

BAM

2016 NEXT WAVE FESTIVAL

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC PETER JAY SHARP BUILDING 30 LAFAYETTE AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11217—1486

BAM 2016 Next Wave Festival opens with a world premiere, David Lang's *the loser*, Sep 7—11

The unusual staging features custom-built platforms for the singer and the pianist, allowing the mezzanine-only audience to envision a loner engulfed in the void of an empty theater

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

the loser

Libretto, music, and stage direction by David Lang
Adapted from the novel by Thomas Bernhard
Translated from German by Jack Dawson

World Premiere

Conducted by Karina Canellakis
Lighting design by Jennifer Tipton
Set design by Jim Findlay
Sound design by Jody Elff
Costume design by Suzanne Bocanegra

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave)
Sep 7, 9—10 at 7:30pm, Sep 11 at 3pm
Tickets start at \$35

The 2016 Richard B. Fisher Next Wave Award honors David Lang and the production of *the loser*.

July 27, 2016/Brooklyn, NY—The 2016 Next Wave opens with a world premiere event—**David Lang's** monodrama *the loser*. This BAM commission features an unprecedented staging that transforms how the artists use the Howard Gilman Opera House and how the audience views a performance.

As the librettist, composer, and director, Lang adapted Austrian writer Thomas Bernhard's novel, *The Loser (Der Untergeher)*, as a stage work for solo baritone, concert pianist, and chamber ensemble. It tells the story of an angry, misanthropic man whose dream of becoming a concert pianist is crushed when he and his friend encounter the genius of Glenn Gould, revealing the distance that separates them from real musical expression.

Lang's unusual staging places the singer on an elevated, slender platform in the middle of a dark theater, making physical the "gulf that separates him from his world," he explains. The mezzanine-only audience sees the singer in a void with a lone piano hovering in the far distance, sounding the faint echo of the ideal music as embodied by Glenn Gould. The production also includes an unseen chamber ensemble.

BAM's Executive Producer Joseph V. Melillo said he had no hesitation in agreeing to Lang's unconventional staging, even though it meant losing nearly three-quarters of the venue's seats. "It is exactly what Next Wave is about—giving artists free rein to explore and to realize their artistic vision, as well as upending the audience experience," said Melillo. "When David explained his concept to me, I found it totally original, exciting, and befitting the work."

Produced by Bang on a Can, *the loser* features acclaimed baritone **Rod Gilfry** (*Anna Nicole*, Next Wave 2013), brilliant young pianist **Conrad Tao**, an ensemble of musicians including Lisa Dowling on double bass, Isabel Hagen on viola, Clarice Jensen on cello, and Owen Weaver on percussion, and will be conducted by 2016 Sir Georg Solti Award winner **Karina Canellakis**.

About the Artists

Pulitzer Prize winner for *the little match girl passion* (2008), **David Lang** earned Golden Globe and Academy Award nominations for his score to Paolo Sorrentino's film *Youth* this past season. Their collaboration began when Sorrentino used Lang's music in his Academy Award-winning *La Grande Bellezza*. Lang is a frequent collaborator with filmmakers, theater artists, and choreographers around the world. His first opera was the 1995 *modern painters* for the Santa Fe Opera, directed by Francesca Zambello. Since then he has created numerous hybrid works, combining elements of opera and other disciplines, including *the difficulty of crossing a field*, which premiered in 2002 at the American Conservatory Theater with Kronos Quartet, directed by Carey Perloff, and which has since been staged by numerous opera companies across the country. His *love fail* (with Anonymous 4) was seen in the 2012 Next Wave Festival. His piece *the whisper opera* premiered at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago and toured to Lincoln Center and Europe. Lang opera *anatomy theater* premiered at LA Opera this June and will be in New York at the Prototype Festival in January, 2017.

The two-time Grammy nominee, singer, and actor, **Rod Gilfry** has performed in all the world's music capitals. He is acclaimed world-wide in opera, musicals, recitals, and cabaret. He has created nine leading roles in operas, and several more are planned for the near future. Recent appearances include: *Così fan Tutte* at Edinburgh Festival, Mostly Mozart Festival, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and Milwaukee Symphony, *The Tempest* at San Francisco Symphony and Festival d'opéra de Québec, Vienna Volksoper (*Kismet*), Aix-en-Provence (*Don Giovanni*, *Così fan Tutte*), London Royal Opera (*Anna Nicole*), Zurich Opera (*Rote Laterne*, world premiere), Metropolitan Opera (*The Merry Widow*), and American Repertory Theater (Matthew Aucoin's *Crossing*, world premiere). Recent recordings: *Così fan Tutte*, *Great Voices Sing John Denver*, Matson's *Cooperstown*, Stucky's *August 4th, 1964*. Upcoming engagements: Glyndebourne Festival (*Hamlet*, world premiere), Japan's Biwako Hall (*Das Rheingold*). Gilfry last appeared at BAM in the role of Stern in the BAM/New York City Opera co-production of Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Anna Nicole* (Next Wave 2013). He is a USC Associate Professor of Vocal Arts at the Thornton School of Music.

At just 22 years of age, **Conrad Tao** is already a seasoned performer, composer, multi-award winner, and festival curator, with a unique approach to programming. Praised as a musician of "probing intellect and open-hearted vision" by *The New York Times*, a "thoughtful and mature composer" by *NPR*, and "ferociously talented" by *Time Out New York*, his many awards include the Presidential Scholar in the Arts, the National Foundation for Advancement in the arts (Young Arts gold medal), the Gilmore Young Artist, and the Avery Fisher Career Grant. He was also the only classical musician selected to the *Forbes* influential "30 Under 30" list of people changing the world in 2011. He has

received commissions from the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, for which he wrote a work to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Internationally praised for both her technical and lyrical command of the music, **Karina Canellakis** is the winner of the 2016 Sir Georg Solti Conducting Award and has received glowing reviews since first making headlines in 2014, filling in last-minute for Jaap van Zweden with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in Shostakovich's eighth symphony. Highlights of the 2016/17 season feature her European debuts with the Swedish Radio Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Orchestre National de Lyon, Trondheim, Kristiansand, and Malmö symphony orchestras. North American debuts include conducting the the orchestras of Toronto, Vancouver, Milwaukee, Florida, and Jacksonville, as well as the Louisiana Philharmonic, where she also appears as guest soloist on violin. Besides *the loser*, her other opera engagements this season include Peter Maxwell Davies' new opera *The Hogboon* with the Luxembourg Philharmonic and Verdi's *Requiem* at the Zurich Opera. A New York City native, Canellakis holds a Bachelor's degree in violin from the Curtis Institute of Music and a Master's degree in orchestral conducting from The Juilliard School.

The Richard B. Fisher Next Wave Award

Behind great arts presenters are great supporters, and few of BAM's friends have deserved that title more than Richard B. Fisher (1936—2004). A visionary in both professional and philanthropic endeavors, Dick championed the creation of a strong endowment to enable BAM to continue presenting its signature groundbreaking programming, even in difficult times. As Chairman of the BAM Endowment Trust from 1992—2004, Dick shared financial expertise from years as president, chairman, and chairman emeritus of Morgan Stanley, and he guided investments as pledges grew to \$50 million. The doubling of the endowment in 2004 may be largely credited to a leadership challenge grant from Dick and his wife, Jeanne Donovan Fisher, which in turn inspired support from other donors.

Dick's generosity throughout his life continued even after his passing in the form of a landmark bequest. To honor Dick's friendship to BAM and recognize the legacy of progressive arts presentations he helped ensure in Brooklyn, where he and Emily H. Fisher raised their family, BAM inaugurated the annual Richard B. Fisher Next Wave Award in 2006. Each year, members of the Fisher family help BAM select the engagement that best exemplifies Dick's forward-thinking ethos and passion for the arts, using this opportunity to celebrate Richard B. Fisher in perpetuity. Past recipients included Pina Bausch, Charles Mee, Bill T. Jones, Robert Wilson, Mark Morris, Kronos Quartet, Anne Bogart, Fiona Shaw, Brooklyn Youth Chorus, and James Thierrée.

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The Richard B. Fisher Next Wave Award ceremony will take place on stage at the opening night performance of the engagement. BAM Executive Producer Joseph V. Melillo will present the Fisher Award—a beautifully designed walking stick by Fort Greene sculptor/designer Chris Gullian, who drew his inspiration from Dick's interests and the architecture of BAM's Peter Jay Sharp Building—to David Lang.

For press information, contact David Hsieh at dhsieh@BAM.org or 718.636.4129 x5.

Credits

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor.

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Leadership support for opera at BAM provided by Aashish & Dinyar Devitre and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Major support for opera at BAM provided by The Francena T. Harrison Foundation Trust.

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Commissioned by BAM.

Produced by Bang on a Can.

General Information

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn's only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, offers a dinner menu prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a bar menu available starting at 6pm.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue – Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater); D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue

Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal – Barclays Center

Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM

Car: Limited commercial parking lots are located near BAM. Visit BAM.org for information.

For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.