

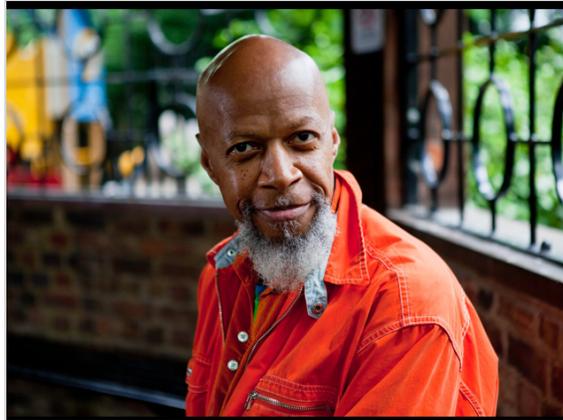
# BANG ON ▶ CAN



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Bang on a Can Presents the Artists at Noguchi Series Featuring Laraaji



**Sunday, August 11, 2019 at 3pm**  
**The Noguchi Museum | 9-01 33rd Road | Long Island City, NY**

**Performances are free with Museum admission, and seating is available on garden benches and floor mats on a first-come, first-served basis. More information: [noguchi.org/bangonacan](http://noguchi.org/bangonacan).**

**Watch Laraaji perform on [NPR's \*Tiny Desk Concerts\*](#)**

**[www.bangonacan.org](http://www.bangonacan.org) | [laraaji.blogspot.com](http://laraaji.blogspot.com)**

New York, NY — On **Sunday, August 11, 2019 at 3pm**, **Bang on a Can** and **The Noguchi Museum** continue their 2019 monthly summer concert series with the American multi-instrumentalist **Laraaji**, performing improvisations on the zither. Hailed as one of the forefathers of both ambient electronic and new age music, Laraaji's mystical and uplifting combination of zither, vocals, and more have made a profound impact on listeners for decades. Of his recent *Tiny Desk Concert*, NPR described Laraaji's music as "atmospheric," "altering," and like a "musical sunset." The performance will take place in The Noguchi Museum's outdoor sculpture garden (9-01 33<sup>rd</sup> Road). In case of rain, the concert will move to the Museum's galleries.

Born in 1943 as Edward Larry Gordon, Laraaji attended Howard University in Washington D.C. on a scholarship to study composition and piano. He later spent time in New York pursuing a career as a stand-up comedian and actor. In the 1970s, Laraaji began his lifelong study of Eastern Mysticism, was initiated as a swami, and merged music with spiritual practice. Following an intuition, he bought a zither from a local pawn shop, converted it to an electronic instrument. While busking in Washington Square Park, Laraaji was discovered by Brian Eno, who offered to produce him on the spot. Laraaji is best known for his 1980 collaboration with Eno, *Ambient 3: Day of Radiance*. He is recorded on labels including WARP records, All Saints records, GLITTERBEAT, Numero Group, Stones Throw, Leaving Records, Soul Jazz, and Virgin.

**About Artists at Noguchi:** Bang on a Can curates an eclectic supermix of music performances in its ninth summer of programming at The Noguchi Museum. The 2019 Bang on a Can Artists at Noguchi series features musicians performing an inclusive blend of music from across genres and across the world. The final performance this summer is **Friday, September 6, 2019 at 6pm** featuring **Balún**. This is a free evening performance as part of Free First Friday, where admission is free all day with evening hours until 8pm. Balún is a self-proclaimed "dreambow" quartet whose members hail from Puerto Rico. Though

currently residing in New York City, Island culture remains the cornerstone of their forward-thinking, malleable sound. Balún incorporates Caribbean rhythms, old school dembow, glitchy IDM, and dreamy dance pop into tunes that are slick and modern but firmly rooted in the traditional sounds of their homeland.

**Tickets:** The August 11 performance is free with Museum admission and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Beer for Artists at Noguchi | Bang on a Can Music Series is generously provided by **Big aLICe Brewing Co.** More information available at 718.204.7088 or [www.noguchi.org/bangonacan](http://www.noguchi.org/bangonacan). The Noguchi Museum is located at 9-01 33rd Road (at Vernon Boulevard), Long Island City, NY.

**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.”

Current projects include Bang on a Can’s new festival, **LOUD Weekend**, a fully loaded eclectic super-mix of minimal, experimental and electronic music running August 2-4, 2019 at MASS MoCA in North Adams, Massachusetts; **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.

**About The Noguchi Museum:** Founded in 1985 by Isamu Noguchi (1904–1988), one of the leading sculptors and designers of the twentieth century, The Noguchi Museum was the first museum in America to be established, designed, and installed by a living artist to show his or her own work. Widely viewed in itself as among the artist’s greatest achievements, the Museum comprises ten indoor galleries in a converted factory building, as well as an internationally acclaimed outdoor sculpture garden. Since its founding, it has served as an international hub for Noguchi research and appreciation. In addition to housing the artist’s archives and the catalogue raisonné of his work, the Museum exhibits a comprehensive selection of sculpture, models for public projects and gardens, dance sets, and his Akari light sculptures. Provocative, frequently-changing installations drawn from the permanent collection, along with diverse special exhibitions related to Noguchi and the milieu in which he worked, offer a rich, contextualized view of Noguchi’s art and illuminate his enduring influence as a category-defying, multicultural, cross-disciplinary innovator.

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