
EVIYAN

Thursday, March 16, 2017, 7:30pm

Iva Bittová, *voice and violin*
Gyan Riley, *acoustic guitar*
Evan Ziporyn, *clarinet and bass clarinet*

Program to be selected from the following, plus improvisations and new works:

Farewell	Iva Bittová (poem by Chris Cutler)
Kebyar Blues	Evan Ziporyn
Kind of...	Iva Bittová, Gyan Riley, Vladimír Václavek, Evan Ziporyn
Melismantra	Gyan Riley
Midnight	Gyan Riley
Naléhava	Iva Bittová, Vladimír Václavek
Odd Meeting	Evan Ziporyn
Paper Cone	Iva Bittová, Gyan Riley, Vladimír Václavek, Evan Ziporyn (poem by Ken Hunt)
Pygmyesque	Evan Ziporyn
Sun Shower	Evan Ziporyn

Iva Bittová's and Vladimír Václavek's compositions are published by GEMA. Gyan Riley's compositions are published by Agyanamus Music (BMI). Evan Ziporyn's compositions are published by Airplane Ears Music (ASCAP).

Thanks to Antonín Fajt, Peter Robles, Christine Southworth, and Vladimír Václavek.

ABOUT EVIYAN

Eviyan merges the sounds of three unique composer-performers into a singular blend of world roots, post-minimalism, and jazz. These eclectic, genre-crossing musicians join forces to create a soundtrack for the 21st century global village—simple, organic, and direct, with intensity, lyricism, earthy impact, and instrumental virtuosity. Over the years, these three musicians' paths crossed repeatedly, and each recognized an energy in the others and a synergy in their shared work. Now they have come together, composing all new material for one another and creating a new yet natural sound. Though they are three distinct composer-performers, they have a shared ethos: that music must reflect its roots, but not be bound by them. All are committed to making music that engages the mind, moves the body, and frees the spirit.

IVA BITTOVÁ

Iva Bittová was born in 1958 to musical parents in the Moravian Province of what is now the Czech Republic. Her father was strongly influenced by the land of his birth, southern Slovakia, and he was a major influence on his three daughters, Iva, Ida, and Regina, all professional performers. While attending the Brno Music Conservatory, Bittová took part-time engagements as an actress and musician in Brno's Divadlo Husa na provázku (Goose On A String Theater) and was soon a featured actress in radio, television, and movies. While working full time in theater, she rekindled her interest in playing violin. After her father's death, she decided to follow in his professional footsteps as an instrumentalist and by composing her own music. The violin became Bittová's passion and she developed a singular approach in which violin and voice could be considered two aspects of a single human

instrument. She soon became a fixture in the Czech musical landscape and a national treasure. She won awards from the Czech Musical Academy, including Record of the Year in 1988, was named a 2006 Brno Personality of the Year, and performed in state ceremonies for Václav Havel, George W. Bush, Mikhail Gorbachev, Helmut Kohl, and Margaret Thatcher. In turn, she developed an international reputation, working with artists such as Bobby McFerrin, Fred Frith, David Krakauer, Nederlands Blazers Ensemble, and the Calder String Quartet. In 2007, after 17 years in the countryside near Brno, she relocated to the Hudson Valley in upstate New York.

GYAN RILEY

Gyan Riley grew up on the edge of California's Sierra Nevada mountains, winning his first guitar in a raffle when he was 12 years old. After learning all the songs in his cassette collection by ear, he began his lifelong adventure in music, becoming the first full scholarship graduate guitar student at the San Francisco Conservatory. He spent the next 15 years in the Bay Area, touring as a classical guitar soloist and in various ensembles. This included performances with Zakir Hussain, Dawn Upshaw, the San Francisco Symphony, and his father, composer pianist-vocalist Terry Riley. As a composer, he was commissioned by Carnegie Hall, the American Composers Forum, and the New York Guitar Festival. Over the years, the younger Riley has performed throughout Europe, Canada, Latin America, and the United States at venues such as Carnegie Hall, London's Barbican Theatre, the All Tomorrow's Parties Festival, the Big Ears Festival, Moogfest, and solo with the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra at the Kimmel Center. In 2010 Gyan relocated to Brooklyn, where his diverse work now focuses on his own compositions and improvisations. In addition to his work with Eviyan, Riley's other projects include the duo Pluck with Wu Fei (guzheng and voice), the duo SuperBalls with David Cossin (percussion), the quintet Al-Madar, fronted by Bassam Saba (oud, ney, flutes), and a duo with Terry Riley (piano, synth, voice). In January 2011, Riley's fourth recording of original compositions, entitled *Stream of Gratitude*, was released on Tzadik Records.

EVAN ZIPORYN

Ziporyn was born in Chicago, studied composition at the Eastman School of Music, Yale, and the University of California, Berkeley, and spent much of the 1980s studying traditional gamelan in Bali. In 1987, he performed a clarinet solo at the first Bang on a Can (BOAC) marathon in New York. His involvement with BOAC continued for 25 years. In 1992, he cofounded the BOAC All-Stars (*Musical America's* 2005 Ensemble of the Year), with whom he toured the globe and premiered over 100 commissioned works, collaborating with Nik Bartsch, Don Byron, Ornette Coleman, Brian Eno, Philip Glass, Meredith Monk, Thurston Moore, Terry Riley, and Tan Dun. He co-produced their seminal 1996 recording of Brian Eno's *Music for Airports*, as well as their most recent album, *Big Beautiful Dark & Scary*. In 1993, Ziporyn founded his own 25-piece ensemble, Gamelan Galak Tika, and began a series of groundbreaking compositions for gamelan and western instruments. These culminated in his 2009 opera, *A House in Bali*, which joins western singers with Balinese traditional performers, and the All-Stars with a full gamelan. It received its world premiere in Bali that summer and its New York premiere at BAM Next Wave in October 2010. As a clarinetist, Ziporyn recorded the definitive version of Steve Reich's multi-clarinet "New York Counterpoint" in 1996, sharing in that ensemble's Grammy in 1998. In 2001 his solo clarinet album, *This is Not A Clarinet*, made top ten lists across the United States. His compositions have been commissioned by Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road, Kronos Quartet, Brooklyn Rider, Sentieri Selveggi, American Composers Orchestra, Maya Beiser, So Percussion, Wu Man, and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, with whom he recorded his most recent album, *Big Grenadilla / Mumbai*. Recordings of his works have been released on Cantaloupe, Sony Classical, New Albion, New World, Koch, Naxos, Innova, and CRI. Ziporyn joined the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) faculty in 1990. He currently heads the music department and is the inaugural director of MIT's newly founded Center for Art, Science, and Technology.