

BANG ON A CAN

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Press contact: Maggie Stapleton, Jensen Artists
646.536.7864 x2, maggie@jensenartists.com

Third Bang on a Can Marathon 2020 Live Online!

Hourly Schedule Announced

Sunday, August 16, 2020 from 3pm-9pm ET



Six Hours of LIVE Music at marathon2020.bangonacan.org

Note: An embed code for the Bang on a Can Marathon livestream will be available to press upon request, to allow for hosting the livestream on your site.

Brooklyn, NY — **Bang on a Can** announces the hourly schedule for its **ALL LIVE Bang on a Can Marathon** on **Sunday, August 16, 2020** from **3pm-9pm ET**. The 6-hour live Marathon will be hosted by Bang on a Can Co-Founders and Artistic Directors **Michael Gordon, David Lang, and Julia Wolfe**, who say:

*On August 16, Bang on a Can returns with 6 hours of nonconformist, noncommercial, boundary-smashing music. We kick off at 3pm with the singular and extraordinary **Wu Man**, one of the world's foremost Pipa players and close off with **György Ligeti's** diabolical etude 'The Devil's Staircase', performed by piano superstar **Jeremy Denk**. Don't miss a rare solo performance by jazz legend **Oliver Lake**, 11 world premieres commissioned especially for the day, as well as music and performances by **Leyla McCalla, Kaki King, Annea Lockwood, Craig Taborn, Missy Mazzoli, Tyondai Braxton** and many more greats.*

This is a free concert! But please consider purchasing a ticket! Doing so will help us to do more performances, pay more players, commission more composers, and share more music worldwide.

We continue to support the work to eradicate racism and to create equal justice for all. Bang on a Can is donating 10% of all tickets purchased to the Equal Justice Initiative in support of their "commitment to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenging racial and economic injustice, and to protecting the basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society."

An entire ecosystem of composers and performers still needs our attention, and our love, and our financial support! The Marathon will be free to stream and all Marathon performers and composers participating live are being compensated by Bang on a Can.

Bang on a Can August 16, 2020 Marathon Performance Schedule

Set times are approximate

3pm Wu Man

Nicole Mitchell *New Work* (world premiere) performed by **Ken Thomson**

Dobrinka Tabakova *Simple Prayer for Complex Times* (world premiere) performed by **Vicky Chow**

Tyondai Braxton

4pm Missy Mazzoli *Vespers for Violin* (solo) performed by **Olivia De Prato**

Teddy Abrams *New Work* (world premiere) performed by himself

Fjóla Evans *New Work* (world premiere) performed by **Kendall Williams**

Jeffrey Brooks *Santuario* (world premiere) performed by **Mark Stewart**

Shara Nova *New Work* (world premiere) performed by herself

5pm Brad Lubman *New Work* (world premiere) performed by **Lauren Radnofsky**

Leyla McCalla

Jacob Cooper *Expiation* (edit) performed by **Jodie Landau**

Kaki King

Scott Wollschleger *Tiny Oblivion* performed by **Karl Larson**

6pm Rajna Swaminathan *New Work* (world premiere) performed by herself

Nick Dunston *Fainting Is Down, Whooshing is Up* (world premiere) performed by **Robert Black**

Phil Kline *The Best Words* performed by **Theo Bleckmann** with **Dan Tepfer/Todd Reynolds**

Marcos Balter *...and also a fountain* performed by **Rebekah Heller**

7pm Oliver Lake

Annea Lockwood *RCSC* performed by **Sarah Cahill**

Paola Prestini *From the Bones to the Fossils* performed by **Jeffrey Zeigler**

Craig Taborn

8pm Annika Socolofsky *Bolder* (world premiere) performed by **Arlen Hlusko**

Samson Young *Super Dark Energy* (world premiere) performed by **David Cossin**

György Ligeti *The Devil's Staircase* performed by **Jeremy Denk**

The Marathon starts at 3pm with **Wu Man**, one of the foremost pipa players in the world. The pipa is an ancient Chinese stringed instrument and Wu Man has used it as a bridge between musical cultures, frequently collaborating with such artists as the Kronos Quartet, Yo-Yo Ma, Henry Threadgill and Philip Glass.

The Marathon ends with **György Ligeti**, who was catapulted into the spotlight when Stanley Kubrick - famously and without permission - used his music in the film *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Ligeti went on to become a leading light of 20th century modernism, frequently building giant structures by paying close attention to music's tiniest details. Ligeti's diabolical etude *The Devil's Staircase* will be performed by piano superstar **Jeremy Denk**. Towards the end of his life Ligeti dedicated himself to writing two books of some of the most exhilarating and difficult piano etudes ever. In this etude – miraculously – the notes always seem always to be going straight up.

Newly Commissioned Works:

Composer and singer **Annika Socolofsky** makes magical music exploring the seams between folk traditions and new music performance. Here she premieres a piece for cellist **Arlen Hlusko**.

Brad Lubman is well known to Bang on a Can audiences as the electric and precise conductor of Ensemble Signal and Steve Reich and Musicians (and of our own '90s phenomenon Spit Orchestra). He is also a skilled composer and a percussionist, and he premieres a work for cellist **Lauren Radnofsky**.

Born in Bulgaria and living in England, composer **Dobrinka Tabakova's** music is elegant and direct and has a deep emotional power. Here she premieres a new work for pianist **Vicky Chow**.

Icelandic / Canadian composer **Fjóla Evans** premieres a new piece for steel pan virtuoso **Kendall Williams**. Fjóla's music is lush and meditative. Listening to it is like looking at a landscape – you have to change yourself to be able to see it change.

Jeffrey Brooks is no stranger to Bang on a Can – we commissioned and premiered his ecstatic and mesmerizing *The Passion*, and we recorded it just last year. As a fan of the electric guitar, his new piece is for double-neck electric guitar to be performed by Bang on a Can All-Star **Mark Stewart**.

Composer and bassist **Nick Dunston** is an up and comer on the avant performance scene in New York, performing non-stop with a who's who of downtown alternative performance royalty. Nick was a natural to write a new piece for All-Star bassist **Robert Black**.

Composer, post-jazz afro-futurist and flutist **Nicole Mitchell** knows how to keep us guessing. Gentle grooves and beautiful tunes? Wild, edgy, flowing textures? She does it all. As does All-Star clarinetist **Ken Thomson**, who will perform her new work.

Composer and percussionist **Rajna Swaminathan** is a virtuosa of the mridangam – the double sided South Indian drum. She uses it here to add wild beats to the premiere of a new work for her to play and sing.

Composer, visual artist, and activist **Samson Young** is from Hong Kong. His attention to the sonic environments of music led him to create large-scale art installations, in which sound was one component, and which in turn led him to think about the larger social surroundings of the art and the sounds. He has written a new piece for All-Star percussionist **David Cossin**.

Avant songstress **Shara Nova** – aka My Brightest Diamond - sings a new song, commissioned especially for this marathon, for herself!

Teddy Abrams is a quadruple threat as a composer, conductor, pianist and clarinetist. As the widely acclaimed conductor of the Louisville Symphony and the Britt Orchestra, he is a tireless advocate for the power of music and one of his generation's great musical personalities. We've asked Teddy to write a new piece for himself to play on clarinet? Or piano? Or maybe something else altogether.

The Marathon also includes:

80-years-young New Zealand-born composer **Annea Lockwood** has always lived at the forefront of musical experimentation. From her early pieces crafting instruments out of glass to lighting pianos on fire to taking a tape

recorder down the length of the Hudson River, she has relentlessly searched for music in places where we don't usually expect to find it. For this performance, Bay Area pianist **Sarah Cahill** performs Lockwood's *RCSC*.

Composer, pianist, ECM Artist **Craig Taborn** is one of the giants of piano improvisation working today. Although he comes out of a jazz tradition he pushes relentlessly the 'free' in 'free jazz' – his improvisations have the freedom to change, at a moment's notice, from jazzy melody to edgy minimalism to breathless propulsion and angular energy.

Composer / guitarist **Kaki King** plays her instrument like none other. Her performances are an explosion of percussive plucking and ambidextrous tapping, somehow managing to send melodies and counter-melodies and rhythms and counter-rhythms flying all over the instrument, at once.

Jacob Cooper meticulously sculpts his delicate, ambient soundscapes out of live and electronic sources. Then he writes soft melodies that float over them, for singers with buttery voices. Here, young phenom **Jodie Landau** sings the radio edit of his song *Expiation* from Cooper's new album *Terrain*.

The music of composer, singer and multi-instrumentalist **Leyla McCalla** is a wild mix of many influences. In her songs you can hear her training in Western classical music, her Haitian background, her research into American and Creole roots music has led to a vibrant solo career as well as collaborations including the project *Songs of our Native Daughters* and her time as a member of the Carolina Chocolate Drops.

Iconoclastic Brazilian-American composer **Marcos Balter** brings his spirit of visceral invention to *...and also a fountain*, in which ultra-bassoonist **Rebekah Heller** sings, speaks, plays percussion and - of course – bassoon.

Missy Mazzoli is a composer, and pianist in New York. For the past few years she has been setting the opera world on fire, with her smart, dramatic and passionate music. She is also the founder / leader of the avant-ambient band *Victoire*. Tonight's soloist, **Olivia De Prato**, will be performing the prayerful *Vespers for Violin*.

Oliver Lake is a jazz legend. Now almost 80 years old, he has been pushing the boundaries of experimental composition for many years now. A founder of the pioneering World Saxophone Quartet – (we still remember their amazing performance on the 1989 Bang on a Can Marathon!) – he has added his piercing, searching saxophone to projects with an awesome spectrum of musical collaborators.

Paola Prestini is one of New York's most active musical citizens. As a composer she is known for her warm, intricate works, and she is also active as a composer advocate, as an entrepreneur, and as a founder and artistic director of New York's vital music venue National Sawdust. For this performance, **Jeffrey Zeigler** will play Paola's sonically alluring *From the Bones to the Fossils* for solo cello and electronics.

Phil Kline is a composer, guitarist, and installation artist. His holiday parade piece *Unsilent Night*, for wandering hordes of boombox players, is one of the music world's longest running traditions, taking place every year in hundreds of cities around the globe. His work often has a political edge, and his frequent collaborator in his political works is tonight's performer, vocalist **Theo Bleckmann**, who will be performing two new pieces from Phil's in-progress song cycle called *The Best Words*, "a setting of slurred words and garbled phrases uttered by our so-called President." Theo will be accompanied on tape by violinist **Todd Reynolds** on the song *An unbelievable thing*; and will then be accompanied live by pianist **Dan Tepfer** on the song *Some kind of test*.

Scott Wollschleger's *Tiny Oblivion*, for solo piano, will be performed by **Karl Larson**. This quiet gem of a piece is ephemera taken from Scott's detailed, introspective and oddly moving piano concerto (written for Larson), *Meditation on Dust*.

Composer **Tyondai Braxton** can't be pinned down into any one musical genre. Co-founder of the exalted math rock band Battles, he burst onto the written music scene with his psychedelic 2009 orchestra work *Central Market* - a wild blur of a piece, in which all genres of music overlap and coexist.

Arlen Hlusko is a brilliant cellist with a powerful sound and a deep commitment to community engagement through music. Folk-influenced composer and singer **Annika Socolofsky** brings her a brand new piece.

Dan Tepfer is a super-inquisitive and expressive pianist and composer deeply rooted in jazz and improvisation. He will accompany singer **Theo Bleckmann** on a new song entitled *Some kind of test*, from the in-progress song cycle *The Best Words*, by **Phil Kline**.

Bang on a Can All-Star percussionist-drummer-producer **David Cossin** is a superstar specialist in new and experimental music. Composer/visual artist/activist **Samson Young**, from Hong Kong, offers him a new piece to premiere for this performance.

Cellist **Jeffrey Zeigler** is a powerfully independent performer with an extraordinary sound. Here he plays *From the Bones to the Fossils* for solo cello and electronics by **Paola Prestini**, from his 2018 album *The Sound of Science*.

Jeremy Denk is one of the world's foremost pianists, and as a writer he is one of classical music's most respected critical thinkers. His recording of the Ligeti Etudes on Nonesuch was on many best-of-the-year lists, including *The New Yorker*, *NPR* and the *Washington Post*. Here he performs **György Ligeti's** diabolical etude *The Devil's Staircase*.

Jodie Landau is a composer-singer-percussionist and a member of the acclaimed LA-based music collective Wild Up. He'll be singing the radio edit of **Jacob Cooper's** song *Expiation* from Cooper's new album *Terrain*.

Longtime collaborator with Bang on a Can, pianist **Karl Larson** is fiercely dedicated to commissioning and performing cutting-edge music as both a soloist and a founding member of his trio Bearthoven. Here he plays *Tiny Oblivion*, for solo piano by composer **Scott Wollschlegler**.

Bang on a Can All-Star and reed guru **Ken Thomson** is a passionate performer and also a composer increasingly known for his harmonic and rhythmic complexity. He'll play a new work by post-jazz afro-futurist **Nicole Mitchell**.

Visionary steel pan performer and composer **Kendall Williams** is passionately dedicated to showcasing the steel pan for the virtuous instrument it is. On the Marathon he'll present the world premiere of a new work by **Fjóla Evans**.

Supercellist **Lauren Radnofsky** is a long-time friend of Bang on a Can and a major contributor to the American music scene for over a decade as the founding Co-Artistic/Executive Director and cellist of Ensemble Signal. Here she premieres a brand new work by composer-conductor **Brad Lubman**.

Bang on a Can All-Star and musical wizard **Mark Stewart** is a virtuoso guitarist, singer, instrument inventor, who plucks, bows, beats, and breathes life into countless sound-making devices. Here he takes on a new commission for electric double-neck guitar by composer **Jeffrey Brooks**.

Ace violinist **Olivia De Prato** is a long-time friend of Bang on a Can and co-founder of Mivos Quartet. Also a member of the ensemble Victoire with composer **Missy Mazzoli**, here she will play a solo version of Mazzoli's *Vespers for Violin*.

Rebekah Heller, ultra-bassoonist and core member of International Contemporary Ensemble, sings, speaks, plays percussion and - of course - bassoon, in a wild piece, *...and also a fountain*, by the iconoclastic Brazilian-American composer **Marcos Balter**.

Founding and current Bang on a Can All-Star bassist **Robert Black** tours the world constantly unearthing unheard-of music for the solo double bass. For this Marathon he'll be performing a new work by composer and bassist **Nick Dunston**.

Pianist **Sarah Cahill** is a true new music warrior, having brought to life countless new works by dozens of composers through avid commissioning and an insatiable curiosity for new ideas. One such commission is **Annea Lockwood's** RCSC, written for her in 2001, which she'll perform here.

Singer and composer **Theo Bleckmann** makes music that is accessibly sophisticated, unsentimentally emotional, and seriously playful. For this broadcast he will debut two new songs by **Phil Kline** from the in-progress song cycle *The Best Words*. He will perform *An unbelievable thing* with tape accompaniment by Todd Reynolds, violin; and *Some kind of test*, accompanied live by Dan Tepfer, piano.

Vicky Chow, powerhouse pianist of the Bang on a Can All-Stars, premieres a new piece by the Bulgarian composer **Dobrinka Tabakova**.

About Bang on a Can: Bang on a Can is dedicated to making music new. Since its first Marathon concert in 1987, Bang on a Can has been creating an international community dedicated to innovative music, wherever it is found. With adventurous programs, it commissions new composers, performs, presents, and records new work, develops new audiences, and educates the musicians of the future. Bang on a Can is building a world in which powerful new musical ideas flow freely across all genres and borders. Bang on a Can plays “a central role in fostering a new kind of audience that doesn’t concern itself with boundaries. If music is made with originality and integrity, these listeners will come.” (*The New York Times*)

Bang on a Can has grown from a one-day New York-based Marathon concert (on Mother’s Day in 1987 in a SoHo art gallery) to a multi-faceted performing arts organization with a broad range of year-round international activities. “When we started Bang on a Can, we never imagined that our 12-hour marathon festival of mostly unknown music would morph into a giant international organization dedicated to the support of experimental music, wherever we would find it,” write Bang on a Can Co-Founders Michael Gordon, David Lang and Julia Wolfe. “But it has, and we are so gratified to be still hard at work, all these years later. The reason is really clear to us – we started this organization because we believed that making new music is a utopian act – that people needed to hear this music and they needed to hear it presented in the most persuasive way, with the best players, with the best programs, for the best listeners, in the best context. Our commitment to changing the environment for this music has kept us busy and growing, and we are not done yet.”

In addition to its festivals **LOUD Weekend at MASS MoCA** and **LONG PLAY**, current projects include **The People’s Commissioning Fund**, a membership program to commission emerging composers; the **Bang on a Can All-Stars**, who tour to major festivals and concert venues around the world every year; recording projects; the **Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival at MASS MoCA**, a professional development program for young composers and performers led by today’s pioneers of experimental music; **Asphalt Orchestra**, Bang on a Can’s extreme street band that offers mobile performances re-contextualizing unusual music; **Found Sound Nation**, a new technology-based musical outreach program now partnering with the State Department of the United States of America to create **OneBeat**, a revolutionary, post-political residency program that uses music to bridge the gulf between young American musicians and young musicians from developing countries; cross-disciplinary collaborations and projects with DJs, visual artists, choreographers, filmmakers and more. Each new program has evolved to answer specific challenges faced by today’s musicians, composers and audiences, in order to make innovative music widely accessible and wildly received. Bang on a Can’s inventive and aggressive approach to programming and presentation has created a large and vibrant international audience made up of people of all ages who are rediscovering the value of contemporary music. Bang on a Can has also recently launched its new digital archive, **CANLAND**, an extensive archive of its recordings, videos, posters, program books, and more. Thirty-three years of collected music and associated ephemera have been digitized and archived online and is publicly accessible in its entirety. For more information about Bang on a Can, please visit www.bangonacan.org.

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