

# **Hopkins Center for the Arts**

at Dartmouth

presents

## **Department of Music**

# **2024 New Music Festival**

**Friday, April 19, 2 & 6 pm**

**Saturday, April 20, 3 & 6 pm**

North Fairbanks Hall • Allen Street • Rollins Chapel • Baker-Berry Library

Dartmouth College • 2024

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*The New Music Festival is programmed in conjunction with the Dartmouth Department of Music with co-sponsorship by the Town of Hanover, Division for Institutional Diversity and Equity, and Black Sound Lab.*

*The development of TikTokBox was generously supported by a 2022 Arts Integration Grant from the Hopkins Center for the Arts.*

# Welcome to the Festival

Dartmouth's annual New Music Festival is an opportunity to connect world-renowned performers with the Dartmouth community, specifically our incredibly gifted composers and performers in the Sonic Practice program. This year, we have expanded our reach even further, collaborating with the Town of Hanover to produce a springtime block party welcoming students and the wider Upper Valley community to experience a range of genres including R&B, hip-hop and Washington DC's own go-go music. The block party features a wide range of performances, including a set from DJ Sonicc Blush, an ethereal performance from Washington, DC's BOOMscat and improvisatory music from rapper and producer

Kokayi, also from DC. In addition to the block party, graduate students Mac Waters, Rodrigo Martinez Torres and Charles Peoples III are presenting new compositions at a number of unique venues across campus: the Data Experiences and Visualizations (DEV) Studio, the Library's East Reading Room and Rollins Chapel. This year's festival has been supported in large part by the Music Department, Division of Institutional Diversity and Equity, Black Sound Lab and the Hopkins Center for the Arts. We're excited to see you there!

*Allie Martin*  
*Assistant Professor, Department of Music*

## **Allie Martin**

Festival Artistic Director  
Assistant Professor, Department of Music

## **Molly Morin**

Festival Administrator

## **Bethany Young**

Graduate Technical Director

## **Ayanna Long**

Festival Videographer

## **Schedule at a Glance**

### **Friday April 19**

2 pm @ DEV Studio (North Fairbanks Hall 002) – Mac Waters

6 pm @ Allen Street – Headliner Concert with DJ Sonicc Blush, BOOMscat, Kokayi

### **Saturday April 20**

3 pm @ Rollins Chapel – Charles Peoples III

6 pm @ East Reading Room, Baker-Berry Library – Rodrigo Martínez Torres

# Events

**Fri, Apr 19, 2 pm**

**Mac Waters**

**DEV Studio (North Fairbanks Hall 002)**

The project investigates embodiments of digitally transmitted auditory and visual memetics, particularly in the wake of a 2021 study that exposed a prevalence of movement disorders among young teenagers—a mass sociogenic illness of “TikTok tics.” Through the improvisatory distortion of a user’s TikTok “For You Page” in real time, *TikTokBox* is a duet between a user and their feed, the individual and the collective, the conscious and the subconscious.

*Mac Waters, composer*

**Fri, Apr 19, 6 pm**

**Headliner Concert**

*in collaboration with the Town of Hanover*

**Allen Street**

**DJ Sonicc Blush**

**BOOMscat (Asha “BOOM” Santee and Patience Sings)**

**Kokayi**

The 2024 New Music Festival headliner show brings together artists from Washington, DC, and Columbus, Ohio, for a springtime celebration in collaboration with the Town of Hanover. While the Hop building is under renovation, we’re excited to take the festival outside for a block party that welcomes both students and the wider Hanover and Upper Valley communities. Featuring DJ Sonicc Blush, BOOMscat and Kokayi, these performances will engage audiences across a wide range of genres, from R&B to neo-soul to hip-hop to DC’s own go-go music.

# Events continued

## Sat, Apr 20, 3 pm

**Charles Peoples III**

***TechniTerra: A Sonic Transmission***

Rollins Chapel

What is within the beyond? *TechniTerra: A Sonic Transmission* is an immersive exploration of this inquiry. Through vocal experimentation, movement and custom-built instruments, *TechniTerra* merges ancient practice and modern technology in this immersive sonic experience.

Charles Peoples III

Eli Berman

Sage Palmedo

Hansini Bhasker

## Sat, Apr 20, 6 pm

**Rodrigo Martínez Torres**

***A Palace in Time***

East Reading Room, Baker-Berry Library

A timeless piece of music where precepts of time and space are conjured. Rodrigo will be performing *A Palace in Time* using an instrument he devised, the Electromagnetic Monochord.

# About the Artists

**Mac Waters** (they/he) is a dynamic multimedia composer and improviser working and performing across a spectrum of interdisciplinary contexts. His diverse creative practice spans composing chamber music for leading contemporary ensembles, composing electroacoustic music for film and dance, performing as a vocalist and violist in interdisciplinary and multimedia performances, designing interactive Virtual and Extended Reality experiences, and recording and producing original songs. Their works have been performed by Fonema Consort (Chicago), Wet Ink (New York City), Conrad Tao (New York City), Mivos Quartet (New York City), Ostravska Banda (Ostrava, Czech Republic), and Ars Futura (Cleveland). Mac's extensive capacity as a violist-improviser has been featured internationally in ensembles such as the Cherry-Ah-Cole Ensemble (Hanover, Hanover), the Venice Exploratory Ensemble (Venice, Italy), the International Contemporary Ensemble's Ensemble Evolution (New York City) and Anthony Braxton's Creative Orchestra (Darmstadt, Germany). As an XR for the Humanities Fellow with the Dartmouth College Data Experiences Visualization (DEV) Studio, he is developing a 3D-audio studio for interdisciplinary research and performance. They hold a BA in Music from Columbia University with a special concentration in Medieval & Renaissance Studies and are currently in pursuit of a MFA in Sonic Practice studying with Ash Fure, César Alvarez and Taylor Ho Bynum.

**Charles Peoples III** is a sonic changemaker. Their work encompasses performance art, music composition, poetry and choreography. With a focus on the convergence of sound, technology and spirituality, they create experiences that traverse realms of mysticism, queerness and transformation. Charles has performed his music at multiple conferences, workshops and theaters; significant mentions include the 9th International Sound Healing Conference, the New Living Expo, Oakland Pride Festival, San Jose Pride Festival and the Leshar Center for the Arts. Currently a grad student at

Dartmouth College, Charles is researching societal/individual misremembering and the therapeutic value of performance. He is now merging his interests in ancient ritual, storytelling, and shamanism with technology to create transformative, mystical, and immersive performances.

**Eli Berman** (she/they) is a vocalist, composer-producer and new instrument builder from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She creates original music with electronics and extended vocal techniques, weaving together Ashkenazi Jewish cantorial singing, Yiddish and Appalachian folk song and western classical repertoire for countertenor, baritone and choir. For the past four years, Eli has developed noise instruments that extend the human voice through amplified PVC pipes, metals and percussion objects modulated by delay pedals and acoustic feedback. In the past two years she has begun to create house and techno beats from digital samples of her voice, contributing to the burgeoning U.S. Jewish rave scene called Kleztronica. Eli has premiered her music at National Sawdust, the Watermill Center, Banff Centre, New Music On the Point, Yiddish Summer Weimar, New Explorative Oratorio Voice Festival, Atlantic Music Festival, Gender Unbound, Princeton University, Dartmouth College and the New School. Eli recently opened the 2023 Snug Harbor Dance Festival (Staten Island, New York) with the premiere of Bonita Oliver's *Trans Water Stories*, for which Eli built an original vocal noise instrument. Eli contributed to and performed in Anna Lublina's 2023 show *Undying in Yidderland: Jargon Rituals* at Künstler\*innenhaus Mousonturm (Frankfurt, Germany), and Eli performed her original track for the live premiere of Sanni Est's critically-acclaimed album *PHOTOPHOBIA*, which closed the 2022 Pop-Kultur Festival at Kulturbrauerei (Berlin, Germany). In addition to her experience as a countertenor and baritone in vocal ensembles such as C4: The Choral Composer/Conductor Collective (New York, New York), Eli has sung as a soloist in the 2018 US premiere of John Tavener's *Total Eclipse* at and a 2018

## About the Artists continued

*New York Times* critically-acclaimed concert of works by Eve Beglarian at the Morgan Library and Museum. She has presented her music and creative research at the 2021 International Conference on New Interfaces for Musical Expression, 2020 Pan-American Vocology Association Symposium, and 2019 Transgender Singing Voice Conference. Instagram: @\_eliberman\_

**Sage Palmedo** is a vocalist, music producer and energy healer with a mission of understanding and healing the collective body that is our Earth. Drawing from her background in sensory ecology and evolutionary neuroscience, she produces soundscapes that nourish the nervous system toward evolution and balance.

**Hansini Bhasker** (she/her) is a multi-genre vocalist, performer-composer, improviser and scholar, who deploys embodied music-making and movement for socio-ecological healing and change. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a BA in Music from Princeton University with certificates in Vocal Performance, Cognitive Science, Entrepreneurship and Finance, and is currently pursuing a Music MA at Wesleyan University in Performance. She is a YoungArts winner in Voice whose musical practice bridges across Western classical opera, jazz, Karnatak, R&B, Kazakh saryarqa, French chanson and experimental soundscape techniques. Her latest research explores cultural contrasts, evolutions and interactions in the use and control of vibration, pitch variation and oscillation in vocalization.

Meet **Sonnic Blush**. Born and bred amidst the glow of Columbus nightlife, her love affair with music blossomed beneath its celestial canopy. With her magnetic presence and electrifying energy, Sonnic Blush commands the decks with finesse, captivating crowds with her seamless transitions and infectious grooves. Whether it's the pulsating thump of house, the soulful melodies of R&B, or the bass-heavy rhythms of hip-hop, SB's palette knows no bounds.

The Washington DC-based Peace & Body Roll Duo **BOOMscat** will take you on an emotional, meditative journey through life, love and relationships. Multi-instrumentalist/producer, **Asha "BOOM" Santee**, and vocalist/songwriter **Patience Sings** create a sound that ignites vulnerability, elevation and self-reflection. Since their conception in the fall of 2012, BOOMscat has released five projects including *No Life Jacket* EP which reached #18 on the iTunes Top R&B Albums. BOOMscat has performed at several prestigious venues and institutions across the country, including The Kennedy Center, the National Museum of African American History and Culture and National Museum of Women in the Arts. Fresh off the high of their second time selling out back-to-back performances at DC's Legendary Blues Alley Jazz Supper Club, BOOMscat is currently working on their sixth recorded project and second studio album.

**Kokayi** is a preeminent improvisational vocalist, author, producer, Grammy-nominated musician and multi-disciplinary fine artist. He is a 2023 Guggenheim Fellow for Music Composition (the first emcee to be granted a Guggenheim for music composition), Halcyon Arts Fellow and Nicholson Arts Fellow. He has been a TEDxWDC presenter, speaking on "collaboration and the creative economy" and has served as Artist in Residence at Music Meeting in Nijmegen, Netherlands. He can be heard on over 60 titles spanning: jazz, hip-hop, rock and R&B. The Washington Post describes his book *You Are Ketchup: and Other Fly Music Tales* (Globe Pequot) as "written in a tone so conversational you can practically hear it in your ear, *You Are Ketchup* feels like a megadose of straight advice from a muso-mentor who's been there. And, of course, Kokayi has been all over the place." Kokayi has taught and facilitated workshops at the School of Improvisational Music teaching vocal improvisation as it relates to jazz and hip-hop. He is a collaborator and mentor with the international arts program OneBeat and has worked as a freelance music emissary with the U.S. State Department.

Kokayi considers himself an emcee and performer first, no matter the medium. Kokayi continues to act as a music producer and performer currently touring with his own band as well as with Ambrose Akinmusire, Terri Lynne Carrington + Social Science, Whose Hat is This?, Ego Mondo, Nate Smith +Kinfolk, Quite Sane, Sanity and with MacArthur Fellow Dafnis Prieto. Kokayi's forthcoming eponymous album is currently in production with a planned release in Spring 2024.

**Rodrigo Martínez Torres** is a Mexican composer interested in the abstraction of popular musical languages as a tool for new creations. He is also a multi-instrumentalist who performs in different genres and styles. He's currently traversing the spatio-temporal possibilities embedded in radio broadcasting technologies. He studied music composition in Academia de Arte de Florencia and in Núcleo Integral de Composición (CDMX). He holds a Master's Degree in Electroacoustic Composition from Centro Superior Katarina Gurska (Madrid, Spain),

and is currently pursuing an MFA in Sonic Practice at Dartmouth College.

He was granted the Arts Integration Grant by the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth in 2023 for a project that mixes visual arts, architecture and music. He was a grant holder in the Mexican program Jóvenes Creadores by FONCA in 2018-2019, to write a piece for symphonic orchestra inspired by salsa. He was awarded a MacDowell fellowship (New Hampshire) in October 2019 to write a Drum Kit concerto.

Rodrigo was the grand prize-winning composer of the 2020 Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble Composition Competition. He also won the 2017 Arturo Márquez composition competition with his piece *Mambo Urbano* for chamber orchestra. His music has been played by German accordionist Eva Zöllner, Dutch ensemble Modelo 62, Mexican ensembles CEPROMUSIC, Liminar and Ensemble Tamayo, as well as by Italian pianist Gloria Campaner.

# Spring at the Hop

3/16, 29 & 30

**Sandglass Theater**  
puppetry, dance and  
spokenword

3/25 & 26

**Monica Bill Barnes**  
*Many Happy Returns*  
a memory play

4/2 & 7/20

**Johnny Gandelsman:**  
*This Is America*  
resident artist &  
violinist

4/6

**The Tallis Scholars**  
Renaissance choral music

4/11

**Tomeka Reid**  
resident artist & cellist

4/14

**Ensemble Schumann**  
works by Beethoven,  
Bruch, Foote and White

4/17

**Coreyah**  
Korean folk and  
psychedelic rock

4/21

**23 Skidoo and the  
Secret Agency**  
hip hop for the  
whole family

5/1

**Isidore String  
Quartet**  
Works by Bach,  
Chilids and  
Beethoven

Plus resident ensembles,  
family events, films & more!

## Explore



Tomeka Reid  
4/11



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