

TALEA ENSEMBLE CHAMBER GROUPS

James Baker, conductor



Saturday, October 30, 2021 · 7:30 pm
Leith Symington Griswold Hall

Jia Yi Lee

sift

Sam Kohler

sun-splash color-room

- i. sun-splashed highway
- ii. in the color-room

David Carlton Adams

On the Thin Ice of Modern Life

Julio Elvin Quiñones

Transmutación

This concert is part of the celebration of 150 years of composition at Peabody. All of the composers represented on this program are Peabody Conservatory graduate students in composition.

The Talea Ensemble's fall 2021 residency at the Peabody Institute received support from a 2020 Johns Hopkins Catalyst Award.

TALEA ENSEMBLE CHAMBER GROUPS

James Baker, conductor

Violin

Leah Asher
Karen Kim

Cello

Christopher Gross

Flute

Barry J. Crawford

Clarinet

Rane Moore

Percussion

Matthew Gold

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.

COMPOSER BIOGRAPHIES

Jia Yi Lee

Jia Yi Lee is a Singaporean composer whose music explores the colors and textures of sound through movement and gesture. She creates imaginative sound worlds inspired by natural phenomena and processes, and is interested in the perception of temporality and timbre in music.

Lee's music has been performed by the Singapore National Youth Orchestra, KOU Musik (Singapore), Ensemble Multilatérale (France), Trio SurPlus (Germany), Ensemble Phoenix (Switzerland), Ensemble Linea (France), Asko|Schönberg (Netherlands) and Ensemble Signal (USA), and in festivals such as June in Buffalo, Etchings Festival, soundSCAPE Festival and Asian Composers League Festival. She has been awarded the Otto Ortmann Prize in Composition (2021) and 3rd Prize in the Prix D'Été Competition (2020).

Lee is currently pursuing her DMA in Composition at the Peabody Conservatory, studying with Felipe Lara. She holds a MM from Peabody and a BM from Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (Singapore).

Sam Kohler

Sam Kohler is a composer, educator, and multi-instrumentalist living in Baltimore, MD. A lifelong musician from a family of dedicated musicians, his music explores the deep connection between color and sound. Previously based in New Orleans, he taught string technique at Make Music NOLA, a music for social change education program. From 2017 to 2020, he served the congregation of St. Paul Lutheran as their organist and choirmaster. Kohler was also previously the bassist for Skeptic Moon, Jank Setup, and Agua de Valencia. As a composer, past collaborations include Talea Ensemble, Albany Symphony, Avenue Azure, Rhythm Method String Quartet, Polymnia Quartet, Cascade Quartet, and New Orleans Chamber Orchestra. He is currently studying composition at the Peabody Conservatory in the studio of Felipe Lara, and previously studied with Barbara Jazwinski and Maxim Samarov.

David Carlton Adams

David Carlton Adams is a composer, performer, and presenter of vocal, instrumental, and electronic music that seeks to transmit, reflect, and transcend.

Having earned a BM in Composition at The Butler School of Music at The University of Texas in Austin (2014), he moved to Baltimore last year with his wife and infant daughter to pursue a Masters in Music Composition at the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University, studying with Oscar Bettison. He serves as the graduate assistant to Joel Puckett and as co-founder of two composer-performer collectives comprising primarily of Peabody students.

In addition to this and his private teaching, Adams serves as a co-director of Fast Forward Austin, a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to presenting new and innovative music to the broader community in and around Austin.

Julio Elvin Quiñones

Known for his compelling and expressive music, Julio Elvin Quiñones writes works that are imbued with passion, intuition and represent every aspect of his identity. He focuses on developing a craft grounded on his Puerto Rican cultural background, interacting with folk and popular music, as well as literature and art from disparate, unconnected places.

His music has been performed by renowned ensembles such as: the Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico's Concert Band, the Young Artists' Orchestra of Puerto Rico, Omnibus Ensemble, the JACK Quartet, loadbang, and members of Ensemble Dal Niente. He has been a fellow at several music festivals such as: highSCORE Festival, New Music on the Point, Divergent Studio and DePaul University, and Ensemble Dal Niente Summer New Music Residency.

Quiñones is currently completing his MM in Music Composition at the Peabody Conservatory with composer Michael Hersch, having been awarded the 2021-22 Randolph S. and Amalie Rothschild Scholarship.