

A collaboration between The Museum of Modern Art and the New York Philharmonic

Sunday, November 17, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Agnes Gund Garden Lobby
The Museum of Modern Art
11 West 53 Street
New York City



Musicians from the New York Philharmonic

Anna Handler, conductor
John Adams, curator/speaker
Ara Guzelimian, speaker

John ADAMS Selections from *John's Book of Alleged Dances* (1994)

Rag the Bone
Judah to Ocean

Alina Kobialka, Hannah Choi, violins
Leah Ferguson, viola
Ru-Pei Yeh, cello

Anthony CHEUNG *pulsate, fixate* (2024)

Mindy Kaufman, flute

Dylan MATTINGLY *Sunt Lacrimae Rerum (these are the tears of things)* (2020–21)

Nancy Allen, June Han*, harps
Eric Huebner, Steven Beck*, pianos

Andrew NORMAN *For Chad* (2024)

Na Sun, violin

Gabriella SMITH *Maré* (2017)

Na Sun, violin; Leah Ferguson, viola
Ru-Pei Yeh, cello; Mindy Kaufman, flute
Barret Ham, clarinet; Thomas Smith, trumpet

* Guest artist

About the composers

Composer, conductor, and creative thinker **John Adams** occupies a unique position in the world of music. His works stand out among contemporary classical compositions for their depth of expression, brilliance of sound, and the profoundly humanist nature of their themes. Spanning more than three decades, his operas and oratorios have transformed the genre of contemporary music theater, and works such as *Harmonielehre*, *Shaker Loops*, and his Violin Concerto are among the most performed of all contemporary classical music. As a conductor Adams has led the world's major orchestras, programming his own works with a wide variety of repertoire. A provocative writer, he is author of the highly acclaimed autobiography *Hallelujah Junction* and is a frequent contributor to the *New York Times Book Review*. Since 2009 Adams has been creative chair of the LA Phil.

Anthony Cheung writes music that explores the senses, a wide palette of instrumental play and affect, improvisational traditions, reimagined musical artifacts, and multiple layers of textual meaning. He has been commissioned by groups such as Ensemble Modern, Ensemble Intercontemporain, LA Phil, New York Philharmonic, Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, Musikfabrik, Yarn / Wire, AMOC* (American Modern Opera Company), and JACK and Parker Quartets. He was the Daniel R. Lewis Composer Fellow with the Cleveland Orchestra (2015–17), and a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship the Rome Prize, he is cofounder of New York's Talea Ensemble, which he served as pianist and artistic director. Recordings include portrait discs on the Kairos, New Focus, Wergo, and Ensemble Modern labels. Cheung studied at Harvard and Columbia universities, taught at the University of Chicago, and is currently associate professor of music at Brown University.

Dylan Mattingly creates music of wild imagination, which offers ecstatic, transformative experience, often existing on a massive scale. Mattingly's opera *Stranger Love* was described as "a historic triumph of aspiration" by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and was listed by the *New York Times* as one of the Best Classical Music Performances of 2023. Mattingly's music has been commissioned by the LA Phil, San Francisco Symphony, Ojai Music Festival, Spoleto Festival USA, Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, Contemporaneous, and others. At the heart of all his work is a commitment to joy, and to what Hannah Arendt refers to as *amor mundi*—an ever-renewing quest to love the world, in the complex totality of its experience. Dylan Mattingly is the executive director of the ensemble Contemporaneous and lives in California.

Andrew Norman is a Los Angeles-based composer and educator. He has written for leading ensembles worldwide and is the recipient of the Grawemeyer Award, the Rome Prize, and a Guggenheim Fellowship, and was named Musical America's Composer of the Year. Norman has served as composer-in-residence with Carnegie Hall, Young Concert Artists, and the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. His most recent orchestral work, *Sustain*, lauded as "a new American masterpiece" by the *New Yorker*, earned the LA Phil a Grammy award for their recording on the Deutsche Grammophon label. Andrew Norman teaches at the University of Southern California and the Juilliard School, and he also directs the LA Phil's Composer Fellowship Program for high school composers.

Gabriella Smith is a composer whose work invites listeners to find joy in climate action. Her music comes from a love of play, exploring new instrumental sounds, and creating musical arcs that transport audiences into sonic landscapes inspired by the natural world. *Lost Coast*, a concerto for cello and orchestra written for her longtime collaborator Gabriel Cabezas, was premiered in May 2023 by the LA Phil conducted by Gustavo Dudamel and was performed by the New York Philharmonic this week. This work joins *Breathing Forests*, her organ concerto written for James McVinnie, which was premiered by the LA Phil, led by Esa-Pekka Salonen. Her current projects include large-scale works for Kronos Quartet and yMusic. In 2023 her *Tumblebird Contrails* was performed by the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Salonen, on the Nobel Prize Concert.

About the artists

Nancy Allen joined the New York Philharmonic in 1999 as principal harp. She heads the harp departments of the Juilliard School and the Aspen Music Festival and School, and teaches at Stony Brook University. She has performed as soloist at major international festivals; collaborated with soprano Kathleen Battle, clarinetist Richard Stoltzman, and guitarist Manuel Barrueco; and formed a trio, Les Amies, with flutist Carol Wincenc and philharmonic principal viola Cynthia Phelps. Allen has appeared on *Live from Lincoln Center* on PBS, and has performed in recital for “Music at the Supreme Court” in Washington, DC. Her recording of Ravel’s *Introduction and Allegro* was nominated for a Grammy award; she can also be heard on the Sony Classical, Deutsche Grammophon, and CRI labels.

In the 2024–25 season pianist **Steven Beck** appears with the orchestras of Princeton, New Jersey, and Chattanooga, Tennessee, can be heard in chamber music in Chicago and Oklahoma City, and repeats his annual Christmas Eve performance of J. S. Bach’s *Goldberg Variations* at Bargemusic. A graduate of the Juilliard School, he has performed as soloist and chamber musician at Alice Tully Hall, in New York City, and at the Kennedy Center and the Library of Congress, in Washington, DC, and made summer appearances at the Aspen Music Festival, Chamber Music Northwest, and Lincoln Center Out of Doors. As an orchestral musician he has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, New York City Ballet Orchestra, and Orpheus. Beck has premiered works by Charles Wuorinen and Fred Lerdahl, and he made the first complete recording of George Walker’s piano sonatas for Bridge Records. Steven Beck is a member of the Knights, Talea Ensemble, Quattro Mani, and Da Capo Chamber Players. A Steinway Artist, he is on the faculties of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and the Sewanee Music Center, and teaches orchestral piano at Juilliard.

Violinist **Hannah Choi** joined the New York Philharmonic in 2014. Previously a member of the Grant Park Festival Orchestra in Chicago, she has appeared as concertmaster with the Haffner Symphony, Tanglewood Festival Orchestra, and Pacific Music Festival Orchestra. As soloist she has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, as winner of the Albert M. Greenfield Competition; the New England Conservatory Philharmonia, as winner of the New England Conservatory Concerto Competition; the Seoul, Daejeon, and Poland National philharmonic orchestras; and the Atlantic, Korean, and Haffner symphony orchestras. Choi has given recitals internationally, including in South Korea and the United States. She received her bachelor’s degree from the Curtis Institute, master’s degree and graduate diploma from the New England Conservatory, and professional studies certificate from Manhattan School of Music.

Violist **Leah Ferguson** joined the New York Philharmonic in 2018, having previously been a member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. She has performed at Music@Menlo, Ravinia’s Steans Music Institute, the Verbier Festival, and Perlman Music Program; collaborated with Itzhak Perlman, Joshua Bell, and Miriam Fried; and performed as a guest artist with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble. Her performances have been broadcast by WCVL Cleveland, WFMT Chicago, WQXR the Greene Space, NPR’s *From the Top*, and HBO’s documentary series *Masterclass*. She has also performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, and Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. Ferguson received her bachelor’s degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music and graduate diploma from the Juilliard School as a recipient of the Kovner Fellowship.

Ara Guzelimian is artistic and executive director of the Ojai Festival in California and special advisor at the Juilliard School in New York, having served as provost and dean from 2007 to 2020. Prior to his Juilliard appointment, he was senior director and artistic advisor of Carnegie Hall from 1998 to 2006. He is artistic consultant to the Marlboro Music Festival, a member of the steering committee of the Aga Khan Music Awards and the artistic committee of the Borletti-Buitoni Trust in London; and a board member of the Amphion and Pacific Harmony Foundations. Ara Guzelimian is editor of *Parallels and Paradoxes: Explorations in Music and Society*, a collection of dialogues between Daniel Barenboim and Edward Said. In September 2003 Guzelimian was awarded the title Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French government for his contributions to French music and culture.

Barret Ham joined the New York Philharmonic as clarinet/bass clarinet in the 2023–24 season. He previously served as acting second clarinet/bass clarinet for the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra for three seasons, and has performed with the LA Phil and the Cleveland Orchestra, as well as the Boston, Dallas, and Utah symphony orchestras. His summer festival appearances include Yellow Barn, the Lucerne Festival Academy, and Spoleto Festival USA. Ham has performed for Tertulia San Francisco and as a guest with the Borromeo String Quartet. He has worked directly with composers including Shulamit Ran, Jörg Widmann, Brett Dean, and Enno Poppe. Ham received his bachelor’s degree from the New England Conservatory and his master’s degree from the University of Southern California.

June Han holds degrees from Paris Conservatory, Yale School of Music, and Juilliard. She is on the faculties of Yale School of Music, Peabody Institute, Juilliard Pre-College, and Bowdoin International Music Festival. She was a guest artist at the Santa Fe, Norfolk, OK Mozart, Skaneateles, Moab, Chesapeake Chamber Music, and Music from Angel Fire festivals. The daughter of renowned composer Young Ja Lee, Han is an advocate of contemporary composers and has given numerous premieres. Her discography includes works by Young Ja Lee, Poul Ruders, Charles Wuorinen, Lei Liang, Samuel Adler, John Zorn, George Rochberg, Ursula Mamlock, Giacinto Scelsi, and Elliott Carter. She is the dedicatee of Liang’s and Lee’s harp concertos, and Adler’s Canto XXI for harp solo. Her US premiere of Stockhausen’s *Freude* for two harps was called “mesmerizing...brilliantly executed” by the *New York Times*.

Anna Handler, a German-Colombian conductor and pianist, became the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s assistant conductor in 2024 and made her BSO debut at Tanglewood in 2025. She served as a Dudamel Fellow of the LA Phil in the 2023–24 season, and has since lead the LA Phil at Walt Disney Hall. She recently led the Frankfurt Radio Symphony, DSO Berlin, and the BBC Philharmonic orchestras. She made her Salzburg Festival debut in 2022, returning in 2023 and 2024. A Juilliard graduate and Kovner Fellowship recipient, who was also trained in major European schools, Handler has collaborated with Yo-Yo Ma, Barbara Hannigan, and Sabine Meyer. Passionate about music education and innovation, she created real-time generative video projects with her ensemble, Enigma Classica, featured at the Young Artist Festival Bayreuth.

Pianist **Eric Huebner**, the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Piano Chair, joined the New York Philharmonic in January 2012. He was previously a member of the Antares quartet, with whom he appeared regularly in venues throughout the United States. Huebner has premiered countless new works and appeared as soloist and chamber musician across the globe. He is professor of music and chair of the music department at the University at Buffalo (SUNY), where he maintains a studio of graduate and undergraduate piano students and teaches courses in 20th-century piano music and piano literature. Since 2014 he has been a member of the adjunct faculty of the Juilliard School, where he teaches a course in orchestral keyboard performance. Huebner holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the Juilliard School.

About the artists, continued

Mindy Kaufman, the Edward and Priscilla Pilcher Chair, joined the New York Philharmonic as flute and solo piccolo in 1979. She has appeared as soloist with the Orchestra under former music directors Zubin Mehta, Kurt Masur, and Lorin Maazel. As a chamber musician, she has performed at the Mt. Desert Festival of Chamber Music, Moab Music Festival, Hudson Valley Performing Arts Foundation's Chamber Music Series, Grand Teton Music Festival, Concordia Chamber Players, Brightstar Music Festival, Benifaió Music Festival, and Colorado Music Festival. Kaufman teaches at the Shanghai Orchestra Academy, gives master classes around the world, and has taught at Columbia University and Mannes Prep. She can be heard on film soundtracks, including *The Untouchables* and *Moonrise Kingdom*. Kaufman received a bachelor's degree from the Eastman School of Music.

Violinist **Alina Kobialka** joined the New York Philharmonic in 2022. She has performed with orchestras including the San Francisco Symphony, Las Vegas Philharmonic, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, and California Symphony. In 2015 she made her performance debut in Asia with the Macau Youth Symphony. In 2016 she toured Japan with the Kagawa International Youth Orchestra, and later performed in the Shanghai International Arts Festival gala concert. Kobialka won second prize at the 2017 Elmar Oliveira International Violin Competition; was named a laureate of the 2016 Irving M. Klein International Competition; and received the grand prize at the Mondavi Center National Young Artists Competition. Kobialka studied at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's preparatory program, Colburn School's Music Academy, and Cleveland Institute of Music, where she received her master's degree.

Thomas Smith joined the New York Philharmonic's trumpet section in 1998. He is a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy and the New England Conservatory of Music, where he received a bachelor's degree with distinction in 1981. He continued orchestral studies at Tanglewood with the fellowship program in the summers of 1981 and 1982, and began a freelance career in Boston playing with Sarah Caldwell's Opera Company of Boston and Gunther Schuller's New England Ragtime Ensemble. He also performed regularly with the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra as well as the Boston Pops, and Boston Symphony Orchestra. An avid chamber musician, Smith has performed with the new music groups Collage and Musica Viva. He has recorded with Empire Brass, Boston Pops, and New England Ragtime Ensemble.

Violinist **Na Sun**, the Gary W. Parr Chair, joined the New York Philharmonic in 2006. A native of China, she began playing the violin at age seven, and at nine was accepted into the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, from which she received her bachelor's degree with highest honors, and where she won the conservatory violin competition. She has performed with the China Youth Symphony (as concertmaster), Central Conservatory Chamber (principal second violin), Icelandic Symphony, and Icelandic Opera orchestras. Since arriving in the United States in 2003, Sun has given numerous recital and chamber music concerts; received her artist diploma from Boston University's College of Fine Arts, where she was the Grand Prize winner of the Bach competition; and was a fellow with the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra.

Cellist **Ru-Pei Yeh** joined the New York Philharmonic in 2006. She previously served as acting principal cello of the San Diego Symphony and the San Diego Opera. She has made solo appearances with the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, National Taiwan Symphony, Taiwan's Evergreen Symphony Orchestra, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, North Carolina School of the Arts's International Music Program Orchestra, and Kuan-Jen School Orchestra. She has performed regularly as a recitalist in her native Taiwan and the United States. Yeh, who has been performing professionally since the age of 10, moved to the US at 13 to study at the Temple Preparatory School. She received her bachelor's degree from New England Conservatory and her master's degree and artist diploma from the Juilliard School.