



December 11-12, 2025  
7:00 pm

Aaron Davis Hall  
City College of New York

# PROGRAM

**John Zorn** *Ghosts (2015)*

**Viet Cuong** *Apparition (2017)*

**Reena Esmail** *Darshan (2018)*

**Zosha Di Castri** *Anssi de Suite (2015)*

**inti figgis-vizueta** *earthmaker (2020)*

**Gabriella Smith** *Imaginary Pancake (2020)*

**Yaz Lancaster** *SATURATION (2025)*  
World premiere

Tonight's performance will last approximately 50 minutes and will be performed without intermission.

## **Artistic Director & Producer**

Fifi Zhang

## **Movement Director**

Leah Wilks

## **PERFORMERS**

Marisa Clementi\*

ALEXA GRÆ\*

Graeme Steele Johnson

Giancarlo Latta

Leah Wilks

Aaron Wolff

Fifi Zhang

\*choreographic collaborator

## **Special Thanks**

Yaz Lancaster, pre-show live ambient set

Lila Quillin, poster design

Asa Thornton, costume consultant

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Marisa Clementi** dances to connect with her desires and dreams, to build a loving relationship with her insecurities, to speak with spirits, and to let them speak through her. Her way in tends to be through rhythm, melody, and gesture: layering postmodern, pop, and flamenco forms with ecstatic improvisation and the medicine practices of her Latvian and Italian ancestors. Marisa lives for the sensual delight within creative practice: dancing, singing, gardening, foraging, cooking, feasting, and mothering. She's recently performed in works by Nélida Tirado (*Misa Flamenca*), Heather Christian (*Terce*), Kathy Westwater (*Park 2 Cycle*), and is a longtime collaborator with Tatyana Tenenbaum (*Thunder, Untitled Work for Voice, Tidal, Garment of the Interior*). Marisa earned her MFA in Dance from Sarah Lawrence and BA in Music from Dartmouth College. Marisa is also an Ayurvedic practitioner and herbalist.

**ALEXA GRÆ** (they/them) is an interdisciplinary artist, vocalist, and composer. They have collaborated with Stephanie Acosta, Isaac Pool, Jessie Young, Same As Sister, and Pioneers Go East. Alexa released their studio song cycle, *SEEN* with the premiere of 'Sur La Nuit' an operatic - music video (Matthew Ozawa & Jon Wes) at The Art Institute Chicago with Open Television. They have performed with Haymarket Opera Company, Madison Opera, Elements Contemporary Ballet, as well as a featured soloist/artist with Chicago Arts Orchestra, The Savannah Philharmonic, Northwestern University Orchestra, The Orchestra of New Spain, and Texas Tech University Symphony Orchestra. They created the score for the short film, *Searching for Isabelle* by Stephanie Jeter. Their techno - opera, *Tone Pillar*, directed by Stephanie Acosta premieres at Out-FRONT! Fest. curated by Pioneers Go East Collective in January, 2026.

Praised as “technically and interpretively impeccable and passionately communicative” (*Boston Musical Intelligencer*), **Graeme Steele Johnson** is an artist of uncommon imagination and versatility. The clarinetist, curator and “musical detective” (NY Classical Review) garnered international attention for his rediscovery, reconstruction and recording of a 125-year-old Octet by Charles Martin Loeffler, critically acclaimed by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Gramophone* and *BBC Music Magazine*. Johnson led the work’s first present-day performances at the Library of Congress, Morgan Library, Harvard Musical Association, Phoenix Chamber Music Festival and Emerald City Music, with upcoming outings at Chamber Music Northwest and more. Additional recent appearances include the Ravinia, Bridgehampton, Rockport, Moab and Orcas Island festivals, as well as his TEDx talk comparing Mozart and *Seinfeld*. Johnson has authored chamber arrangements heard around the world, is Artistic Director of the Onstage Offstage Chamber Music Festival in Houston, and since 2022 has served as the clarinetist of the award-winning quintet WindSync.

**Yaz Lancaster** grants themselves permission to do it all. Their expansive practice encompasses experimental electroacoustic performances, notated compositions, post-genre DJ-ing, music writing, steel pan, collage-based poetry, collaborative work, and organizing DIY shows across NYC’s underground and nightlife scenes. Yaz performs solo sets with violin/voice/electronics that comprise songs, improvisations, and composed music – aptly displayed on their sophomore album *AFTER* (PTP, 2025). They find joy in collaboration – they’ve worked with artists like Andy Akiho, BAKUDI SCREAM, claire rousay, Dreamcrusher, Leilehua Lanzilotti, Nyokabi Kariuki, and OHYUNG. Yaz additionally performs as “death ambient” and hardcore DJ project “medium.” in deep collaboration with creative partner gg200bpm; and as *RIGHTQUICK* with KING VISION ULTRA as a duo. Recent commissioners include the Gaudeamus Festival, International Contemporary Ensemble, and Black Mountain College Museum. They are a member of communally-active PTP artist collective; and the creator/curator of HEAVY HEARTS performance series celebrating the community and vulnerability in harsh/experimental sonics. More at [yaz-lancaster.com](http://yaz-lancaster.com).

Fiercely committed to the music of our time, violinist, composer, and writer **Giancarlo Latta** is interested in the intersection and convergence of music old and new. Through a broad repertoire and bold dedication to wide-ranging collaborative possibilities, he curates projects and programs that explore varied compositional voices and draw threads across styles and centuries. He has performed with flutist Claire Chase and violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja, and in 2022 was the soloist in Tyshawyn Sorey's *For Marcos Balter* at the Spoleto Festival USA. He performs regularly with many ensembles in New York and across the country, including the Orchestra of St. Luke's, the San Diego Symphony, Contemporaneous, and the Houston-based conductorless ensemble Kinetic, which he co-founded. Latta has been a member of the acclaimed Argus Quartet since 2019, with whom he has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Morgan Library, and many other major chamber music venues across the country.

**Leah Wilks** is a dancer, teacher, and choreographer based out of Brooklyn, originally hailing from North Carolina. Leah has taught and shared her work in a variety of locations including the American Dance Festival, Elon University, University of Michigan, Ponderosa Tanzland festival, Gibney Dance, Theater for the New City, and Northern Stage. She holds an MFA in Dance from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where she received awards for teaching and choreography, and is currently an adjunct faculty member at Montclair State University. As a performer/collaborator Leah has worked with a variety of dance, theater, and interdisciplinary artists including Okwui Okpokwasili, Alexis Blake, Kendra Portier, Tatyana Tennenbaum, Anna Barker/Real.Live.People, Beth Graczyk Productions, and Tommy DeFrantz/SLIPPAGE. She has been an artist in residence at MOTiVE Brooklyn, Hambidge Center for the Creative Arts and Sciences, the Atlantic Center for the Arts, Bergen Dansesenter, and MacDowell.

A “musician of quicksilver brilliance” (*Chicago Tribune*) equally invested in music old and new, **Aaron Wolff** is a prizewinner of the 2024 Naumburg International Cello Competition and cellist of the Grammy-award winning contemporary ensemble Eighth Blackbird. As the recipient of the Leo B. Ruiz Memorial Prize, he made his Carnegie Hall recital debut in 2023. Aaron has been a prizewinner at the Boston Symphony, Schadt, Barbash, and Cleveland Cello Society Competitions, and a return attendee at IMS Prussia Cove, Yellow Barn, Perlman Music Program and Lucerne Festival Academy. He has also found creative outlets in acting – most notably a lead role in the Coen brothers’ film *A Serious Man* – and in arranging and writing about music: he provided string arrangements for Comedy Central’s *Broad City* and concert reviews for the online journal *I Care If You Listen*. After receiving degrees from Oberlin and Juilliard, Aaron is pursuing a doctorate at CUNY Graduate Center, where his research focuses on the maverick musical life of cellist and composer Arthur Russell.

Pianist and educator **Fifi Zhang** made her debut with the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic at age 11 and has since performed in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Park Avenue Armony, Miller Theatre, Joyce Theater and concert halls throughout Germany, Finland, Spain, South Korea, and Poland. She has a keen interest in contemporary classical music and has worked closely with numerous composers, including Meredith Monk, Frederic Rzewski, John Harbison, and Gabriela Lena Frank. She especially enjoys collaborating with dancers and has performed solo and chamber music alongside members of the Malpas Dance Company and School of American Ballet. Fifi recently received her doctorate from CUNY Graduate Center, where she wrote her dissertation on a critical examination of classical music performance practice through a phenomenological lens. An alumnus of the Columbia–Juilliard Exchange, she holds a BA in History from Columbia University and an MM in Piano Performance from Juilliard. She is currently on the music faculty at Hunter College.

*Corporeal* is made possible in part with funds from the **Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC)** Creative Engagement & UMEZ Arts Engagement, regrant programs supported by The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) in partnership with the City Council, The New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, the Howard Gilman Foundation, and the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation (UMEZ).

This project also enjoys support from a **Foundation for Contemporary Arts** Emergency Grant.

We are honored to co-present this program with City College of New York's **Leonard Davis Center for the Performing Arts**. For more than four decades, **Aaron Davis Hall** has showcased an array of brilliant programming including dance, concerts, film screenings, and stage performance. The first major performing arts facility of its kind north of Lincoln Center, Aaron Davis Hall serves as an important cultural resource not only for the College but for all New Yorkers. The Hall provides space for rehearsals, technical run-throughs, fund raising events, graduations, lectures and meetings. In addition, the facilities attract major production work including television, still photography, film, video and radio.

