

15th Annual Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival at MASS MoCA, July 13–30, 2016

Festival highlights include:

- **Brian Eno's** ambient classic *Music for Airports* performed by the **Bang on a Can All-Stars**
- **John Cage's** ethereal *Atlas Eclipticalis*
- Performances of special guest composer **John Luther Adams' *In a Treeless Place, Only Snow; The Light Within; and Ten Thousand Birds***
- **Bun-Ching Lam** in an East/West fusion of the delicate and the virtuosic
- Solo performances by **Bang on a Can All-Stars** members **Mark Stewart, David Cossin, Ashley Bathgate, and Vicky Chow**



NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS, AND NEW YORK, NEW YORK — From **July 13 through July 30, 2016**, the “relentlessly inventive” (*New York Magazine*) new music collective **Bang on a Can** collaborates with **MASS MoCA** to present the 15th annual **Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival at MASS MoCA**. The festival is a musical utopia for innovative musicians in the beautiful Berkshire Mountains of western Massachusetts, dedicated entirely to the creation, study, and performance of adventurous contemporary music. Featuring public performances,

recitals, and lectures, the festival will be attended by over 50 cutting-edge composers and performers from around the globe, including over 30 fellows selected from a pool of more than 250 applicants from around the world.

This year's festival features special guest composer **John Luther Adams**, including an outdoor performance of his *Ten Thousand Birds* on July 28. In addition, the **Bang on a Can All-Stars** will perform **Brian Eno's** ambient classic *Music for Airports* on July 23, and the festival will culminate on July 30 with a 6-hour marathon concert featuring more music by **John Luther Adams** (*In a Treeless Place, Only Snow* and *The Light Within*) in addition to **Steve Reich's** *Music For Mallet Instruments, Voices and Organ*, **Julia Wolfe's** raucous *Tell Me Everything*, and a world premiere by Bang on a Can All-Stars clarinetist **Ken Thomson**. Other highlights include a performance presented in partnership with **CEC ArtsLink** featuring talented musicians from Central Asia including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan (July 19); a performance by eighth blackbird cellist **Nick Photinos** with two young jazz giants, pianist **Pascal Le Boeuf** and bassist **Matt Ulery** (July 20); a concert featuring violinist

and longtime Bang on a Can collaborator **Todd Reynolds** and friends (July 22); a late-night concert by bassist **Gregg August** and special guests **Joe Gonzalez** and **Ben Lapidus** with a Latin Music Big Band consisting of festival fellows and guests at North Adams' American Legion (July 22); a performance of **John Cage's** *Atlas Eclipticalis* (July 24); the annual **World Premiere Composer Concert**, featuring over 30 young performers from around the world premiering music by this year's exciting nine composition fellows (July 25); and a 70th birthday celebration for composer **Martin Bresnick** (July 26). In addition, performances include Bang on a Can All-Stars clarinetist **Ken Thomson** presenting his own recently composed work, in addition to classics by Steve Reich and Louis Andriessen (July 13); Bang on a Can All-Stars guitarist **Mark Stewart** and friends (July 14); Bang on a Can All-Stars percussionist **David Cossin** in Alvin Lucier's atmospheric *Still and Moving Lines of Silence in Families of Hyperbolas* (July 15); and Bang on a Can All-Stars pianist **Vicky Chow** performing music by Bang on a Can founders **Michael Gordon**, **David Lang**, and **Julia Wolfe**, in addition to a world premiere by composer **Chris Cerrone** (July 23); and Bang on a Can All-Stars cellist **Ashley Bathgate** in *Bach Unwound* (July 28).

Throughout the Festival, daily **1:30pm recitals** offer an opportunity for the performance and composition fellows to interact with the artwork in the galleries, often playing new works created especially for the museum. Daily **4:30pm recitals** feature performances by the Bang on a Can faculty and festival ensembles. **Kids Can Too!** a popular, interactive workshop for children and families, will be held on Saturday, July 16, at 11:30am. On July 27 at 7pm, the festival heads to **Windsor Lake** for a free, outdoor community concert.

Since its founding in 2002, over 400 musicians have attended the Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival, from over 50 countries including places as far away as Malaysia, Argentina, and Uzbekistan. Alumni of the festival are emerging leaders in the new music field. Many have founded new ensembles, new festivals, new record labels, and new bands. Bang on a Can festival alumni include Judd Greenstein, founder of the NOW Ensemble, New Amsterdam Records, and Ecstatic Music Festival; Lauren Radnofsky, founder of Ensemble Signal; Dave Longstreth, founder of the band Dirty Projectors; Missy Mazzoli, composer and founder of the band Victoire; Anna Clyne, recent composer-in-residence with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra; David T. Little, founder of Newspeak; Jakhongir Shukurov, composer and producer of the Omnibus Festival in Uzbekistan; Olivia De Prato and Mariel Roberts, founders of Mivos Quartet; and Matt McBane, founder of the Carlsbad Music Festival in California.

The 2016 Festival faculty members are drawn from among the most innovative musicians of our time, including Gregg August (bass), Ashley Bathgate (cello), Vicky Chow (piano), David Cossin (percussion), Michael Gordon (composition), David Lang (composition), Brad Lubman (conducting), Nicholas Photinos (cello), Todd Reynolds (violin), Mark Stewart (electric guitar), Ken Thomson (saxophone/clarinet), and Julia Wolfe (composition).

Ticket Information

Individual tickets to the **Bang on a Can All-Stars** concert on July 23 and the **Bang on a Can Marathon** on July 30 are \$24 for preferred seating; \$18 day of; \$12 for students, Bang on a Can alumni, and in advance; and \$5 for members. **Kids Can Too!** tickets are \$5 for members and \$8 for non-members. The best way to *Bang* is with a MASS MoCA membership, which offers free gallery admission and \$5 concert tickets. The remaining concerts are free with museum admission. Tickets for all events are available through the MASS MoCA box office located on Marshall Street in North Adams, open 11am to 5pm every day except Tuesdays through June 24, 2016. Beginning June 25, the box office will be open 10am to

6pm every day, with extended evening hours to 7pm on Thursdays through Saturdays. Tickets can also be charged by phone by calling 413.662.2111 x1 during box office hours or purchased online at massmoca.org. All events are held rain or shine.

Sponsorship

The Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival at MASS MoCA is made possible with public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, and with support from the Amphion Foundation, ASCAP Foundation Irving Caesar Scholarship, Alice M. Ditson Fund of Columbia University, Robert Black Bass Scholarship, Gabriel Taubman, Chamber Music America, Henry S. McNeil, Jr., and Williamson Foundation for Music. Special thanks go out to Drury High School, Williams College, and Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Concert pianos are provided courtesy of Falcetti Music, Springfield, MA.

Additional support is provided by The Porches Inn at MASS MoCA.

Bang on a Can Performance Schedule (subject to change)

Daily Gallery Recitals, July 13–29

1:30pm: Fellows | 4:30pm: Faculty

Free with museum admission

Wednesday, July 13, 4:30pm

Ken Thomson's "40 Years Recital" features recently composed music performed by Ken and colleagues, and classics by Steve Reich and Louis Andriessen. Special guests include master percussionist Doug Perkins.

Thursday, July 14, 4:30pm

Mark Stewart and friends

Friday, July 15, 1:30pm

African Drumming in the Courtyard

Festival fellows and our African Drumming Master, **Nani Agbeli**, perform outdoors in the MASS MoCA courtyard.

Friday, July 15, 4:30pm

David Cossin performs Alvin Lucier's atmospheric *Still and Moving Lines of Silence in Families of Hyperbolas*.

Saturday, July 16, 11:30am

Kids Can Too!

A performance for families

Monday July 18, 4:30pm

Bang on a Can All-Star **Gregg August** and friends perform music by Ornette Coleman, a new piece by Gregg for double bass and cello, and more.

Tuesday July 19, 4:30pm

Bang on a Can celebrates many years of partnering with CEC ArtsLink and talented musicians from

Central Asia. The performance includes musicians from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan performing traditional music as well as new collaboratively composed works on instruments such as the kyl-kobyz, komuz, temir, zhygach ooz, tanbur, rubab, and dutar.

Wednesday, July 20, 4:30pm

Cellist **Nick Photinos**, of the new music ensemble eighth blackbird, presents a recital with friends featuring the works of two young jazz giants, pianist **Pascal Le Boeuf** and bassist **Matt Ulery**.

Thursday July 21, 4:30pm

The music of Bang on a Can co-founders and co-artistic directors **Michael Gordon**, **David Lang**, and **Julia Wolfe** is performed by festival fellows and faculty.

Friday July 22, 4:30pm

Todd Reynolds gathers faculty and fellows to present a variety of music for piano quintet, including music composed and arranged by Pascal Le Boeuf, Gregg August, and Ken Thomson — everything from brand-new work to Latin to Prog Rock.

Friday July 22, 10pm

Latin Music Big Band

In this free concert in downtown North Adams, Bang on a Can All-Star **Gregg August** and special guests **Joe Gonzalez** and **Ben Lapidus** lead a Latin Music Big Band consisting of festival fellows and guests at North Adams' American Legion bar.

Saturday, July 23, 4:30pm

Pianist **Vicky Chow** plays compositions by Bang on a Can founders Michael Gordon, David Lang, and Julia Wolfe, plus a world premiere by composer **Chris Cerrone**.

Saturday, July 23, 8pm

Bang on a Can All-Stars play Brian Eno's *Music for Airports*

The Bang on a Can All-Stars bring Eno's pioneering ambient work from the 1970s to life in an expanded performance that includes an orchestra of festival fellows. The concert will also feature new entries in the All-Stars' Field Recordings project — new music interwoven around archival recordings — including works by Roomful of Teeth's **Caroline Shaw**, **Jóhann Jóhannsson**, **Gabriella Smith**, **René Lussier**, and more.

Saturday, July 24, 4:30pm

Fellows and faculty perform **John Cage's** monumentally ethereal *Atlas Eclipticalis*.

Monday, July 25, 4:30pm

World Premiere Composer Concert

Over 40 young performers from around the world debut festival work — some mere days or hours old — by this year's exciting nine composition fellows.

Tuesday, July 26, 4:30pm

Martin Bresnick's expressive and direct music has influenced a generation of composers, including many Bang on a Can regulars. Come celebrate his 70th birthday with us.

Wednesday, July 27, 4:30pm

Born in Macau and now splitting her time between Poestenkill, New York, and Paris, composer **Bun-Ching Lam** spins an East/West fusion of the delicate and the virtuosic.

Wednesday, July 27, 7pm

Concert at the Lake

Bang on a Can's annual blow-out avant-variety show. Bring a blanket! (Free)

Thursday, July 28, 4:30pm

Ashley Bathgate performs *Bach Unwound*, an energetic piece for solo cello, written by the Sleeping Giant collective.

Thursday, July 28, 7:30pm

A rare outdoor performance of *Ten Thousand Birds*, by the renowned new music master **John Luther Adams**.

July 28 & 29, 10pm

After Hours at the Chalet

Spontaneous music with the fellows in our summer beer garden, which careens wildly from bluegrass to jazz to salsa to avant-ballads.

Friday, July 29, 4:30pm

Music for percussion by **John Luther Adams**

Saturday, July 30, 4–10pm

Bang on a Can Marathon

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*).

“When we started Bang on a Can in 1987, in an art gallery in SoHo, we never imagined that our one-day, 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 for the last 27 years, and we are not done yet.”

Current projects include the annual **Bang on a Can Marathon**; **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**, 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 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; and 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 additional information, visit bangonacan.org.

About MASS MoCA

MASS MoCA is one of the world's liveliest (and largest) centers for making and enjoying today's most important art, music, dance, theater, film, and video. Hundreds of works of visual and performing art have been created on its 19th-century factory campus during fabrication and rehearsal residencies, making MASS MoCA among the most productive sites in the country for the creation and presentation of new art. More platform than box, MASS MoCA strives to bring to its audiences art experiences that are fresh, engaging, and transformative.

MASS MoCA's galleries are open 11am to 5pm every day except Tuesdays. From June 26 through September 7, MASS MoCA's galleries are open 10am to 6pm every day, with extended evening hours to 7pm on Thursdays through Saturdays. The Hall Art Foundation's Anselm Kiefer exhibition is open seasonally, spring – fall. Gallery admission is \$18 for adults, \$16 for veterans and seniors, \$12 for students, \$8 for children 6 to 16, and free for children 5 and under. Members are admitted free year-round. For additional information, call 413.662.2111 x1 or visit massmoca.org.