

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 Launches New Festival in Brooklyn: LONG PLAY Friday, May 1 – Sunday, May 3, 2020

DAILY LINEUPS NOW ANNOUNCED

LONG PLAY is an explosion of mind-bending music of the moment.



Dozens of concerts throughout Brooklyn, New York

Festival Passes Available Now at www.longplayfestival.org

Brooklyn, NY — **Bang on a Can** announces the **daily lineups** today for **LONG PLAY**, a new, three-day destination music festival, presented for the first time from **Friday, May 1 through Sunday, May 3, 2020**. Featuring dozens of concerts, **LONG PLAY** also showcases a dense network of pioneering music venues in Brooklyn – with performances at the **BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, Roulette, Public Records, ShapeShifter Lab, Littlefield, Brooklyn Music School, BAM Lepercq Space**, outdoor events at **The Plaza at 300 Ashland**, and more. Festival passes and special early bird offers are available now at www.longplayfestival.org. *Additional scheduling information, venue assignments, and artists to be announced.*

Bang on a Can’s Co-Founders and Artistic Directors **Michael Gordon, David Lang, and Julia Wolfe**, say of the new festival:

“For over 30 years, Bang on a Can has dedicated itself to working the frontier – bringing together the most innovative voices in music and building new audiences for new work. Right now – this minute – is an amazing time to be a musician. Musicians from every corner of the music world are pushing beyond their boundaries, questioning their roots, searching and stretching for the new. There has never been a time when music contained so much innovation and diversity, so much audacity and so much courage. And we want to show you all of it. With the creation of **LONG PLAY** we are presenting more kinds of musicians, playing more kinds of music, bending more kinds of minds. **LONG PLAY** expands and enlarges our scope and our reach, and puts more new faces on stages than ever before. It’s a lot of music!”

Fueled by more than three decades of Marathon concerts, **LOUD Weekend** at **MASS MoCA**, countless world tours and staged productions, Bang on a Can’s **LONG PLAY** is a supercharged ride through right now – for musicians and audiences alike.

Inaugural Bang on a Can LONG PLAY daily lineups (subject to change; additional scheduling information, venue assignments, and artists to be announced):

Friday, May 1, 2020: 5pm-1am

Meredith Monk & Bang on a Can All-Stars: *Memory Game*

Meredith Monk's work crosses so many boundaries she has had to invent her own way of making it, her own way of teaching it, and her own way of training a generation of singers and performers in how to perform it with her. This concert doubles as the official release of her new recording, *Memory Game*, a collaboration with the Bang on a Can All-Stars.

Michael Gordon: *Timber* with Mantra Percussion

Michael Gordon is a master of the elemental, building massive structures out of simple materials. *Timber*, performed here by Mantra Percussion, is a tour de force of focus and power – six percussionists each play an ordinary wooden 2x4, gradually adding beat upon beat until they swirl into psychedelic clouds of sound.

Matmos

Baltimore's conceptual electronica artists make beats out of an astonishing array of source materials – cutting hair, the amplified nerve fibers of crustaceans, smashing old LPs. It is a strange kind of alchemy that Matmos can transform all these different and sometimes terrifying sources into cheerful techno beats.

Nik Bärtsch with Ronin

Swiss beats! ECM artist Nik Bärtsch brings his band Ronin all the way from Switzerland for an evening of cool, loping, subtle grooves.

The Glenn Branca Ensemble

Glenn Branca spent his life finding the magic seam between intricate microtonal experimentation and really loud guitars. For years Branca's band was the laboratory for young guitarists who sought to push the boundaries of what a band can be, and it is great the band is still going strong. This concert includes excerpts from Branca's posthumously released masterpiece, *The Third Ascension*.

Caroline Shaw's *Orange* w/ Attacca Quartet

Composer, violinist and singer Caroline Shaw is a kind of phenomenon. Fresh from her Pulitzer Prize and back from touring with Kanye, she has been welcomed into every musical community. At LONG PLAY, the Attacca Quartet performs highlights from *Orange*, their recent Grammy Award-nominated recording.

Matt Welch

"The Eddie Van Halen of the Bagpipes" writes *Pop Matters*. Matt Welch has dedicated his life to expanding the repertoire for bagpipes and this concert will include his own works plus solo bagpipe music by pioneering composer Anthony Braxton.

Bearthoven plays *American Dream*

Tense, quiet, introspective, smoldering. Brooklyn trio Bearthoven plays music from Scott Wollschleger's riveting new album *American Dream*.

Mediaqueer

Composer / performers Darian Donovan Thomas and Phong Tran are Mediaqueer – a duo dedicated to discovering where beats, glitches, dance music, and gender politics meet.

Michael Pisaro's *Ricefall* with SOU Percussion Ensemble

Rice falls, like a gentle rain, from the hands of the performers, onto a variety of objects and surfaces. *Ricefall* is part sonic environment, part visual installation, part intensely quiet and dramatic performance. Performed by the Southern Oregon University Percussion Ensemble.

Kinds of Kings' *Afterimage* with Nois Saxophone Quartet

Chicago's ~Nois Saxophone Quartet squawks, honks and blasts its way through music by members of the international composer collective Kinds of Kings – Susanna Hancock, Maria Kaoutzani, Finola Merivale, Emma O'Halloran, Gemma Peacocke, and Shelley Washington.

Ian Chang

Ian Chang is a drummer – or is he? Chang's drums are also MIDI triggers, connected to samples and synths and even the stage lights – you never know which of his stick patterns will result in a simple drum beat and which will completely transform your environment.

Suzanne Bocanegra's *Rerememberer*

Brooklyn-based performance artist Suzanne Bocanegra uses the weaving instructions for a scrap of antique Danish cloth as the score for an elaborate and deeply sonic installation, including an amplified weaver, an accordion, a DJ, and 50 "violinists" who have never played violin before.

Tristan Perich

Tristan Perich is a composer, an inventor, a technologist and a visual artist, and all of these parts of his persona come together in his music.

I-VT

I-VT is composer Adam Cuthbert's four piece techno electronic ensemble – 2 laptops, 2 drumkits with projections all over the place.

Synaesthesia: *Another Point of View*

Lithuania's Synaesthesia Ensemble presents a hypnotic, environmental collaboration between composer Dominykas Digimas and video artist Kristijonas Dirse.

Saturday, May 2, 2020: 12pm-2am

Art Ensemble of Chicago and Steve Reich: All Live (with Bang on a Can All-Stars & Dither) At the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave) – 7:30pm

Art Ensemble of Chicago

“Great Black Music – Ancient to the Future.” Come celebrate the 50th anniversary of the legendary avant-jazz collective. Roscoe Mitchell and Famoudou Don Moye are in their 70s now and they are joined by a who's who of younger experimental musicians, in a tribute to the band's late co-founders Lester Bowie, Joseph Jarman, and Malachi Favors Maghostut.

Steve Reich: All Live (with Bang on a Can All-Stars & Dither)

Since the 1970s Steve Reich has been making music in layers, with live instruments playing against pre-recorded versions of themselves. At LONG PLAY, two of his iconic pieces will be performed all live – no backing tracks, no safety net! The Bang on a Can All-Stars and friends play *2x5*, for two rock bands, and the Dither Big Band plays *Electric Counterpoint*, for 14 electric guitars. Live.

Gerard Grisey's *Vortex Temporum* with Synaesthesia Ensemble

The late French composer Gerard Grisey pioneered a type of music that has become known as “spectralism” – paying rigorous attention to the natural intervals of music to create a lush, luxurious sound. *Vortex Temporum* – played here by Lithuania's Synaesthesia Ensemble – is his masterpiece.

Robert Ashley's “The Backyard” from *Perfect Lives* with Matmos

In 1984 the experimental composer Robert Ashley's masterpiece *Perfect Lives* premiered as a seven-part television opera. Ashley's approach to opera was revolutionary – ordinary people whose everyday language hints at the eternal, “sung” in a kind of incantatory murmur, over elemental chords and structures.

Ashley Bathgate plays *ASH*

Supercellist Ashley Bathgate asked the six composers of the Sleeping Giant collective to write her solo works while channeling the spirit of Bach. Music by Timo Andres, Christopher Cerrone, Jacob Cooper, Ted Hearne, Robert Honstein and Andrew Norman.

Laraaji plays *Ambient 3 – Day of Radiance*

Laraaji's meditative music has been hypnotizing people all around the world, ever since he was “discovered” and championed by Brian Eno in 1980. With his zither, his voice, small percussion and electronics he brings the bliss with deep, gentle trance-inducing ambient waves. *Day of Radiance* was the third installment of Eno's *Ambient* series.

Zoë Keating

Cellist and composer Zoë Keating, with the use of computers and machines, constructs her compositions in front of us, in real time, while we watch. Musical snippets become captured by the technology and added to each other, in layers, transforming simple, straightforward fragments of solo cello lines into giant, orchestral forms.

Éliane Radigue's *L'île re-sonante* with Michael Pisaro and Nate Wooley

Music by revolutionary French synth goddess Éliane Radigue, including her epic electronic masterpiece *L'île re-sonante* in a rare and almost live performance, featuring composer-trumpet player Nate Wooley and sonic projections by composer-guitarist Michael Pisaro.

Meara O'Reilly's *Hockets for Two Voices*

Meara O'Reilly is a pattern maker. She starts with simple musical materials and then applies rigorous patterns to them, which makes them continually change their timing and their order and their context. The result is mesmerizing – it is the creation of a pure and audible logic.

The Ken Thomson Sextet

Saxophonist / clarinetist / composer Ken Thomson is a livewire. He makes music that has a mind-blowingly ecstatic, hyperactive energy and, somehow, he has managed to find five other equally intense musicians who can keep up with him.

Found Sound Nation's OneBeat Stage

Found Sound Nation (FSN), Bang on a Can's social engagement wing, presents a vibrant bill of artists from across cultural divides, combining art music, hip hop, audio journalism, and contemporary composition.

Horse Lords

Beats meet minimalism meets just intonation meets power chords in Baltimore's band Horse Lords.

Jenny Lin plays Galina Ustvol'skaya

The reclusive Soviet-era legend Galina Ustvol'skaya wrote six mystical and granitic piano sonatas, spanning 43 years of her life. At LONG PLAY, piano virtuosa Jenny Lin will play them all, in order.

Vox Clamantis plays Estonian Voices

Estonia's Grammy Award-winning Vox Clamantis choir sings new music by some of the Baltic's leading composers, including US premieres by Galina Grigorjeva, Evelin Seppar and ECM artist Helena Tulve.

Matt Welch plays Anthony Braxton

"The Eddie Van Halen of the Bagpipes" writes *Pop Matters*. Matt Welch has dedicated his life to expanding the repertoire for bagpipes and this concert will include his own works plus solo bagpipe music by pioneering composer Anthony Braxton.

Reg Bloor

Uncompromising, intense, overwhelmingly idiosyncratic composer / guitarist Reg Bloor plays music from her recent album "Sensory Irritation Chamber"

Todd Reynolds, Frode Andersen, Ejnar Kanding

Violinist and composer Todd Reynolds is a virtuoso – not just of the violin but of a host of electronic gear that he uses to expand the horizon of what a violinist can be. Because of this, Todd has become the violinist of choice for a generation of composers. He will play his own music plus world premieres by Danish composers Frode Andersen and Ejnar Kanding.

L'Rain

Brooklyn songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and vocalist Taja Cheek performs under the mononym L'Rain. Together with her band, she plays spiritual music equally rooted in RnB, jazz, noise, and pop.

Sunday, May 3, 2020: 1pm-10pm

Brian Eno: *Music for Airports* with Bang on a Can All-Stars & the Choir of Trinity Wall Street

Brian Eno invented ambient music with his revolutionary 1978 studio album *Music for Airports*. Made of tape loops and electronic sounds, Eno never intended it to be performed live, but in 1998 the Bang on a Can All-Stars premiered their own live version and they have toured it around the globe ever since. This performance adds the live voices of The Choir of Trinity Wall Street.

Arvo Pärt: *Kanon Pokajanen* with Vox Clamantis

Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's music has been described as "holy minimalism" – simple, direct, unornamented, spiritually focused. *Kanon Pokajanen* – the *Canon of Repentance* – is his magnum opus, and is performed here by Estonia's Vox Clamantis choir, who won a Grammy Award for their last collaboration with Pärt.

David Lang's *death speaks* with Shara Nova aka My Brightest Diamond

Julia Wolfe's *my lips from speaking* with Vicky Chow & David Friend

Composers Julia Wolfe and David Lang have been sharing their thoughts about music with each other for practically forever. Here they share a concert together with friends and special guest performers, including Shara Nova (aka My Brightest

Diamond) singing Lang's Schubert-inspired *death speaks* and pianists Vicky Chow and David Friend playing Wolfe's Aretha Franklin tribute *my lips from speaking*.

Mary Halvorson and John Dieterich play *a tangle of stars*

Guitar Heaven! Brainy improviser (and MacArthur Award winner) Mary Halvorson and fearless indie-rocker (and member of Deerhoof) John Dieterich team up for an evening of wild, scratchy and oddly affecting melodies.

John Luther Adams: *Strange and Sacred Noise* with Left Edge Percussion and the SOU Percussion Ensemble

John Luther Adams' radical vision is to use music to describe how we live in the world, in particular how nature changes us, and how we change it, combining a rugged sense of the elemental with a real concern for the health of the earth. At LONG PLAY, his monumental cycle is performed by Left Edge Percussion and the Southern Oregon University Percussion Ensemble.

Asphalt Orchestra, Balún, Tomeka Reid Quartet, Brooklyn Youth Chorus

Free performance at the BAM Lepercq Space – 2pm

Asphalt Orchestra

Asphalt Orchestra is Bang on a Can's own radical street band that brings ambitious processional music to the mobile masses. Playing music by the Pixies, Thomas Mapfumo, Charles Mingus, Frank Zappa and more.

Balún

This electronic band started in Puerto Rico but is now based in Brooklyn, mixing hypnotic tropical tunes and dembow beats and glitches and dreampop into their own style of music they call "dreambow."

Tomeka Reid Quartet

Powerhouse jazz cellist Tomeka Reid is joined by guitarist Mary Halvorson, drummer Tomas Fujiwara, and bassist Jason Roebke, for a concert of improvisation, long flowing melodies, and catchy impossible grooves.

Brooklyn Youth Chorus

Under the direction of their founder Dianne Berkun Menaker the Brooklyn Youth Chorus has become one of the most inspiring, ambitious, and polished ensembles in the city. Singing music by Angélica Negrón, Gity Razaz, Alev Lenz, Toshi Reagon, Paola Prestini, and Nathalie Joachim.

Kendall Williams – Pan in Motion

Steel pans were originally made out of empty oil drums discarded around the Caribbean. Steel pan guru Kendall Williams has assembled a massive orchestra of different sized pans, and his hypnotically unpredictable and rhythmically ecstatic tunes push this traditional instrument into the future.

Gabriella Smith

Young phenom composer and outdoorswoman Gabriella Smith joins cellist Gabriel Cabezas in a concert of her music, in her first portrait concert in New York.

National Sawdust Ensemble - Hildegard Competition Winners

Brooklyn's National Sawdust just started a competition for young trans, female, and non-binary composers. Their ensemble, led by former Kronos Quartet cellist Jeffrey Zeigler, plays music by the winners - Bergrún Snæbjörnsdóttir, Niloufar Nourbakhsh, inti figgis-vizeuta, Emma O'Halloran, X. Lee, and Kayla Cashetta.

Kris Davis and Craig Taborn

Improvising pianists Kris Davis and Craig Taborn have been playing together for many years now and it shows – their connection in performance is uncanny. Each is an accomplished soloist and composer in her or his own right, but together they fuse into something larger than themselves – free, intense, relentless, volcanic.

Shara Nova aka My Brightest Diamond

Shara Nova, lead singer and songwriter of My Brightest Diamond spins a DJ set of dark minimalistic techno featuring the sounds of Detroit & Berlin nestled amidst My Brightest Diamond remixes.

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.

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