

TALEA ENSEMBLE

James Baker, conductor



Thursday, October 28, 2021 · 7:30 pm
Miriam A. Friedberg Concert Hall

Felipe Lara* (b. 1979)

Chambered Spirals World Premiere

INTERMISSION

Zhishu Chang

Into the Red World Premiere

Oscar Bettison* (b. 1975)

La Arqueología del Neón

This concert is part of the celebration of 150 years of composition at Peabody.

The creation of Felipe Lara's Chambered Spirals and this premiere performance by the Talea Ensemble received support from a 2020 Johns Hopkins Catalyst Award.

* Peabody Faculty

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James Baker, conductor

Violin

Karen Kim
Leah Asher

Viola

Hannah Levinson

Cello

Christopher Gross

Flute

Barry J. Crawford

Oboe

Michelle Farah

Clarinet

Rane Moore

Horn

Nicolee Kuester

Saxophone

Ryan Muncy

Percussion

Matthew Gold
Clara Warnaar

Harp

Jacqueline Kerrod

Piano

Stephen Gosling

Heralded as “a crucial part of the New York cultural ecosphere” by the *New York Times*, the Talea Ensemble is comprised of nineteen of New York City’s finest classically-trained musicians, with a mission to champion musical creativity, cultivate curious listeners, and bring visionary new works to life with vibrant performances that remain in the audience’s imagination long after a concert.

Recipients of the 2014 Chamber Music America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming, Talea has brought to life more than 30 commissions of major new works since it was founded in 2008. Partnering with institutions like the Austrian Cultural Forum or the French American Cultural Exchange, Talea has helped introduce NYC audiences to important works of such esteemed composers as Pierre Boulez, Georg Friedrich Haas, Beat Furrer, Pierluigi Billone, or Georges Aperghis.

Praised for their “verve and immaculate virtuosity” by the *Washington Post*, the Talea Ensemble is sought after both in the U.S. and Europe for its range, precision, risk-taking, and superior performance quality. Recent festival engagements include performances at Lincoln Center Festival, Internationales Musikinstitut Darmstadt, the Fromm Concerts at Harvard University, Warsaw Autumn Festival, Wien Modern, Chicago’s Contempo series, Royaumont Voix Nouvelles, Vancouver New Music, and many others. Talea’s recordings have been distributed worldwide on the Wergo, Gravina Musica, Tzadik, Innova, and New World Records labels, and been radio-broadcast on ORF (Austria), HRF (Germany), and WQXR’s Q2.

Talea assumes an ongoing role in supporting a new generation of composers, and has undertaken residencies in music departments at Columbia, Harvard, Stanford, Cornell, New York University, and many others.

James Baker

James Baker is the principal percussionist of the New York City Ballet Orchestra, principal conductor of the Talea Ensemble, and director of the Percussion Ensemble at the Mannes College of Music. He was music director and conductor of the Composers Conference at Brandeis University for 14 years and the conductor of the New York New Music Ensemble for a number of years. This season he is conducting the Grossman Ensemble at the Chicago Center for Contemporary Composition at the University of Chicago. Baker has conducted the Orchestra of the League of Composers, the Slee Sinfonietta at the Institute for 21st Century Music in Buffalo, the American Composers Orchestra, Speculum Musicae, the New York Philharmonic Chamber Ensembles, Ensemble ACJW at Carnegie Hall, the Cygnus Ensemble, Decoda Ensemble, Ensemble Tactus at the Manhattan School of Music, Ensemble 21, Musica Nova at the Eastman School of Music, and DaCapo among many others. Baker has conducted at the Darmstadt, Wien Moderne, Warsaw Autumn, Transit Belgium, Contempuls Prague, June in Buffalo, Nouvelles Voix Royaumont, reMusik St. Petersburg Russia, Contempo Chicago, Musikprotokoll Graz, and Beijing Modern music festivals. He has both played and conducted at the Bang on a Can Marathon and has conducted at the Monday Night Concerts in Los Angeles and Fromm concerts at Harvard. He has conducted a number of Composers Portrait concerts at Miller Theatre in New York, including those of Pierre Boulez (where he led the US premiere of *Derive II*), Toru Takemitsu, Jason Eckardt, John Zorn, and Chou Wen-chung.

Baker was for many years a conductor of Broadway shows, conducting at *The King and I*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Music Man*, *Oklahoma*, and *An Inspector Calls*, among others.