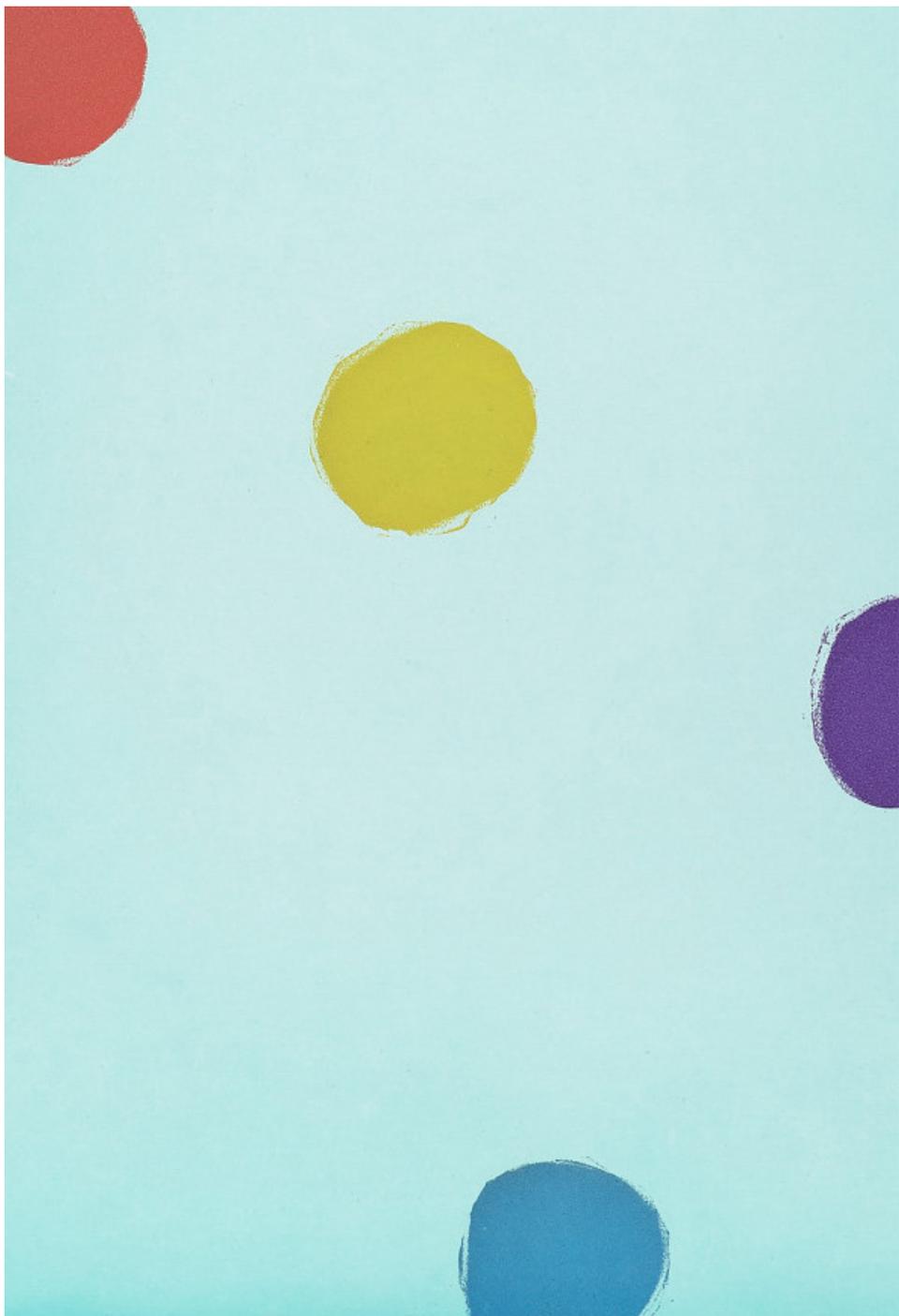




76TH SEASON OF CONCERTS

OCTOBER 8, 2017 / NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART



Program

The Canales Project

Presented in partnership with TEDxMidAtlantic

Lara Downes, piano

Kaoru Watanabe, shinobue bamboo flute

Sandeep Das, tabla

OCTOBER 8, 2017 / 3:30

WEST BUILDING, WEST GARDEN COURT

Program will be announced from the stage.



above Sandeep Das, Photo by Michael Lovett. top right
Kaoru Watanabe, Photo by Bryce Craig. bottom right Lara
Downes, Photo by Shervin Lainez

The Musicians

LARA DOWNES

An iconoclastic pianist whose artistry has been called “luscious, moody and dreamy” by *The New York Times*, Lara Downes takes inspiration where she finds it, going beyond labels like “classical” or “eclectic” to make music that is timeless and timely. Downes’s forays into the broad landscape of American music have led to her chart-topping release, *America Again* (Sono Luminus, 2016), selected by NPR as one of the “10 Albums that Saved 2016.” In recognition of this acclaimed album, she was a recipient of the 2017 Innovator of the Year award by the University of California, Davis.

Downes is also a laureate of the 2016 Sphinx Medal of Excellence award, for her leadership in expanding the reach of the arts as a performer, an entrepreneur, and a cultural visionary. She enjoys creative collaborations with a range of leading artists, from cellist Yo-Yo Ma to former US Poet Laureate Rita Dove. Downes’s newest project, *Anniversaries for Lenny*, celebrates the American legacy of Leonard Bernstein on the 100th anniversary of his birth. When not on the road, Downes serves as artist-in-residence at the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, at the University of California, Davis, where she mentors the next generation of young musicians as director of the Mondavi Center National Young Artists Program.

KAORU WATANABE

Kaoru Watanabe, a Brooklyn-based composer and practitioner of the Japanese taiko drum and shinobue bamboo flutes, is known for artfully combining Japan’s traditional ritual and theater music with complex compositional and improvisational elements of jazz and other global music. For close to a decade, Watanabe was a performing member and artistic director of Kodo—an iconic Japanese taiko performing arts group. Since leaving Kodo, Watanabe has collaborated with such luminaries as Japanese National Living Treasure Bandō Tamasaburō V, MacArthur Fellow Jason Moran, Sō Percussion, and film directors Martin Scorsese and Wes Anderson. He also was a featured artist on the Grammy Award-winning album *Sing Me Home*, by Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble. Watanabe has performed his compositions at such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, the Whitney Museum, and Tokyo’s Kabuki-za and has performed extensively across the Americas, Europe, Australia, and Asia.

As an educator, Watanabe has taught courses at Princeton and Wesleyan Universities and was a faculty member at the Tanglewood Music Festival and at DePauw University for the Silk Road Project’s Global Musician Workshop. He is an instructor for kaDON, an online resource presented by Japan’s most prestigious taiko maker, Miyamoto Unosuke Shoten. His studio in Brooklyn hosts private lessons, rehearsals, weekly classes, intensive workshops, and professional-level training courses offered by both Watanabe and esteemed guest instructors from Japan.

SANDEEP DAS

Grammy-nominated Sandeep Das is considered one of the leading tabla players in the world today. One of the favorite disciples of the legendary tabla maestro, Pandit Kishan Maharaj of the Benaras Gharana, Das has carved out a niche for himself in the musical world. His concerts have taken him to major centers of music, including Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center, Royce Hall, Royal Albert Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, and the Petronas Tower Hall in Malaysia.

Das has composed for and performed internationally with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble since the group’s founding in 2000. With the ensemble, he performed at the United Nations General Assembly Hall in 2008 and played the BBC Proms in 2004 and 2009. He is the only Indian artist to have performed for the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics Games in Shanghai.

The Project

The Canales Project, founded by Carla Dirlikov Canales, produces concert programs that explore issues of culture and identity through music and interaction with established artists who have lived and understand those issues. These concerts offer opportunities to hear music from many traditions, while giving the artists a chance to address their own experiences navigating questions of identity. The rising generation in the United States is called “the plurals” because so many of its members come from diverse backgrounds and speak multiple languages. The ability of many in this group to understand and operate in multiple cultures should not be seen as a burden but rather as an opportunity, a kind of super power this new generation possesses. Further, what sets this generation apart can also help bring its various cultures together, and with these ties, this new generation makes the journey from “the other” to the “all.”

In this special performance, the Canales Project teams up with TEDxMidAtlantic to present three extraordinary artists who will share their perspective with TED-style commentary integrated into their performance. TEDxMidAtlantic celebrates the power of ideas to positively change the world and aims to build community by bringing together like-minded people who believe in this mission. In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that offer a TED-like experience with live speakers who spark deeper conversation.

Upcoming Events of the Seventy-Sixth Season of The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lamot Belin Concerts

Unless otherwise noted, all programs take place in the West Building, West Garden Court.

—
Dalí Quartet
With Orlando Cotto, percussion
Music by Ricardo Lorenz, Guido López-Gavilan, and Jorge Mazón-Rico Melao
October 15, 3:30

—
Lina Bahn, violin, and
Matt Haimovitz, cello
With Artichoke Dance Company
Voices of the Ocean
October 22, 3:30

—
Pomerium
Flemish Musical Mastery in the Age of Bosch and Bloemaert
Celebrating *Bosch to Bloemaert: Early Netherlandish Drawings from the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam*
October 29, 3:30

—
Orpheus Chamber Orchestra
Octets by Jean Françaix
and Franz Schubert
November 5, 3:30

—
The Crossing
With members of ICE
Music by Ted Hearne, David Lang,
and Caroline Shaw
November 12, 3:30

Mantra Percussion
Michael Gordon, *Timber*
Celebrating Jackson Pollock’s *Mural*
November 19, 3:30

—
LACE (Living Art Collective Ensemble)
Salon-style concerts with music by
Boccherini, Brillon, and Mozart
Celebrating *Fragonard: The Fantasy Figures*
November 24–25, 2:00 & 4:00
West Building, East Garden Court

—
New York Opera Society
The Three Lives of Rosina Almaviva
Celebrating *Fragonard: The Fantasy Figures*
November 26, 3:30

—
Inna Faliks and Daniel Schlosberg
Gustav Mahler, Symphony no. 6,
arranged for piano, four-hands,
by Alexander von Zemlinsky
December 3, 3:30

—
Caroling in the Rotunda
December 9, 10, 16 & 17, 1:30 & 2:30

—
The Swiss-American Musical Society
Igor Stravinsky, *The Soldier’s Tale*
Christophe Sturzenegger,
The Snow Queen
Christophe Sturzenegger, conductor
Robert Baker, narrator
December 10, 3:30

—
Turtle Island Quartet
With special guest Liz Carroll
Winter’s Eve
December 17, 4:00

Admission to the National Gallery of Art and all of its programs is free of charge, except as noted.

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed. Please be sure that all portable electronic devices are turned off.

The department of music produced these program notes. Copyright © 2017 Board of Trustees, National Gallery of Art, Washington

Concerts are made possible in part through the generosity of donors to the National Gallery of Art through The Circle. Reserved seating is available in recognition of their support. Please contact the development office at (202) 842-6450 or circle@nga.gov for more information.

Cover Mary Heilman, *Melody* (detail), 1998, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of Kathan Brown

[nga.gov/music](https://www.nga.gov/music)