

SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

PHILIP
GLASS

THE
COMPLETE
PIANO
ETUDES

MAKI
NAMEKAWA
&
JAMES
MCVINNE

SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER at 7.30PM

Philip Glass

The Complete Piano Etudes

James McVinnie & Maki Namekawa

“What seems to appeal to my audiences is something else, the focus on structure rather than on theme. What’s focus? It’s the way some music has now of drawing people into a different world without time. And without boredom.”

— Philip Glass

“It could be called hypnotic, since its relentless repetition lulls the listener into a disarming sense of false familiarity, and yet the propulsively aggressive attack and mercilessly loud volume, thick texture and static harmonies are not really conducive to meditation. If you wanted to you could boogie to this music; the beat is always evident and the sound is completely enveloping...”

— Art Lange

**Philip Glass
The Complete Piano Etudes**

Etude No. 1
Etude No. 2
Etude No. 3
Etude No. 4
Etude No. 5
Etude No. 6
Etude No. 7
Etude No. 8
Etude No. 9
Etude No. 10

Interval

Etude No. 11
Etude No. 12
Etude No. 13
Etude No. 14
Etude No. 15
Etude No. 16
Etude No. 17
Etude No. 18
Etude No. 19
Etude No. 20

BOLD TENDENCIES

Philip Glass found a home for his radical early works of the 1960s—works rejected by mainstream classical music venues—in loft spaces of New York’s Downtown arts scene. Despite their vastness, these spaces offered an intimacy and informality to frame this strange, new music which in turn became cornerstones of American 20th century music. Fast forward some 60 years, the raw openness of Bold Tendencies, with its panoramic vista of the city as a backdrop framed between two horizontal concrete apertures, is an ideal space to experience any music, but especially that of Glass’s more recent, scenic scores of his piano etudes which Maki and I are playing this evening.

In a broad sense Glass’s piano etudes are exercises in musical form and structure—the architecture of each offers a distinct picture for the listener and performer alike. Some seem to conjure a gentle arc, others are more angular and obtuse. Some seem to embody a sense of movement within stasis, others a frenetic kineticism. Each piece can be appreciated in the details, note by note, as if peering closely at the brushstrokes of an old master through a magnifying glass; equally you can listen from 30 paces back whilst taking in the whole, or anywhere in between and—perhaps even from all vantage points at once.

The abstract, open spaces here at Bold Tendencies are a particular inspiration when considering Glass's etudes. Finding one’s way through them is a fascinating journey, one which requires a crucial but subtle balance between an adherence to the composer’s intentions and one’s own unique and identity as a performer.

—James McVinnie

This concert is dedicated to the memory of Maya Rasamny (1968 - 2023) a pioneering supporter of Bold Tendencies and an original 'Peckham Pilgrim' who understood and loved this special, spectacular place.

Huge thanks to the Philip Glass Group who supported this event and our Philip Glass Organ Programme in June: Maryam Eisler, Alison Myners, Linda Grosse, Perihan Bassante, Fatima Maleki, Maria Sukkar, Carol Gardey, Mahtab Hanjani, and Jolana Vainio. We are deeply grateful to them all for their generosity.

Maki Namekawa (b.1969) is a leading figure among today's pianists and we are honoured to welcome her to Bold Tendencies. Her distinguished work and outstanding performances brings to audiences' attention contemporary music by international composers. As a soloist and a chamber musician equally at home in classical and repertoire of our time, she performs regularly at international venues from Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center New York to Musikverein Vienna, Cité de la musique Paris, Philharmonie de Paris, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, BOZAR Bruxelles, Suntory Hall and Sumida Toriphony Hall Tokyo.

In 2013 she performed the world premiere of the entire cycle of Philip Glass's 20 Etudes for solo piano at Perth International Arts Festival under the participation of Glass himself, followed by concerts around the world in the US, Mexico, Brazil, Ireland, Scotland, Iceland, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Slovakia, Poland, Germany and Japan. A double-CD of the complete Glass Etudes was released to great acclaim in 2014 by Orange Mountain Music, reaching Number 1 in the iTunes Classic charts. In 2019 Philip Glass composed his first Piano Sonata

especially for her. She premiered the Sonata on 4 July 2019 at Piano-Festival Ruhr in Germany in the presence of the composer. This Piano Sonata was commissioned by the Piano-Festival Ruhr, the Philharmonie de Paris and the Ars Electronica Festival. Together with her husband, the conductor Dennis Russell Davies, Maki Namekawa formed a piano duo in 2003. Major works written for the Namekawa-Davies Duo include Philip Glass's "Four Movements for Two Pianos", "Chen Yi's "China West Suite", and Glass's "Two Movements for Four Pianos" (with Katia and Marielle Labèque. In July 2017, Maki Namekawa, Dennis Russell Davies and Philip Glass received the Piano Festival Ruhr Award.

Maki Namekawa studied piano at Kunitachi Conservatory in Tokyo with Mikiro Ikezawa and Henriette Puig-Roget. In 1994 she won the Leonid Kreutzer Prize. In 1995 she continued her studies with Werner Genuit and Kaya Han at Musikhochschule Karlsruhe, where she completed her diploma as a soloist with special distinction. She went on to perfect her artistry in Classical-Romantic repertoire with Edith Picht-Axenfeld, in contemporary music with Pierre-Laurent Aimard at Musikhochschule Köln, György Kurtág, Stefan Litwin and Florent Boffard.

James McVinnie (b.1983), through his boundless approach to music making, his collaborations with a vast array of artists from many different walks of musical life, his innovative programming and captivating musicianship of the highest order, has carved out a unique career as an organist and keyboard player.

He has had major concerto and solo works written for him by Nico Muhly, Gabriella Smith, Tristan Perich, Tom Jenkinson/Squarepusher, artist Martin Creed, David Chalmin, David Lang, Richard Reed Parry, Bryce Dessner, Hildur Guðnadóttir, Darkstar, amongst many others.

BOLD TENDENCIES

He directs the James McVinnie Ensemble which launched in 2021 at Bold Tendencies, a collective of virtuoso keyboardists dedicated to exploring work often preoccupied with political themes by contemporary and emerging composers. New works by Gabriella Smith & inti figgis-vizueta are planned for the Ensemble in 2024 and beyond.

Recent premieres include Infinity Gradient, an hour long work written for McVinnie by Tristan Perich for organ and 100 speakers in 1bit audio, Breathing Forests a new organ concerto about the complex relationship between humans, forests, climate change, and fire by Gabriella Smith for McVinnie and Los Angeles Philharmonic, and a new work by Ellen Reid as part of SOUNDWALK, a 3 year, GPS-enabled work of public art in London's Regent's Park that uses music to illuminate the natural environment. Shadow Volumes, for solo organ & electronics by Edmund Finnis is planned for 2025/26 season.

He is a member of Icelandic collective and record label Bedroom Community with three solo albums and has additional album releases with Warp Records and Orange Mountain Music.

Philip Glass (b.1937) is an American composer who emerged in the 1960s New York downtown art scene where he played his early compositions in non-traditional concert venues, lofts and galleries.

Unparalleled in his ability to enthrall a wide multi-generational audience across opera houses, concert halls, the dance world, film and popular music, his many collaborators include Brian Eno, David Bowie, Angélique Kidjo, Arthur Russell, Nico Muhly, and Laurie Anderson.

Final Live Events of the Season

Thursday 7 September at 7.30pm

Jeneba Kanneh-Mason

Music by Shostakovich, Beethoven, Franz Liszt,
Florence Price

Friday 8 September at 7.30pm

Isata Kanneh-Mason

Music by Haydn, Fanny Mendelssohn, Schumann,
Chopin

Sunday 10 September at 6pm

Derek Jarman: Modern Nature

Directed by James Dacre, Derek Jarman's Prospect Cottage diaries are read live by Giles Terera and Samuel Barnett alongside original audio recordings made specially by Tilda Swinton, Jessie Buckley and Valgeir Sigurðsson and music by Donna McKeivitt, Max Richter and Benjamin Britten, performed live by singer Jessica Walker, pianist Joseph Atkins and cellist Rosie Banks-Francis with sound design by David Gregory.

Wednesday 13 September at 7.30pm

The Bittersweet Review

Readings by Amelia Abraham, Jordan/Martin Hell,
Donna Marcus Duke

Saturday 16 September at 7.30pm

Gustav Mahler: Symphony No. 1 "Titan"

Philharmonia Orchestra, conducted by Elena Schwarz

Upcoming Free Creative Learning Sessions

Made possible by the generous support of the Mila Trust.

Thursday 7 September at 1pm

Backstage Pass: Jeneba Kanneh-Mason

Delve into the worlds of Dmitri Shostakovich, Beethoven, Franz Liszt and Florence Price through the magical work of pianist Jeneba Kanneh-Mason. Following a short performance, there will be a Q&A offering an opportunity to gain insight into Jeneba's journey, ideas and career as a professional musician.

Friday 8 September at 1pm

Backstage Pass: Isata Kanneh-Mason

Award-winning pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason will animate the lower levels through a special performance for local school groups. This session will be followed by a facilitated Q&A, offering insight into her world-renowned practice and the music she plays.

Saturday 16 September at 1pm

Backstage Pass: Philharmonia Orchestra

An interactive workshop led by Philharmonia's musicians and Teddy Prout, the Orchestra's Learning & Participation Manager. This session will deep dive into Mahler's First Symphony through participatory activities, actions and performances. This session is aimed at senior groups based in Southwark.

Saturday 16 September at 3pm

Public Rehearsal: Gustav Mahler: Symphony No.1

An informal and relaxed opportunity to hear live the emotionally powerful work of Gustav Mahler, performed by the vast forces of the Philharmonia Orchestra. This session is open to anyone who faces barriers to attending the evening performance and/or is curious to see, hear and experience an orchestra in action, at work.

BOLD TENDENCIES

We need your help!

Every year we fundraise to keep our programme thriving and to keep tickets affordable. This means ticket sales only cover about 5% of our costs. Every donation, however big or small, has a major impact and helps us to do more and better. Donations can be made on-site and on-line on our website.

Huge thanks to our 2023 Supporters

Southwark Council, Art Fund, Selfridges, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Phillips, The Mila Charitable Organisation, Genesis Kickstart Fund, Outset Partners, Steinway & Sons, Southby Productions, Vanguardia, Big Issue Access Invest, CMS-CMNO, Hallett Independent Art Insurance, Think Smart Accounts, and all those individuals who have generously donated.

About Bold Tendencies

Bold Tendencies is a non-profit arts organisation started in 2007 in Peckham, London. Bold Tendencies supports artists to develop their ideas and to realise site-specific projects and present live performances from its rooftop home, Peckham's Multi-Storey Car Park. Bold Tendencies celebrates the free enjoyment of public space in the city, welcoming participation in its rich, experimental programme and preserving open access to this special, spectacular place.

Bold Tendencies Team

Hannah Barry - Artistic Director & Chief Executive

Diana Córdoba Barrios - Managing Director

Tom Kelly - Site & Production Manager

Charlie Mills - Visual Arts Curator & Producer

Misty Ingham - Creative Learning Producer

Toby Taylor - Visitor Engagement Manager & Live Events

Katrina Nzegwu - Visitor Engagement Manager & Artist Research

Esme Wedderburn - Creative Learning Facilitator

Akhera Williams - Creative Learning Facilitator

Molly Burrows - Visitor Engagement Assistant

Margot Dower - Visitor Engagement Assistant

Maya King-Dabbs - Visitor Engagement Assistant

Luca Pokorny - Visitor Engagement Assistant

Mitzi Clarke - Back of House Assistant

Riccardo Pillon - Special Projects

Simon Whybray - Graphic Design

Oscar Maguire - Visualisation

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