

## KRONOS QUARTET // Projects 2026-27

### TERRY RILEY AT 90

Kronos celebrates the 90th birthday of composer and friend Terry Riley with a program featuring selections from the nearly 30 pieces that Riley has written for Kronos since 1980. Alongside some of Riley's monumental works are Kronos staples by Hamza El Din (a longtime friend of Riley's) and Aleksandra Vrebalov (a composer whom Riley has long admired and respected). Riley has made it part of his creative life to stay in close touch with emerging artists. This intergalactic program also includes songs from Kronos's recent album and tribute to Sun Ra, *Outer Spaceways Incorporated*, to which Riley also contributed a track.

#### Program:

Terry Riley: Good Medicine  
Aleksandra Vrebalov: Gold Came From Space  
Sun Ra / Jacob Garchik: Outer Spaceways, Inc.  
Hamza El Din: Escalay  
Terry Riley: One Earth, One People, One Love  
Pete Townshend: Baba O'Riley  
Sun Ra / Terry Riley: Kiss Yo Ass Goodbye  
Terry Riley: Cadenza on the Night Plain\*  
Yoko Ono: To Match the Sky\*

\*works with accompanying video / projection

### GLORIOUS MAHALIA!

This program explores iconic activist voices of America from the 20th century and beyond. Kronos pays homage to the beloved voice of Mahalia Jackson and her vital friendships with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and oral historian/activist Studs Terkel. A daughter of Jim Crow Louisiana and the Great Migration, Jackson was a woman of deep faith, whose key role in historic moments in the fight for civil rights lays the groundwork for two major works on this program – Zachary J. Watkins's *Peace Be Till*, featuring the recorded voice of Dr. King's lawyer and speechwriter Clarence B. Jones, and Stacy Garrop's *Glorious Mahalia*, featuring a recorded interview between Jackson and Terkel.

#### Program to include:

Stacey Garrop: *Glorious Mahalia*  
Abel Merropol: *Strange Fruit*  
John Coltrane: *Alabama*  
Zachary Watkins: *Peace Be Till*  
Link Wray: *Rumble*  
Ken Benshoof: *John Brown's Body*  
Charlton Singleton: *New Work TBD* feat. Quentin Baxter, percussion

## THE EXTRAORDINARY WORLD OF NICOLE LIZÉE

A portrait program of Canadian composer Nicole Lizée and the fantastical music she has written for Kronos over the years. These mind-bending works feature Kronos performing on turntables, stylophones, omnichords, whirly tubes, rotary phones, knitting needles, and more. Hailed as a “brilliant musical scientist” by the BBC, Lizée conjures nostalgic sounds and futuristic glitches that are folded into riveting string quartet landscapes. The Kronos Quartet is currently recording an all-Lizée album.

Program to include:

Nicole Lizée: Another Living Soul

Nicole Lizée: Black MIDI (4tet version)\*

Nicole Lizée: Death to Kosmische

Nicole Lizée: ZonelyHearts\*

Optional: Nicole Lizée: *New work TBD* feat. Sō Percussion

Also available:

Nicole Lizée: Black MIDI The Concerto

Original version performed with orchestra

\*works with accompanying video / projection

## THE EVOLVING WORLD OF KRONOS

In line with Kronos’s ethos of presenting varied and compelling programs, the quartet will create a tailor-made concert experience for the presenter, drawing from today’s most pressing issues.

## RESPONDING TO WAR

For 51 years, Kronos has supported the work of composers who confront the atrocities and tragedies of war through music and protest. George Crumb’s *Black Angels* is the piece that set Kronos down the activist path. Written during the Vietnam War and subtitled “Thirteen Images from the Dark Land,” the iconic work conveys Crumb’s grief over the direction the world was heading in. In her program note for *Bombs of Beirut*, Mary Kouyoumdjian writes, “Inspired by loved ones who grew up during the Lebanese Civil War, it is my hope that *Bombs of Beirut* provides a sonic picture of what day-to-day life is like in a turbulent Middle East – not filtered through the news and media, but through the real words of real people.”

Neil Young’s response to the 1970 Kent State shootings came in the form of the enduring protest song *Ohio*, newly arranged for Kronos by cellist Paul Wiancko. Steve Reich uses interviews of Holocaust survivors and others who suffered through World War II in his groundbreaking 27-minute quartet *Different Trains*. Terry Riley’s *One Earth, One People, One Love* is a plea for peace.

Program to include:

George Crumb: *Black Angels*

Mary Kouyoumdjian: *Bombs of Beirut*

Terry Riley: *One Earth, One People, One Love*

Neil Young: *Ohio*

Steve Reich: *Different Trains*

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Kronos explores the rich beauty of our planet and the urgency to preserve the environment, told through the voices of some of today's most illustrious composers and musicians. Peni Candra Rini incorporates sounds of rain and frogs sourced from Indonesia, and Gabriella Smith uses interviews with individuals who are tackling the climate crisis. Soo Yeon Lyuh seeks to preserve and explore the sounds of the Korean women divers of Jeju Island whose culture is threatened by environmental impact. On March 28, 2025, Kronos will premiere a brand new quintet with Norwegian musician Benedicte Maurseth. The work will be composed by Maurseth and sound artist Kristine Tjøgersen, and will feature recorded sounds from the Norwegian landscapes and Maurseth's home. Kronos will perform on four newly made Hardanger instruments by luthier Ottar Kåsa. This work will be approximately 35 minutes.

Peni Candra Rini: Hujan

Tanya Tagaq: Sivunittinni

Soo Yeon Lyuh: Sounds of Resilience

Guest Artist: Soo Yeon Lyuh, haegeum

Hildur Guðnadóttir: Folk Faer Andlit

Mariana Sadovska: Chernobyl: The Harvest

Guest Artist: Mariana Sadovska, voice/harmonium

Gabriella Smith: Keep Going

Benedicte Maurseth / Kristine Tjøgersen: Elja

Guest Artist: Benedicte Maurseth, voice/Hardanger fiddle

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