry Fields Forever* and leads down a psychedelic path of music from sonic and iconic innovators Alvin Lucier, Glenn Branca, and Swiss Zen-funk-minimalist Nik Baertsch, and Turkish guitarist-composer Erdem Helvacioğlu

TERRY RILEY: AUTODREAMOGRAPHICAL TALES [west coast only]

A few years back a radio station in California asked Terry Riley to document his dreams. Every morning Terry would wake up and record everything he remembered from the previous night's dreams, and he would add electronic noises, echoes, scraps of melodies, and tape loops of strange sounds. Terry gave us a recording of a few of his dream pieces, as a kind of present, and we were knocked out at how direct and affecting they were - the dreams were at turns funny and disturbing, deeply insightful and utterly ridiculous. Bang on a Can then commissioned Terry Riley to orchestrate his dream-narratives for the Bang on a Can All-Stars. The result is *Autodreamographical Tales*, live performances by the Bang on a Can All-Stars with music and stories by Terry Riley.

Terry's personality is unique in the music world, or any other. He is disarmingly open, utterly charming and without any trace of irony or guile. He is a joy to be around and to talk to. One of the major benefits of *Autodreamographical Tales* is that the clarity and beauty of his personality shine right through.