

KRONOS QUARTET // Projects 2025-26

Available periods:

- 14 -23. August 2025
- 08 - 16. September 2025
- 16 - 27. March 2026

KRONOS MEETS HARDANGER

This new quintet with Kronos and Norwegian musician Benedicte Maurseth celebrates the sonic world of the traditional Hardanger fiddle. The work will be composed by Maurseth and sound artist Kristine Tjøgersen, and will feature recorded sounds. Kronos will perform on four newly made Hardanger instruments by luthier Ottar Kåsa.

GLORIOUS MAHALIA!

In this program, Kronos Quartet 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. Additional works on the program will explore other iconic, activist voices of 20th-century America.

KRONOS/NONESUCH – 40 YEARS

Kronos celebrates 40 years with the Nonesuch label in 2025. The group will mark the milestone with programs featuring works from Nonesuch's upcoming 20+ CD Box Set that will include iconic recordings such as Black Angels, Kronos Quartet performs Philip Glass, Ghost Opera, Different Trains, Early Music, Pieces of Africa, Henryk Górecki String Quartet No. 3 ("...songs are sung"), Nuevo, Requiem for a Dream, Sun Rings, Mugam Sayagi, and more.

TERRY RILEY AT 90

Kronos celebrates Terry Riley's 90th birthday (2025) with programs featuring selections from the nearly 30 pieces that Riley has written for Kronos since 1980, such as Cadenza on the Night Plain, Sun Rings, Sunrise of the Planetary Dream Collector, This Assortment of Atoms – One Time Only!, and others.

KRONOS FIVE DECADES COMMISSIONS

Kronos celebrated its 50th anniversary in the 23/24 season with ten new commissions. 24/25 and 25/26 programs will feature these new works, written by Sahba Aminikia, Peni Candra Rini, inti figgis-vizueta, Michael Gordon, Mary Kouyoumdjian, Gabriella Smith, Trey Spruance, Mazz Swift, Vãn-Ánh Võ, and Aleksandra Vrebalov.

COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT: NICOLE LIZÉE

This 75-min. program celebrates the music of experimental Canadian composer Nicole Lizée with several works she has written for Kronos over the years. The concert will feature both recent and early works with recently created videos – Zonely Hearts, Black MIDI, The Golden Age of the Radiophonic Workshop, and others – all of which highlight Lizée’s fascination with reviving obsolete technology, and harnessing imperfection and glitch to create new kinds of precision.

KEEP GOING – A PROGRAM ABOUT CLIMATE

This program explores climate solutions in different fields – including ecosystem restoration, renewable energy, regenerative agriculture, education, and more – in recent works by Peni Candra Rini, Hildur Guðnadóttir, Soo Yeon Lyuh, Gabriella Smith, and others.

KRONOS FIFTY FOR THE FUTURE RESIDENCY

Kronos Fifty for the Future is KPAA’s groundbreaking education and legacy initiative that has created a free library of contemporary string quartet repertoire for current and future generations of musicians and composers everywhere. As a component of touring engagements, presenters can create Kronos Fifty for the Future residencies, which include performances by Kronos and other quartets, coaching with Kronos members on works from the collection for local youth and/or emerging professional quartets, and other related activities.

AT WAR WITH OURSELVES – 400 YEARS OF YOU

This powerful evening-length work for string quartet, narrator, and chorus explores race relations, social justice, civil rights, and resistance movements in 21st-century America. At War With Ourselves features text by National Book Award-winning poet Nikky Finney (inspired by her 2013 poem The Battle of and for the Black Face Boy) and music by Michael Abels (Pulitzer Prize-winning co-composer of the opera Omar). Performances feature Kronos, Finney, and a vocal ensemble conducted by Valérie Sainte-Agathe (Artistic Director of the San Francisco Girls Chorus).

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