



EMPAC

darker

**FRIDAY
APRIL 27
7:30 PM**

**DAVID
LANG**

**ENSEMBLE
SIGNAL**

**SUZANNE
BOCANEGRA**

darker

David Lang

Suzanne Bocanegra ··· *Live Visuals*

Jeff Larson ··· *Video Engineer*

ENSEMBLE SIGNAL

Brad Lubman, *Conductor*

Olivia DePrato, *Violin*

Courtney Orlando, *Violin*

Serena McKinney, *Violin*

Ari Streisfeld, *Violin*

Conrad Harris, *Violin*

Lauren Cauley, *Violin*

Molly Germer, *Violin*

Isabel Hagen, *Viola*

Victor Lowrie, *Viola*

Lauren Radnofsky, *Cello*

Mariel Roberts, *Cello*

Greg Chudzik, *Double Bass*

Paul Coleman, *Sound Engineer*

Tiffany Valvo, *Assistant Project Manager*

There is a big gulf between the way that classical music teaches us to experience emotions and the way that our emotions are actually felt.

We have a great tradition in Western music of embracing great swings of temperament and mood—we have no problem thinking that a piece can move seamlessly from something that is whisper-soft to ear-splittingly loud. When I think of how my life actually works, however, I don't think of it in terms of giant emotional leaps from one extreme to another—most of my emotional range is not from extreme bliss to gut-wrenching misery and back, all in a short period of time; my range is much more narrow, and too slowly changing for that. In my piece *darker* I wanted to make a piece of music that more closely matches my own emotional narrative than the narrative we have inherited from the dramatic music of the past.

darker is in many ways more like an object than a piece of music. It is a long, slow passing from something mostly even and pleasant to something a little less pleasant. My piece, like life, expends a lot of effort to go a very short distance, from beautiful to a little less beautiful, from a little light to something a little *darker*.

darker is dedicated to the memory of Jeanette Yanikian.

—David Lang

DAVID LANG

David Lang is one of the most highly esteemed and performed American composers writing today. His works have been performed around the world in most of the great concert halls.

Lang's *simple song #3*, written as part of his score for Paolo Sorrentino's acclaimed film *Youth*, received many honors in 2016, including Academy Award, Golden Globe, and Critics Choice nominations, among others.

Lang's *the little match girl* passion won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Music. Commissioned by Carnegie Hall and based on a fable by Hans Christian Andersen and Lang's own rewriting of the libretto to Bach's St. Matthew Passion, the recording of the piece was awarded a 2010 Grammy Award for Best Small Ensemble Performance. Lang has also been the recipient of the Rome Prize, Le Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres, and Musical America's 2013 Composer of the Year. Lang's tenure, from 2013–2014, as Carnegie Hall's Richard and Barbara Debs Composer's Chair saw his critically acclaimed festival collected stories showcase different modes of storytelling in music.

Recent premieres include his opera *the loser*, which opened the 2016 Next Wave Festival at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and for which Lang served as composer, librettist, and stage director, *the public domain* for 1000 singers at Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, his chamber opera *anatomy theater* at Los Angeles Opera and at the Prototype Festival in New York, and the concerto *man made* for the ensemble So Percussion and a consortium of orchestras, including the BBC Symphony and the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

In addition to his work as a composer, Lang is Artist in Residence at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, and is a Professor of Composition at the Yale School of Music.

Lang is co-founder and co-artistic director of New York's legendary music collective Bang on a Can. His music is published by Red Poppy Music (AS-CAP) and is distributed worldwide by G. Schirmer, Inc.

SUZANNE BOCANEGRA

Suzanne Bocanegra is an artist living and working in New York City. A recipient of the Rome Prize, she has received grants from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation, the Tiffany Foundation, the Joan Mitchell Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the New York Foundation for the Arts. Her recent work involves large-scale performance and installation, frequently translating two dimensional information, images, and ideas from the past into three-dimensional scenarios for staging, movement, ballet, and music.

Bocanegra's piece "Rerememberer," uses the weaving instructions for a scrap of antique Danish peasant fabric as a template for an evening-length theatrical performance, with an amplified loom, an accordion virtuoso, a DJ, and an orchestra of 50 volunteers playing violin who have been taught to play only one hour before the performance. "Rerememberer" was premiered at the Judson Memorial Church in New York City and traveled to Copenhagen in 2010.

Her piece *When a Priest Marries a Witch, an Artist Talk by Suzanne Bocanegra Starring Paul Lazar* premiered at the Museum of Modern Art, NYC in 2010 and traveled to the Wexner Center in Ohio, the Tang Museum at Skidmore College, James Cohan Gallery in NYC, the Performing Garage in NYC, Princeton University, the Prelude Theater Festival in NYC, the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, the Fusebox Festival in Austin, Texas and Mt. Tremper Arts in Mt. Tremper, New York. It also had a week-long run at the Chocolate Factory, an experimental theater in NYC.

Bocanegra's work has been seen in exhibitions in the United States and abroad, in such venues as the Serpentine Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Hayward Gallery in London, the Armand Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, and the Fabric Workshop in Philadelphia. Her theatrical, video and film work has been presented at the Bang on Can Festival, the New Haven Festival of Art and Ideas, the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, and as part of the Wordless Music series in New York.

In 2013 *Bodycast, an Artist Lecture by Suzanne Bocanegra starring Frances McDormand* a one-hour lecture performance, premiered at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh. It has since travelled to the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles, the Henry Museum in Seattle and Commonweal in Bolinas, California.

ENSEMBLE SIGNAL

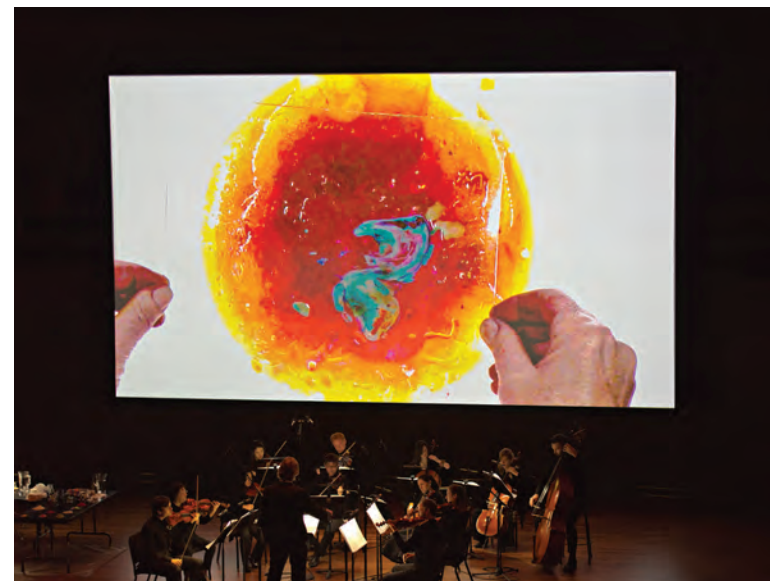
Ensemble Signal, described by *The New York Times* as “one of the most vital groups of its kind,” is a NY-based ensemble dedicated to offering the broadest possible audience access to a diverse range of contemporary works through performance, commissioning, recording, and education. Since its debut in 2008, the Ensemble has performed over 150 concerts, has given the NY, world, or US premieres of over 20 works, and co-produced nine recordings.

Signal was founded by Co-Artistic/Executive Director Lauren Radnofsky and Co-Artistic Director/Conductor Brad Lubman. Called a “new music dream team” by *TimeOutNY*, Signal regularly performs with Lubman and features a supergroup of independent artists from the modern music scene. Lubman, one of the foremost conductors of modern music and a leading figure in the field for over two decades, is a frequent guest with the world’s most distinguished orchestras and new music ensembles.

Signal’s passion for the diverse range of music being written today is a driving force behind their projects. The Ensemble’s repertoire ranges from minimalism and pop to the iconoclastic European avant-garde. Signal’s projects are carefully conceived through close collaboration with cooperating presenting organizations, composers, and artists. Signal is flexible in size and instrumentation—everything from solo to large ensemble and opera, including film and multimedia, in any possible combination—enabling it to meet the ever-changing demands on the 21st-century performing ensemble.

The Ensemble is a frequent guest of the finest concert halls and international festivals including Lincoln Center Festival, the Los Angeles Philharmonic’s Series at Walt Disney Concert Hall, BIG EARS Festival, Carnegie Hall’s Zankel Hall, Lincoln Center American Songbook, Cal Performances, Tanglewood Music Festival of Contemporary Music, Ojai Music Festival, the Guggenheim Museum (NY), the Wordless Music Series, and the Bang on a Can Marathon. They regularly work directly with nearly all the composers they perform in order to offer the most authentic interpretations, a list that includes Steve Reich, Helmut Lachenmann, Michael Gordon, David Lang, Julia Wolfe, and Hans Abrahamsen.

Recent premieres include a new work by Steve Reich entitled *Runner*, for 19 musicians. Signal’s recording of Reich’s *Music for 18 Musicians* (produced at EMPAC) was released in May 2015 on harmonia mundi and received a Diapason d’or and appeared on the Billboard Classical Crossover Charts. Additional recordings include a CD & DVD of music by Lachenmann, with the composer as soloist in “...Zwei Gefühle...” (Mode) and Steve Reich’s *Double Sextet & Radio Rewrite* (harmonia mundi). Signal’s educational activities include community outreach programs in diverse settings as well workshops with the next generation of composers and performers at institutions including the Eastman School of Music, and the June in Buffalo Festival at the University at Buffalo’s Center for 21st Century Music where they are a visiting resident ensemble.



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