

Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth

presents

The Tomeka Reid Stringtet

Taylor Ho Bynum, conductor

Tomeka Reid, composer

Commissioned by the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth

Thursday, April 11, 7:30 pm

Our Savior Lutheran Church • Hanover • 2024

Funded in part by the Class of 1961 Legacy: The American Tradition in Performance Fund, the Bob Gatzert 1951 Jazz Series Fund for the Hopkins Center and the David H. Hilton 1951 Fund No. 2, a gift from Amy and Henry Nachman.

Tomeka Reid Stringtet

Taylor Ho Bynum, conductor

Tomeka Reid, composer

Tyler Rai, residency producer

Amy Norton '23, copyist

Violin

Sam Bardfeld
Sarah Bernstein
Jason Kao Hwang
yuniya edi kwon
Peter Maunu

Viola

Melanie Dyer
Stephanie Griffin
Mac Waters

Cello

Tomeka Reid
Christopher Hoffman
Fred Lonberg-Holm

Bass

Silvia Bolognesi
Adam Hopkins

Drums

Mikel Patrick Avery
Tomas Fujiwara

Approximate duration: 120 minutes, including intermission

About the Roth Scholars Program

Supported with funds provided through the generosity of Dartmouth Trustee Steven Roth '62, Tuck '63, his wife, Daryl and their family, the Roth Visiting Scholar Award brings exceptional leaders across a variety of disciplines to Hanover to inspire students and broaden the range of intellectual inquiry on campus.

For academic year 2023–24, the MacArthur-Award-winning jazz cellist, composer and educator Tomeka Reid is the Roth Visiting Scholar. Since her arrival this year at Dartmouth, Reid has collaborated extensively across the campus's flourishing arts ensembles and initiatives.

During the Fall term, Reid brought two collectives, Hear In Now, an improvising string trio (with Mazz Swift and Silvia Bolognesi) who served as guest artists with the Coast Jazz Ensemble and Geometry (with Joe Morris, Kyoko Kitamura and Taylor Ho Bynum).

Both ensembles led improvisation workshops and put on concerts open to the entire community. In the Winter term, Reid collaborated with Coast Director Taylor Ho Bynum to create an Improv-mini Fest that encompassed performances on and off campus along with workshops open to students. Additionally, Reid's composition for amplified cello and ensemble, *Essay No. 1*, was performed by the Dartmouth Symphony where she was also the featured soloist. Throughout the year, Reid has visited and presented workshops and guest lectures in undergraduate Music courses on subjects of performance, composition, history and theory.

*Samuel Levey
Associate Dean of the Faculty for the Arts
and Humanities
Professor of Philosophy*

Program Notes

In this yet-to-be-titled work, I wanted to explore environments that offered more opportunities for collective improvisation and input from the incredible ensemble of players brought together for this performance, giving them more agency over the compositions. Prior performances of the Stringtet contained mostly tune-based pieces, where there were moments for the instrumentalists to solo over structures and also opportunities for spontaneous improvisation, but I wanted more freedom for the players, and as a lot of my own performance work deals with free improvisation, I wanted to explore this more fully with a larger string ensemble. The mood of the compositions reflects some of the experiences I have encountered over the past few years: loss, validation, marriage, anxiety and the challenge and

beauty of maintaining hope. The Stringtet in both of its past iterations was a conductor-less ensemble, which presented challenges for me as a performer within the ensemble so I have enlisted the talents of Taylor Ho Bynum who is brilliant at working with creative ensembles that have varied instrumentation to help explore these new micro-pieces.

The Stringtet will also present its second book of music composed in 2017 inspired by the visual art of my mother, Starr Page, whose paintings and drawings have always inspired me. In watching my mother do her art as a youth, this is where I found her at her happiest.

Tomoka Reid

About the Artists

Now residing in Philadelphia, multidisciplinary artist **Mikel Patrick Avery** had been actively working out of Chicago, then New Orleans, over the last 19 years. Established as a jazz drummer, he is commonly recognized for his orchestral and melodic style of drumming that often involves the use of unconventional “non-musical” objects. Adjacent to being a performing musician, Avery is a dedicated filmmaker, composer, photographer, designer, instrument builder and educator, whose body of work invariably draws upon ideas of “unstructured-play” commonly applied to learning environments found in early education.

In recent years, Avery has become an integral voice in varying ensembles, including Joshua Abrams’ Natural Information Society, Rob Mazurek’s Exploding Star Orchestra, The Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, Theaster Gates’s Black Monks of Mississippi among many others as well as leading several of his own projects, including 1/2 Size Piano Trio, *WAZELLA*, *SORE THUMB*, *PARADE*, and *PLAY*.

Violinist **Sam Bardfeld** is a member of The Jazz Passengers, The Hemphell Stringtet, and has collaborated frequently with Bruce Springsteen. He has worked as a sideman for a long list of jazz, pop, folk and experimental acts including Elvis Costello,

About the Artists *continued*

John Zorn, Calexico, Anthony Braxton, Henry Butler, Kris Davis, Savion Glover, Debbie Harry, John Cale, Steven Bernstein, Ingrid Laubrock, Roy Nathanson, The String Trio of NY, The Red Clay Ramblers, Nancy Sinatra, Willie Colon, Dar Williams, Johnny Pacheco, et al. In 2023, he was voted #8 in the *DownBeat* Critics Poll in the violin category. His book, *Latin Violin* (2002) is considered the authoritative work on the Afro-Cuban violin tradition. Critic Nate Chinen described Bardfeld's music as "[B]rilliantly odd and altogether lovely."

Sarah Bernstein is a New York-based violinist/composer whose work blurs the lines between innovative jazz, new chamber music, experimental pop and noise music. Over the course of 10 albums as a leader and countless collaborations, she has garnered international acclaim for her multidisciplinary performances and distinctive recordings. She leads the improvising string ensemble VEER Quartet, the avant-jazz Sarah Bernstein Quartet, the poetic minimalist duo Uneathish, and performs solo with heavily-processed voice/violin as Exolinger. Ongoing collaborations include her noise-electronic duo with drummer Kid Millions and the experimental synth-pop band Day So Far. She has placed in the *DownBeat* Magazine Critics Poll annually since 2015, winning "Rising Star Violinist" in 2020. She is originally from San Francisco, California. <http://sarahbernstein.com>

Silvia Bolognesi is a double bass player, composer and arranger. She graduated in double bass from the Conservatory of Siena. She approached jazz studying at the Siena Jazz Academy, where she currently teaches double bass and jazz combo classes.

The most significant encounters in her musical training are those with William Parker, Muhal Richard Abrams, Lawrence Douglas "Butch" Morris, Roscoe Mitchell and Anthony Braxton.

She is leader of several bands and she has been/is collaborating with bands such as Hear in Now, Art Ensemble of Chicago, Roscoe Mitchell and Nicole Mitchell.

She founded the label Fonterossa Records in 2010.

She is the curator of Fonterossa Day festival (in collaboration with Pisa Jazz) since 2015 and conductor of Fonterossa Open Orchestra, a creative orchestra based in Pisa since 2017.

She runs workshops on Improvisation and Conduction practice since 2007. www.silviabolognesimusic.com

Taylor Ho Bynum is a musician, teacher and writer. His expressionistic playing on cornet and other brass instruments, his expansive vision as composer and conductor, and his idiosyncratic improvisational approach have been documented on over 20 recordings as a bandleader and over 100 as a sideperson. Bynum has worked with legendary figures such as Anthony Braxton, Bill Dixon and Cecil Taylor and enjoys playing in collective ensembles like his duo with Tomas Fujiwara, Illegal Crowns (with Fujiwara, Benoit Delbecq and Mary Halvorson) and Geometry (with Kyoko Kitamura, Tomeka Reid and Joe Morris), and as a sideperson in groups led by Fujiwara, Reid, Jim Hobbs, Bill Lowe, Bill Cole and William Parker, among others. His writings on music have been published in *The New Yorker*, *The Baffler*, *Point of Departure* and *Sound American*.

Melanie Dyer (composer/violist) is the leader of the ensemble WeFreeStrings. She has performed with Sun Ra Arkestra under Marshall Allen, William Parker, Tomeka Reid, Dead Lecturers, Joe Morris, Siren Xypher, Heroes are Gang Leaders, Henry Grimes, Joe Bonner, Reggie Workman, Howard Johnson and many other notable musicians. Recent recordings include WeFreeStrings *Love In The Form Of Sacred Outrage*

(ESP-disk, 2022), *The Music of William Parker* (2021). She's appeared at Edgefest, Festival Sons d'hiver and Basquiat Soundtracks (Paris), Jazz em Agosto, Lincoln Center/Hearst Plaza and the Chicago Jazz String Summit. She received NYSCA Support for Artists ('24), Herb Alpert Ragdale Prize ('23), Mabou Mines Associate Artist Residency (2024/26). Her current project, *Incalculable Unlikelihoods*, a multimedia performance work, is scheduled to premiere at the 2024 Vision Festival (NYC).

Tomas Fujiwara is a Brooklyn-based drummer, composer and improviser. He leads the bands Triple Double, 7 Poets Trio and Percussion Quartet; is a member of the collective trio Thumbscrew; and has a collaborative duo with Taylor Ho Bynum. In 2021 he won the *DownBeat* Critics Poll for Rising Star Drummer, and premiered two suites of new music: *You Don't Have to Try* (with Meshell Ndegeocello) and *Shizuko*. In January 2023 he premiered the NYSCA/Roulette-commissioned suite *Dream Up* for Percussion Quartet. His most recent releases are *Pith* by his 7 Poets Trio and *Unclosing* by the collective quartet Illegal Crowns. In 2024 he'll appear on album releases by The Tomas Fujiwara Percussion Quartet, Thumbscrew, Mary Halvorson's *Amaryllis*, The Tomeka Reid Quartet, Amir ElSaffar New Quartet and Adam O'Farrill's *These Streets*.

Stephanie Griffin is an innovative composer and violist with an eclectic musical vision. Born in Canada and based in New York City, her musical adventures have taken her to Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, England, Ireland, France, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Italy and Mongolia. Stephanie founded the Momenta Quartet in 2004, and is a member of the Argento Chamber Ensemble and Continuum; principal violist of the Princeton Symphony; and viola faculty at Hunter College. She was a 2019 Composition Fellow at the Instituto Sacatar in Brazil, and has received prestigious composition fellowships and commissions from the Jerome Foundation, the New York Foundation

for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts and the Bronx Council on the Arts. As an improviser, she has performed with Henry Threadgill, Wadada Leo Smith, Butch Morris and Adam Rudolph, among others, and was a 2014 Fellow and 2021 Alumna-in-Residence at Music Omi. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from The Juilliard School where she studied with Samuel Rhodes, and has recorded for Tzadik, Innova, Naxos, Aeon, New World and Albany records. Since August 2020, she has served as the Executive Director of ACMP, a nonprofit organization providing grants and services for amateur chamber music worldwide.

Christopher Hoffman is a cellist, composer, producer and filmmaker. He has worked with Henry Threadgill, Martin Scorsese, Anat Cohen, Yoko Ono, Anna Webber, Butch Morris, Michael Pitt, Kenny Warren & Tony Malaby, among many others.

Adam Hopkins is one of the few talents with the vision to make jazz directed at the current and future generations, not the past ones"—*Something Else Reviews*. Now based in Richmond, Virginia, bassist and composer Adam Hopkins' debut album *Crickets* received international acclaim, most notably ranking as the #2 Debut Album in the 2018 NPR Jazz Critics Poll. *Crickets* was the first release on Hopkins' Out Of Your Head Records, an artist-run record label dedicated to creative music and visual art in limited runs. He has toured as a member of John Hollenbeck's Claudia Quintet, been a side person with Henry Threadgill, and has recorded and/or performed regularly with Webber/Morris Big Band, Tomeka Reid, Kate Gentile Mannequins, Scott Clark's Dawn & Dusk, Anna Webber's Rectangles, among others.

Jason Kao Hwang (violin/viola) explores the vibrations and language of his history. His most recent releases, *Uncharted Faith*, *Conjure* and *the Human Rites Trio* have received critical acclaim. In 2020, the El Intruso International Critics Poll voted him #1 for

About the Artists *continued*

Violin/Viola. The 2012 *DownBeat* Jazz Critics' Poll voted Mr. Hwang as Rising Star for Violin. Mr. Hwang is the recipient of a 2023 Fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. He has also received support from NEA, Rockefeller Foundation, US Artists International and others. He has worked with William Parker, Butch Morris, Reggie Workman, Joelle Leandre, Mathew Shipp, 75 Dollar Bill, Karl Berger, Pauline Oliveros, Taylor Ho Bynum and many others.

yuniya edi kwon (b. 1989 – aka edi kwon) is a violinist, vocalist, poet and interdisciplinary performance artist based in Lenapehoking or New York City. Her practice connects composition, improvisation, movement and ceremony to explore transformation and transgression, ritual practice as a tool to queer space & lineage, and the use of mythology to connect, obscure and reveal. As a composer-performer and improviser, she is inspired by Korean folk timbres and inflections, textures and movement from natural environments, and American experimentalism as shaped by the AACM. In addition to an evolving, interdisciplinary solo practice, she performs and collaborates with artists of diverse disciplines, including The Art Ensemble of Chicago, Senga Nengudi, Holland Andrews, Tomeka Reid, International Contemporary Ensemble, Kenneth Tam, Isabel Crespo Pardo, Moor Mother and Degenerate Art Ensemble. In 2023, eddy founded SUN HAN GUILD, a sound and performance collective with composer-improvisers Laura Cocks, Jessie Cox, DoYeon Kim and Lester St. Louis. She is a recipient of the Foundation for Contemporary Arts Robert Rauschenberg Award in Music/Sound, an Arts Fellow at Princeton University's Lewis Center for the Arts, a Johnson Fellow at Americans for the Arts and a United States Artists Ford Fellow. www.eddykwon.net

Obsessed with making noises since infancy, **Fred Lonberg-Holm** is a musician / free improviser currently living in Kingston, New York. Primarily a cellist, he has also recorded and performed on tenor

guitar and trumpet. Recent collaborators include Jessica Ackerley, Farida Amadou, Michael Bisio, Ben Bennett, Jaimie Branch, Peter Brotzmann, Simon Camatta, John Edwards, Sandy Ewen, Helena Espvall, Frode Gjerstad, Kirk Knuffke, Mat Maneri, Joe McPhee, Miguel Mira, Abdul Moimeme, Paal Nilssen-Love, Dave Rempis and Ben Vida to name a few.

While mostly focusing on free improvising in “ad-hoc” situations, current ongoing projects include Ballister, Survival Unit III, Camatta/Lonberg-Holm, The Flying Cellos, the Lightbox Orchestra, Party Knollers and Stirrup. Past ensembles of note include the Peter Brotzmann Chicago 10tet, Vandermark 5, Anthony Coleman's Selfhaters, Terminal 4 and the Valentine Trio.

A transplant from Los Angeles, guitarist/violinist **Peter Maunu** has performed and recorded with countless musicians including Billy Cobham, The Commodores, Charlie Haden, Charles Lloyd, Joni Mitchell, Jean-Luc Ponty, Archie Shepp, Grace Slick, Tony Williams and the Oakland Symphony. Peter also contributed to numerous film/television scores including *Crash*, *Food Inc.*, *Arrested Development* and *CSI: New York*.

As Arsenio Hall's guitarist, he performed live with legends Ray Charles, Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, Madonna, Les McCann, Wayne Shorter and Ringo Starr, plus many more.

While in Chicago, Peter has performed/recorded with Jim Baker, Olivia Block, Ayako Kato, Fred Lonberg-Holm, Avreeyal Ra, Tomeka Reid, Dave Rempis, Katherine Young, Bethany Younge, Mars Williams and Michael Zerang, among others.

In 2013, he founded Splice Series. The bimonthly Chicago series connects curator/performer Maunu with fellow improvisers.

Cellist and composer **Tomeka Reid** has emerged as one of the most original, versatile and curious musicians in Chicago's bustling jazz and improvised music community. A 2022 MacArthur and Herb Alpert awardee, 2021 USA Fellow, 2019 Foundation of the Arts and 2016 3Arts recipient, Reid received her doctorate in music from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 2017. From 2019-2021 Tomeka Reid received a teaching appointment at Mills College as the Darius Milhaud chair in composition.

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.

Tyler Rai is a transdisciplinary artist and creative producer. As an artist, her work has been presented at The Philadelphia Fringe Festival, The Jewish Museum of Maryland, Governors Island, ARC Pasadena, Judson Church, SPACE Gallery and The School for Contemporary Dance and Thought. As a creative producer she has worked with Emily Johnson/Catalyst (*First Nations Dialogues*, *Being Future Being*), First Nations Performing Arts, Jibz Cameron (*Titanic Depression*), Sara Cameron Sunde (*36.5/New York Estuary*) and served as Associate Producer with Arktype. She is currently working with artists Hadar Ahuvia (*Nefesh*), Yanira Castro (*Exorcism=Liberation*) and Tomeka Reid on projects at various development stages. She is honored to support the visionary work of Tomeka Reid's Stringtet and is passionate about working with artists to realize their most expansive visions. www.tylerrai.com

Arts in the Curriculum & Community

Reid is a 23/24 Roth Family Distinguished Visiting Scholar and will be in residence at the Hop throughout the year. The Roth Visiting Scholar Award brings exceptional leaders across a variety of disciplines to Hanover to inspire students and broaden the range of intellectual inquiry on campus. Reid is also in residence at Avaloch Farm Music Institute in early April, sharing and developing her work with the community there.

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

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Tomeka Reid
4/11



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