

KRONOS QUARTET // Projects 2027-28

Dates upon request

A HARD RAIN

On July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb exploded—a date that changed the world forever. Eighty years later, the Grammy-winning Kronos Quartet dedicates the program *A Hard Rain* to this subject, creating a powerful concert evening that interweaves music, eye-witness accounts, and artistic reflection.

The program brings together compositions by Terry Riley, Tanya Tagaq, Laurie Anderson, Gabriella Smith, Philip Glass, Hildur Guðnadóttir, and Viet Cuong. These are complemented by moving arrangements of traditional music, Bob Dylan's iconic *A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall*, and texts from diaries, letters, and speeches by Kiyoshi Tanimoto, Nikita Khrushchev, Saddam Hussein, and General Lee Butler, read by international guests. The dramaturgy spans a wide arc—from intimate, hushed moments to eruptive sound worlds that make the threat of nuclear destruction palpable. At the same time, *A Hard Rain* is a celebration of humanity: an evening about hope, resilience, and the power of art to demand responsibility.

T. Riley: Good Medicine (from *Salome Dances for Peace*)
T. Tagaq / Kronos Quartet / J. Tarman: Colonizer (Remix)
L. Anderson: Flow
P. Candra Rini: Hujan (from *Segara Gunung*)
H. Guðnadóttir: Fólk fær andlit
T. Riley: One Earth, One People, One Love (from *Sun Rings*)
G. Smith: Keep Going: II. Isabel
P. Glass: *Mishima Quartet: VI. Mishima / Closing*
V. Cuong: *Next Week's Trees*
J. Fred Coots (arr. Kronos): For All We Know (inspired by Nina Simone)
Traditional (arr. Kronos): Tusen Tankar (A Thousand Thoughts)
S. Ra / T. Riley / S. Miyamoto: Kiss Yo' Ass Goodbye
B. Dylan: *A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall*

Dates upon request

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

Dates upon request

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

Dates upon request

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

Dates upon request

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

Dates upon request

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.

In 2025, Kronos performed *Elja* for the first time together with the Norwegian musician Benedicte Maurseth. The work, composed by Maurseth and sound artist Kristine Tjøgersen, is complemented by field recordings of Norwegian landscapes as well as sounds from Maurseth's home region. Kronos performs on four specially crafted Hardanger instruments by violin maker Ottar Kåsa. The work has an approximate duration of 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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