



MICHAEL GORDON

Michael Gordon's music merges subtle rhythmic invention with incredible power embodying, in the words of The New Yorker's Alex Ross, "the fury of punk rock, the nervous brilliance of free jazz and the intransigence of classical modernism." Over the past 25 years, Gordon has produced a strikingly diverse body of work, ranging from large-scale pieces for high-energy ensembles to major orchestral commissions to works conceived specifically for the recording studio. Transcending categorization, this music represents the collision of mysterious introspection and brutal directness.

Deeply passionate about the sonic potential of the traditional orchestra, Gordon's orchestral works include *Rewriting Beethoven's Seventh Symphony*, a radical reworking of the original, and *Sunshine of Your Love*, written for over 100 instruments divided into four microtonally tuned groups. Under the baton of composer/conductor John Adams, The Ensemble Modern Orchestra toured *Sunshine of Your Love* to seven European capitals in 1999. Gordon's string orchestra piece *Weather* was recorded and released on Nonesuch Records to great critical and popular success. His interest in exploring various sound textures has led him to create chamber works that distort traditional classical instruments with electronic effects and guitar pedals, including *Potassium* for the Kronos Quartet and *Industry* for cellist Maya Beiser. His passion for adding dimensionality to the traditional concert experience has led to numerous collaborations with artists in other media, most frequently with filmmaker Bill Morrison and Ridge Theater. Gordon's work also extends to the stage: his opera *Acquanetta* was featured in New York City Opera's 2010 VOX festival and his recent work for percussion sextet, *Timber*, toured with Dutch dance company Club Guy and Roni to over 30 European cities.

DAVID LANG

David Lang is the recipient of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize in Music for *The Little Match Girl Passion*, commissioned by Carnegie Hall for the vocal ensemble Theatre of Voices, directed by Paul Hillier.

One of America's most performed and honored composers, many of Lang's pieces resemble each other only in the fierce intelligence and clarity of vision that inform their structures. His catalogue is extensive, and his opera, orchestra, chamber and solo works are by turns ominous, ethereal, urgent, hypnotic, unsettling and very emotionally direct. Much of his work seeks to expand the definition of virtuosity in music—even the deceptively simple pieces can be fiendishly difficult to play and require incredible concentration by musicians and audiences alike.

His recent works include *Writing on Water* for the London Sinfonietta, with libretto and visuals by English filmmaker Peter Greenaway; *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field* – a fully staged opera for the Kronos Quartet; *Loud Love Songs*, a concerto for the percussionist Evelyn Glennie, and the oratorio *Shelter*, with co-composers Michael Gordon and Julia Wolfe, at the Next Wave Festival of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, staged by Ridge Theater and featuring the Norwegian vocal ensemble Trio Mediaeval. The commercial recording of *The Little Match Girl Passion*, was released in 2009 on Harmonia Mundi, and received the 2010 GRAMMY® Award for Best Small Ensemble Performance.

JULIA WOLFE

Drawing inspiration from folk, classical, and rock genres, Julia Wolfe's music brings a modern sensibility to each while simultaneously tearing down the walls between them. Wolfe's music is distinguished by an intense physicality and a relentless power that pushes performers to extremes and demands attention from the audience. In the words of the Wall Street Journal, Wolfe has "long inhabited a terrain of [her] own, a place where classical forms are recharged by the repetitive patterns of minimalism and the driving energy of rock."

Wolfe, a finalist for the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for her recent work *Steel Hammer*, has had her music performed at BAM, the Sydney Olympic Arts Festival, Settembre Musica (Italy), Theatre de la Ville (Paris), Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, and has been recorded on Cantaloupe, Teldec, Point/Universal, Sony Classical, and Argo/ Decca. Recent projects include *Steel Hammer* - an evening length art ballad for Trio Mediaeval and the Bang on a Can All-Stars that premiered at Zankel Hall this past season, and *Travel Music* – a recently created city-wide spectacle with architects Diller, Scofidio + Renfro in Bordeaux, France. Upcoming projects include new works for Evelyn Glennie, the Asko Ensemble, Ethel, and a percussion concerto for Collin Currie. Her CD *Dark Full Ride*, with works for 9 bagpipes, 4 drumsets, 6 pianos, and 8 double basses, was recently released on the Cantaloupe label in November 2009.

Wolfe joined the NYU Steinhardt School's composition faculty in the fall of 2009. She is co-founder of New York's music collective Bang on a Can.



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