"The most convivial vanguard in modern musical history."
- Alex Ross, *The New Yorker*

2027 Marks the 40th Anniversary of the Creation of Bang on a Can

Born out of the friendship of three young composers – Michael Gordon, David Lang and Julia Wolfe – Bang on a Can was created to build a better ecosystem for new music new musical ideas. Arriving in New York in the 1980s, they noticed composition had devolved into separate "scenes," dividing composers, performers, and audiences into isolated micro-communities. They imagined opening the borders between these groupings would build a bigger, more supportive, more energized, more innovative musical community. And they theorized that genre-defying experimental music, performed at the highest level, but presented in a welcoming, casual environment, could change the musical world.

The result was the First Annual Bang on a Can Marathon, presented at Exit Art in Soho, on Mother's Day, 1987. In the forty years since, they have presented their marathon concerts around the world; launched two thriving multi-day festivals: Long Play and LOUD Weekend; invented a virtuosically unique ensemble, the Bang on a Can All-Stars, that tours the globe; started a summer school for young composers and performers whose graduates are now leaders in the international new music scene; started a record label that has sold hundreds of thousands of recordings; and commissioned and premiered more than a thousand pieces by composers from all walks of musical experience. Forty years on, Bang on a Can has become an essential part of how the ecosystem of new and unusual music refreshes itself, in New York, in the United States, and all around the world.

At its core, Bang on a Can is about making music new. In the 2026-27 season, to celebrate forty years of remaking the music world, they gave the U.S. Premiere of Steve Reich's *In All Your Ways* at Carnegie Hall, and then tour it and other programs of Reich's music, in honor of his 90th birthday. In honor of Philip Glass's 90th birthday, the Bang on a Can All-Stars tour his iconic *Glassworks*, in an exclusive new arrangement for Bang on a Can by Glass's longtime music director Michael Riesman. The All-Stars will also tour their new arrangement of Ryuichi Sakamoto's classic album *1996*, in coordination with the upcoming commercial release of their recording (out on November 20 from Cantaloupe Music); Julia Wolfe's *Anthracite Fields*; an all-Michael Gordon program to the November Music Festival in the Netherlands; and David Lang's *before and after nature*.

Other highlights include a 40th Anniversary Gala honoring Alexandra Munroe and Philip Glass, a 40th Anniversary Residency at the Big Ears Festival, Long Play 2027, which is the largest annual gathering of experimental music in New York, and the celebration of the very newest voices with Summer Festival Fellows at LOUD Weekend.

The story of four decades of Bang on a Can is also the story of nearly five decades of friendship between three innovative composers of our time. From the very first

marathon, Gordon, Lang, and Wolfe's generous approach to music-making has reshaped the entire field, seamlessly expanding to include composers, performers and audiences from across a wide musical spectrum. At the same time, their reach as individual composers continues to expand.

Gordon, Lang, and Wolfe say:
"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."

The history of Bang on a Can is one of constant evolution:

- At the **First Annual Bang on a Can Marathon (1987)**, adventurous music across a broad spectrum shared the same stage.
- Within five years of the first marathon **(1992)**, the repertoire demanded a dedicated band, and the **Bang on a Can All-Stars** began bringing the music outside New York.
- The **People's Commissioning Fund (1997)** connected composers to audiences, by bundling hundreds of small contributions and inviting scores of composers to write new pieces. All members of the fund were then invited to hear the music they'd put into the world.
- When innovative composers struggled to get professional recordings, the label **Cantaloupe Music (2001)** mixed and promoted projects that did not fit the big labels, enabling Bang on a Can to take recording curation into their own hands.
- The **Summer Music Festival (2002)** became the first program in the country dedicated to teaching the next generation of experimental musicians.
- The **Asphalt Orchestra (2009)** was founded to march the music through the streets.
- **OneBeat (2012)** and **Found Sound Nation (2007)** used music-making to bridge cultural divides for fifteen years, collaborating with the U.S. Department of State as a diplomatic exchange program.
- The Summer Music Festival, led by today's pioneers of experimental music, evolved to include **LOUD Weekend (2019)**.
- The **Online Marathon (2020)** continued supporting artists and audiences during Covid, including the premiere of 70 new commissions through 2020-2021
- The Marathon evolved into **Long Play Festival (2022)**, which offers over 60 concerts over one weekend, taking over a swath of Brooklyn - creating an ever-expanding community of adventurous musical artistry.
- At every turn, **Bang on a Can** has worked to build a musical utopia, by breaking down walls between composers, between genres, and between performers and audiences, so musical ideas can flow freely. This commitment to solving real problems for artists and audiences has made the organization central to new music.

BANG ON A CAN 2026-27 SEASON CONCERT SCHEDULE

Tuesday, September 22, 2026, 8pm
Julia Wolfe: *Fire in my mouth*
Southbank Centre - London, United Kingdom
Philharmonia Orchestra, London Voices, Farnham Youth Choir & Royal Scottish National Orchestra Youth Choir; Marin Alsop, conductor

Thursday, October 22, 2026, 8pm
Steve Reich at 90: A Birthday Celebration
Carnegie Hall - New York, New York
Bang on a Can All-Stars & Ensemble Signal; Brad Lubman, Conductor / Lisa Kaplan, Piano / Nico Muhly, Piano / Bryce Dessner, Electric Guitar
Program:

- *Electric Counterpoint*
- *Two Pianos (US Premiere)*
- *Double Sextet*
- *Jacob's Ladder*
- *In All Your Ways (US Premiere, co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall*)

Saturday, October 24, 2026, 7:30pm
Steve Reich at 90: A Birthday Celebration
Cal Performances - Berkeley, CA
Bang on a Can All-Stars, Ensemble Signal
Program:

- *Electric Counterpoint*
- *Two Pianos*
- *Double Sextet*
- *Jacob's Ladder*
- *In All Your Ways*

Thursday, October 29, 2026, 7:30pm
Julia Wolfe's *Anthracite Fields*
NYU Skirball
Bang on a Can All-Stars and Trinity Choir | Melissa Attebury, conductor
New York University - New York, NY

Thursday, November 5, 2026, 7:30pm
90/90: a Philip Glass & Steve Reich 90th Birthday Celebration
Purdue Convocations - Purdue IN
Bang on a Can All-Stars
Program:

- Steve Reich, *NY Counterpoint*
- Steve Reich, *2x5*
- Philip Glass, *Glassworks* (arr Michael Riesman)

Thursday, November 5, 2026, 8:15pm
Julia Wolfe: *Fire in my mouth*

De Doelen - Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, National Children's Choir, National Women's Youth Choir, National Women's Project Choir; Brad Lubman, conductor

Friday, November 6, 2026, 7:30pm
90/90: a Philip Glass & Steve Reich 90th Birthday Celebration
University of Kentucky
Bang on a Can All-Stars
Program:

- Steve Reich, *NY Counterpoint*
- Steve Reich, *2x5*
- Philip Glass, *Glassworks* (arr Michael Riesman)

Saturday, November 7, 2026, 2:15pm
Julia Wolfe: *Fire in my mouth*
Het Concertgebouw, Amsterdam
Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, National Children's Choir, National Women's Youth Choir, National Women's Project Choir; Brad Lubman, conductor

Saturday, November 14, 2026, 8pm
Julia Wolfe's *Anthracite Fields*
Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre, Boston
Bang on a Can All-Stars & Chorus Pro Musica; Jamie Kirsch, conductor

Friday, November 20, 2026 (ask Bill!)
ALBUM RELEASE: Ryuichi Sakamoto *1996*
Bang on a Can All-Stars
Cantaloupe Music

Sunday, November 22, 2026, 5pm
Bang on a Can All-Stars play Michael Gordon & Louis Andriessen
November Music Festival, Netherlands
Program:

- Louis Andriessen, *Life* with film by Marijke van Warmerdam
- Michael Gordon:
  -Violin/Brooklyn
  -For Madeline
  -I Buried Paul
  -Gene takes a drink
  -Moose Unseen

Thursday, December 3, 2026
Bang on a Can at the Jewish Museum
New York, NY
Program TBA

Saturday, January 9, 2027, 8pm

Philip Glass: *Glassworks* (arr Michael Riesman)
Ryuichi Sakamoto: Selections from *1996* (arr Ken Thomson)
McCallum Theatre - Palm Desert, CA
Bang on a Can All-Stars

Tuesday, January 12, 2027, 7pm
Philip Glass: *Glassworks* (arr Michael Riesman)
Terry Riley: *A Rainbow in Curved Air* (arr Gyan Riley)
Chamber Music Corvallis - Corvallis, OR
Bang on a Can All-Stars

Friday, January 15, 2027, 7:30pm
Steve Reich: *Electric Counterpoint*
Michael Gordon: *Big Space**
Philip Glass: *Glassworks* (arr Michael Riesman)
Musco Center for the Arts - Orange, CA
Bang on a Can All-Stars
*Performed with Members of Orange County Youth Symphony and Members of Chapman University's College of Performing Arts

Sunday, January 17, 2027
Aspen, CO
Bang on a Can All-Stars
Program:

- Ryuichi Sakamoto: 1996 (arr Ken Thomson)
- Philip Glass: *Glassworks* (arr Michael Riesman)

Bang on a Can All-Stars

Wednesday, January 27, 2027, 7:30pm
90/90: a Philip Glass & Steve Reich 90th Birthday Celebration
Wisconsin Union Theater, Shannon Hall - Madison, WI
Bang on a Can All-Stars
Program:

- Steve Reich, *Electric Counterpoint*
- Philip Glass: *Glassworks* (arr Michael Riesman)

Bang on a Can All-Stars

Friday, January 29, 2027, 8pm
90/90: a Philip Glass & Steve Reich 90th Birthday Celebration
The Royal Conservatory, Koerner Hall - Toronto, Canada
Bang on a Can All-Stars
Program:

- Steve Reich, *Electric Counterpoint*
- Philip Glass, *Glassworks* (arr Michael Riesman)

Friday, January 29-30, 2027, 7:30pm / 2pm
David Lang: *assembly of the poor hymnal*
University of Richmond Modlin Center - Richmond. VA
The Crossing | Donald Nally, Conductor

Annie-B Parson, director/choreographer

Friday, February 19-21, 2027, 11am & 5pm / 11:30am / 1pm
David Lang: *assembly of the poor hymnal*
Gerrard Hall, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
The Crossing | Donald Nally, Conductor
Annie-B Parson, director/choreographer

Monday, March 8, 2027
Bang on a Can Gala - save the date!

Sunday, March 21-22, 2027
David Lang: *before and after nature*
Yale University - New Haven, CT
Bang on a Can All-Stars and the Yale Choir

Thursday, April 1, 2027
Bang on a Can 40 Years at Big Ears Festival
Ryuichi Sakamoto, *1996* (arr Ken Thomson)
Big Ears Festival Knoxville, TN
Bang on a Can All-Stars

Friday, April 2, 2027
Bang on a Can 40 Years at Big Ears Festival
Philip Glass, *Glassworks* (arr Michael Riesman)
Big Ears Festival Knoxville, TN
Bang on a Can All-Stars

Saturday, April 3, 2027
Bang on a Can 40 Years at Big Ears Festival
- Julia Wolfe, *Steel Hammer* with Bang on a Can All-Stars
- Michael Gordon, *Field of Vision* with University of Michigan Percussion Ensemble; Doug Perkins, director

Big Ears Festival Knoxville, TN

Sunday, April 4, 2027
Bang on a Can at Big Ears Festival
- David Lang, *mystery sonatas* with Emma Meinraken
- Steve Reich, *Music for 18* with Bang on a Can All-Stars & Friends

Big Ears Festival Knoxville, TN

Friday, April 9, 2027, 7:30pm
David Lang: *before and after nature*
Carnegie Hall, New York, NY
Bang on a Can All-Stars and The Crossing; Donald Nally, conductor

April 29 – May 2, 2027
LONG PLAY FESTIVAL
Brooklyn, NY

50+ concerts in 3 days featuring new and recent works by more than 50 composers and 300+ performers.

Friday, May 21, 2027
Julia Wolfe: *Fire in my mouth*
May Festival, Cincinnati, OH
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, May Festival Chorus; Marin Alsop, conductor

July 12-31, 2027
Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival at MASS MoCA
North Adams, MA
3-week residency and festival for early career composers and performers

Sunday, July 25, 2027
Michael Gordon: *Forest of Metal Objects*
Caramoor Center for the Arts, Katonah, NY
Annie-B Parson and Paul Lazar, co-directors
Doug Perkins, music director
University of Michigan Percussion Ensemble

July 29 – 31, 2027
LOUD Weekend at MASS MoCA
North Adams, MA
30 concerts in 3 days featuring music by 70+ innovative composers and performers

(ALL Concerts Subject to Change)

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Please contact Emily Motherwell, motherwell@otherarts.net, 646-266-6918