

BANG ON A CAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Bang on a Can Marathon 2020 Live Online!

Hourly Schedule Announced

Sunday, June 14, 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, June, 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 June 14th Bang on a Can presents 6 hours of nonconformist, noncommercial, boundary-smashing music from all over the globe. We kick off at 3pm with the ever-powerful **Rhiannon Giddens** and close off with minimalist guru **Terry Riley**. Don't miss a rare solo performance by the brilliant **Roscoe Mitchell**, 10 world premieres commissioned especially for the day, as well as performances by **Conrad Tao, Don Byron, Nadia Sirota, Nico Muhly, Iva Bittova, Nik Bärtsch, Pamela Z, 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.

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."

The Marathon will be streamed online at marathon2020.bangonacan.org, featuring **25 live performances** with musicians connecting from around the **USA, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Switzerland, Scotland, Italy, Ireland, Lithuania and more, plus ten world premieres of newly commissioned works.**

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 commissioned composers are being compensated by Bang on a Can.

Bang on a Can 2020 Marathon Performance Schedule

Set times are approximate, 3pm-9pm EDT

3:00 Rhiannon Giddens

Helena Tulse's *Without love atoms would stop spinning* (world premiere) performed by Arlen Hlusko

Aaron Garcia's *disconnect.* (world premiere) performed by Ken Thomson

Shara Nova – New Work (world premiere)

4:00 Alvin Curran's *Shofar Rags XXL*

Ted Hearne's *Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job*

Žibuoklė Martinaitytė's *Abyssal Zone* (world premiere) performed by Robert Black

Nik Bärtsch

5:00 Iva Bittová

Roscoe Mitchell

Paula Matthusen's *of an implacable subtraction* performed by Dana Jessen

Tomeka Reid's *Lamenting G.F., A.A., B.T., T.M.* (world premiere) performed by Vicky Chow

Nico Muhly

6:00 Susanna Hancock's *EVERYTHING IN BLOOM* (world premiere) performed by Nick Photinos

Don Byron

Ailie Robertson – New Work (world premiere) performed by Gregg August

Tim Brady's *At Sergio's Request* (world premiere)

7:00 Judd Greenstein's *In Teaching Others We Teach Ourselves* performed by Nadia Sirota

Pamela Z

Alex Weiser's Music from 'and all the days were purple' performed by Eliza Bagg

Kendall Williams – New Work (world premiere) performed by David Cossin

8:00 Carla Kihlstedt – New Work (world premiere)

Frederic Rzewski's *Which side are you on?* performed by Conrad Tao

Leila Adu – New Work (world premiere) performed by Mark Stewart

Terry Riley

Marathon Program Info

The marathon kicks off with composer, singer, songwriter, historian, archivist, and activist **Rhiannon Giddens**. She has dedicated her life to exploring American roots – where our music and our culture come from, the debts we all owe to our forebears and to each other.

The marathon will conclude with **Terry Riley**, live! The man and the myth, minimalist godfather Terry Riley joins us while sheltering far from home in an early celebration of his 85th birthday.

COMMISSIONS

Hailing from New Zealand, with roots in Ghana, composer/singer **Leila Adu** explores the seams between politics and music performance. She has written a brand new work for Bang on a Can All-Star guitarist **Mark Stewart**.

Aaron Garcia is a punk vocalist, guitarist, bassist, and creator of emotional heavy music. Aaron has written a new work, *disconnect*, for Bang on a Can All-Star clarinetist **Ken Thomson**.

Hailing from Florida, **Susanna Hancock** composes spatial sonic waves. Superb cellist **Nick Photinos** will be premiering her new work *EVERYTHING IN BLOOM*.

Carla Kihlstedt writes jangling, heartfelt poetic ballads to sing and fiddle. For this performance, she is writing a brand new solo for herself.

Lithuanian composer **Žibuoklė Martinaitytė** writes music that glows with a mystical, energetic power! For her new work, *Abyssal Zone*, she teams up with Bang on a Can All-Star bassist **Robert Black**.

Avant songstress **Shara Nova** – aka My Brightest Diamond - will wow us with a new song for herself on guitar and voice, commissioned especially for the Marathon.

Cellist/composer and jazz artist improviser **Tomeka Reid** is a powerhouse. She has written a new work, *Lamenting G.F., A.A., B.T., T.M.* for Bang on a Can All-Star pianist **Vicky Chow**.

All the way from Scotland, composer/harpist/folk musician **Ailie Robertson** has written a new work for the multi-genre virtuoso bassist **Gregg August**.

Estonian composer and ECM artist **Helena Tulve** is a Northern light all by herself. Her music is emotional, introspective, and elegant, and she has written a new work, *Without love atoms would stop spinning*, for the young dynamic cellist **Arlen Hlusko**.

Composer and steel pan specialist **Kendall Williams** writes intricate tuneful and rhythmic music, drawing from his Trinidadian roots. Kendall brings his unique voice to a new work for Bang on a Can All-Star percussionist **David Cossin**.

PLUS

Ritual Groove Music is the title of Swiss composer-pianist **Nik Bärtsch**'s first CD, and one that opens the door to his possessed musical mind. Big interlocking and obsessive circular rhythms are the compelling architectural foundation of Bärtsch's universe. Enter!

Live from the Czech Republic! Composer/violinist/vocalist **Iva Bittová** embodies her own disarmingly charming and ferociously intimate folk-like tunes.

Canadian composer, guitarist, bandleader, **Tim Brady** is dedicated to establishing and advancing music for electric guitar across genres and disciplines. Known for his massive guitar works, tonight he plays solo, premiering a new work currently titled *At Sergio's Request*.

Don Byron is a composer, jazz scholar, klezmer wiz, and one of the brilliant clarinetists of our day. For over 20 years he has been a frequent collaborator of Bang on a Can – touring and recording with the All-Stars, and as a featured guest at our Summer Festival at MASS MoCA. One of the greats!

Distinguished experimental expat composer **Alvin Curran** makes music out of the sounds and objects he has around him. For this concert, that would be *Shofar Rags XXL*, a piece for shofar and a broken down portable cement mixer. All the way from Rome!

Judd Greenstein is one of our most productive musical citizens. Composer and co-founder of both New Amsterdam Records and the Ecstatic Festival – Judd's irresistible rhythms and colors make him an essential part of music in New York. The multi-faceted violist **Nadia Sirota** performs Judd's *In Teaching Others We Teach Ourselves*.

Composer, singer, conductor **Ted Hearne** creates intense, personal, multi-dimensional works. Here he'll perform his *Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job* - an excerpt from his blistering *Katrina Ballads*.

Composer/sound installation artist **Paula Matthusen** is known for mixed and fixed media-based electroacoustic music. The boundary bashing bassoonist **Dana Jessen** takes on her piece *of an implacable subtraction*.

Legendary American musician **Roscoe Mitchell** has spent almost all of his almost 80 years pushing musical limits. Renowned worldwide as a leading force in the Art Ensemble of Chicago, Mitchell is a true pioneer of experimental music.

Nico Muhly has charted his own uniquely transcendent path between new music and indie pop, making him equally welcome collaborating with Björk and with the Metropolitan Opera, as a sought after composer, pianist, producer, and music advocate.

Eminent American pianist and composer **Frederic Rzewski** has been making thought-provoking, intense music about issues that dominate the headlines today: the struggles of factory work, the perils of incarceration, the tension between the government and the governed. His work *Which Side Are You On?* will be performed by the brilliant pianist **Conrad Tao**.

Alex Weiser's recent album, *and all the days were purple*, contains bittersweet Yiddish songs sung by **Eliza Bagg**,

Pamela Z – half composer, half performer, half machine! Pioneering composer-singer Pamela Z brings us her own miraculous combination of operatic bel canto and live digital looping.

Bassist **Gregg August's** passion for music knows no boundaries and has led him to virtuosic versatility in classical, jazz, Latin music, and more. A frequent collaborator with Bang on a Can, Gregg premieres a new work by Scottish composer **Ailie Robertson**.

Electrifying and ethereal soprano and multi-dimensional performer, **Eliza Bagg** lives and works coast to coast in experimental chamber music, opera, pop, dance and theater. Recently she recorded **Alex Weiser's** *and all the days were purple*, which she'll sing here.

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. Matched here with mystical and energetic composer **Žibuoklė Martinaitytė**, for a new work hot off the press, entitled *Abyssal Zone*.

Vicky Chow, powerhouse pianist of the Bang on a Can All-Stars, premieres a new piece, *Lamenting G.F., A.A., B.T., T.M.*, by composer/jazz improviser **Tomeka Reid**.

Bang on a Can All-Star percussionist-drummer-producer **David Cossin** is a superstar specialist in new and experimental music. Composer/steel drum virtuoso **Kendall Williams** offers him a new piece to premiere.

Arlen Hlusko is a brilliant cellist with a powerful sound and a deep commitment to community engagement through music. Estonian composer **Helena Tulve** brings her a brand new piece entitled *Without love atoms would stop spinning*.

Breathtaking bassoonist **Dana Jessen** is on a mission to open your ears and mind to what the bassoon can do. Her dedication to commissioning and recording new works for bassoon has few rivals, and **Paula Matthusen's** *of an implacable subtraction* for bassoon and electronics is a regular anchor of her concert performances.

Ace cellist **Nick Photinos** is a foremost performer, commissioner, and advocate for new innovative music and a founding member of the ensemble Eighth Blackbird. Also a longtime faculty at the Bang on a Can Summer Festival, he will premiere a fresh work from composer **Susanna Hancock** entitled *EVERYTHING IN BLOOM*.

From years championing new repertoire, **Nadia Sirota** has helped make the viola one of the hippest instruments on the planet. Here she performs **Judd Greenstein's** many-layered *In Teaching Others We Teach Ourselves*.

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 guitar by avant pop composer/singer **Leila Adu**.

Conrad Tao is like one of those composer/pianist giants from a previous era. Playing with all the orchestras, writing his own concerti, possessed of a cool demeanor and extraordinary technique. And still only 25 years old! He will perform **Frederic Rzewski's** powerful and poignant *Which side are you on?*

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 and a punk-rock aesthetic. He'll play a new work by **Aaron Garcia**, entitled *disconnect*.

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. For more information about Bang on a Can, please visit www.bangonacan.org.

