

# BANG ON ▶ CAN



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Bang on a Can Celebrates Summer 2019** **Featuring the launch of LOUD Weekend at Mass MoCA in North Adams, MA** **Plus Concerts at The Noguchi Museum and the Jewish Museum in NYC**

### **Bang on a Can LOUD Weekend at Mass MoCA**

**Friday, August 2 – Sunday, August 4**

**A fully loaded, three-day, eclectic super-mix of minimal, experimental and electronic music**

### **Artists at Noguchi | Bang on a Can Music Series**

**Sunday, June 9 at 3pm – Miles Okazaki**

**Sunday, July 14 at 3pm – 75 Dollar Bill**

**Sunday, August 11 at 3pm – Laraaji**

**Friday, September 6 at 6pm – Balún**

### **Bang on a Can at The Jewish Museum**

**Tuesday, June 11, 6-9pm: Museum Mile Festival: Steven Bernstein's Sexmob**

**Thursday, July 11 at 7:30pm: Young People's Chorus of New York City**

**[www.bangonacan.org](http://www.bangonacan.org)**

New York, NY & North Adams, MA — **Bang on a Can** celebrates summer 2019 by showcasing the breadth of its adventurous curatorial vision with concerts June through September at three visual arts institutions. Bang on a Can continues its ongoing series at **The Noguchi Museum** and **the Jewish Museum** in New York City, and launches a new, three-day music festival called **LOUD Weekend** at **MASS MoCA** in North Adams, located in the Berkshire mountains of western Massachusetts.

### **Bang on a Can LOUD Weekend at Mass MoCA**

**August 2 - 4, 2019 at MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA**

Bang on a Can invites you to make a trip to North Adams for LOUD Weekend. Over the three-day period, more than 30 concerts will take place in the museum's vast galleries and throughout its stunning collection of indoor and outdoor performing arts venues.

LOUD Weekend is an expansion of Bang on a Can's long-running Bang on a Can Marathon, tripling that inclusive and ambitious programming from one day, to three days. Of the new project, Bang on a Can co-founders and artistic directors **Michael Gordon**, **David Lang**, and **Julia Wolfe** say:

"12 hours is not enough! We are revving up the Marathon format so you can feel the full range of revolutionary curiosity in the music world today. We call it LOUD Weekend."

**Early Bird tickets are available until June 6 for \$60 (General Admission 3-Day Pass) and \$95 (Preferred 3-Day Pass).** Festival Passes include museum addition to MASS MoCA's 250,000 sq. ft. of art, including installations by Annie Lennox, a major survey of Cauleen Smith, and the largest-ever exhibition of Houston-based artist Trenton Doyle Hancock, in addition to virtual reality experiences by Laurie Anderson, nine

immersive installations by James Turrell, two large galleries filled with the handmade instruments of musicologist Gunnar Schonbeck, and more.

**The inaugural Bang on a Can LOUD Weekend at MASS MoCA will include:**

- The incomparable and outer-planetary **Sun Ra Arkestra**
- **Dracula**, the timeless, classic, original 1931 film brought to life with **Philip Glass**' acclaimed score, featuring **Michael Riesman**, music director/keyboardist of the Philip Glass Ensemble
- **Ben Frost**'s visceral and maniacal **Music for 6 Guitars** featuring **Ben Frost, Daniel Reimer, Dither Guitar Quartet**, and brass sextet
- The electric **Bang on a Can All-Stars** performing **Field Recordings** a major multi-media concert of endless ambient textures, film, and electro-acoustic forays into the future
- **Brian Eno**'s pre-ambient classic **Discreet Music** performed by **Contact**
- A communal, open-to-the-public, all ages and skill levels performance of **Pauline Oliveros**' **Sonic Mediations**
- A hypnotic other-worldly odyssey solo set by electronic multi-instrumentalist and singer **Julianna Barwick**
- The just intonation electric guitar driven Baltimore band **Horse Lords**
- Groundbreaking rediscovered composer **Julius Eastman**'s *Gay Guerrilla* from 1979 and *Stay On It* from 1973
- Pioneering composer-singer **Pamela Z**'s unique blend of operatic bel canto and live digital looping
- **Annie Gosfield**'s industrial-inspired *Flying Sparks and Heavy Machinery*, developed in 1999 during Gosfield's six-week residency in the factories of Nuremberg, Germany
- **Dither Guitar Quartet** playing **Tristan Perich**'s *Interference Logic* and **Brendon Randall-Myers**' *Dynamics of Vanishing Bodies*
- **Peter Maxwell Davies**' monodrama *Eights Songs for a Mad King*, based on the words of George III
- Danish composer **Hans Abrahamsen**'s epic, hour-long meditation *Schnee*, inspired by J.S. Bach's canons and Abrahamsen's obsession with repetition
- Composer-singer-instrument inventor **Lesley Flanigan**'s live sonic sculpture
- **Annea Lockwood**'s *Thousand Year Dreaming*, inspired by the Paleolithic cave paintings of Lascaux, featuring instruments including didgeridoos, conch shells, rattles, frame drums, oboe, English horn, clarinet, contrabass clarinet, and trombone
- Music by the intrepid Bang on a Can co-founders: **Michael Gordon**'s rhythmic meditation *Dry* written for Crash Ensemble; **David Lang**'s beseeching *prayers for night and sleep* for solo cello and voice with chamber orchestra; and **Julia Wolfe**'s *my lips from speaking* for two pianos, inspired by the opening few chords of Aretha Franklin's "Think"
- Bang on a Can All-Stars pianist **Vicky Chow** performing **Tristan Perich**'s *Surface Image* for solo piano and 40-channel 1-bit electronics
- Solo sets by Bang on a Can All-Stars bassist **Robert Black**, composer and keyboardist **Michael Riesman**, and Iceland-based Australian composer/producer **Ben Frost**

- PLUS performances by **Gregg August, David Cossin, Mark Stewart, Ken Thomson, Brad Lubman, Nick Photinos, Todd Reynolds, Lauren Radnofsky**, and more

LOUD Weekend at MASS MoCA concludes the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival at MASS MoCA, a professional development program led by today's pioneers of experimental music for young composers and performers selected from an international applicant pool, which runs from July 15-August 4, 2019.

***LOUD Weekend schedule and additional details to be announced in June.***

**Artists at Noguchi | Bang on a Can Music Series**  
**The Noguchi Museum, Long Island City, NY**

Bang on a Can curates an eclectic supermix of music performances in its 9th summer of programming at The Noguchi Museum. Alongside the exhibition *Changing and Unchanging Things: Noguchi and Hasegawa in Postwar Japan* (through July 14)—which explores the artists' common thinking about the balance between tradition and modernity, and indigenous and foreign influences in the development of postwar art and culture in Japan and in their own work—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. [www.noguchi.org/bangonacan](http://www.noguchi.org/bangonacan)

**Sunday, June 9, 3pm: Miles Okazaki**

**Miles Okazaki** performs *Work: the compositions of Thelonious Monk* for solo guitar. His approach to the guitar is described by the *New York Times* as “utterly contemporary, free from the expectations of what it means to play a guitar in a group setting — not just in jazz, but any kind.” An artist on the Pi Recordings label, Okazaki has released four albums of original compositions over the last twelve years, as well as a six-album recording of the complete compositions of Thelonious Monk for solo guitar.

**Sunday, July 14, 3pm: 75 Dollar Bill**

The New York-based guitar and percussion duo **75 Dollar Bill** perform their unique blend of sound from Northwest Africa by way of Mississippi and New York No Wave.

**Sunday, August 11, 3pm: Laraaji**

Best known for his transcendent albums like *Celestial Vibration* and *Essence/Universe* to the Brian Eno-produced *Ambient 3: Day of Radiance*, **Laraaji's** mystical and uplifting combination of zither, vocals, and more have made a profound impact on listeners for decades.

**Friday, September 6, 6pm: Balún**

**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. Closing out the summer 2019 season, this evening performance is free as part of Free First Friday.

**Tickets:** Performances are free with Museum admission and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. The September 6 performance is on Free First Friday, where admission is free all day with evening hours until 8 pm. 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.

**Bang on a Can at the Jewish Museum**  
**The Jewish Museum, NYC**

**Tuesday, June 11, 2019, 6-9pm: Museum Mile Festival: Bang on a Can and the Jewish Museum present Steven Bernstein's Sexmob**

Bang on a Can and the Jewish Museum kick off their annual series at the Museum at this summer's **Museum Mile Festival** celebration, presenting **Steven Bernstein's Sexmob** outside the Museum. Now celebrating its 20th year, Sexmob (Steven Bernstein - slide trumpet, Briggan Krauss - saxophones, Tony Scherr - bass, Kenny Wollesen - drums) continues to deconstruct familiar pop tunes with subversive impunity. Music by

Prince, John Barry, the Grateful Dead, Nirvana, the Rolling Stones, Buffalo Springfield, Paul McCartney, and ABBA is fair game for this band of musical renegades. Festival attendees can walk the Mile on Fifth Avenue between 82nd Street and 110th Street while visiting eight of New York City's finest cultural institutions, which are open free to the public throughout the evening amid a festive car-free block party with live music, street performers and activities for kids.

**Thursday, July 11 at 7:30pm: Bang on a Can and the Jewish Museum present the Young People's Chorus of New York City**

The **Young People's Chorus of New York City (YPC)**, founded and directed by Francisco J. Núñez, perform a concert that will include songs and poems by Leonard Cohen and others, coinciding with the Jewish Museum exhibition, *Leonard Cohen: A Crack in Everything*. Recognized throughout New York City and internationally as one of the leading and most diverse children's choirs, YPC is a longtime and frequent collaborator with Bang on a Can, and has forged a unique presence in the city's music community both as a champion commissioner and performer of new works by today's leading composers and for its innovative vocal arrangements that consistently cross all musical borders.

Additional performances in the 2019-2020 season, pairing innovative music with the Museum's exhibitions, are to be announced.

**Tickets:** Free admission for the Museum Mile Festival on June 11. Other performances at the Jewish Museum, \$20 General; \$16 Students and Seniors; \$12 Jewish Museum and Bang on a Can Members at [www.thejewishmuseum.org](http://www.thejewishmuseum.org). The Jewish Museum is located at 1109 Fifth Avenue at 92<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, 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."

In addition to **LOUD Weekend**, 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.