Unbound: Philip Glass discusses his new memoir, *Words Without Music*, with Kurt Andersen, Apr 20

BAM and Pratt Institute present
*Unbound: Philip Glass*
With Kurt Andersen

Co-presented with Greenlight Bookstore

Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave)
Apr 20 at 8pm
$25 event only, $45 with book

Brooklyn, NY/Feb 24, 2015—Philip Glass, one of the most influential contemporary composers and an iconic BAM artist, will discuss his highly anticipated memoir *Words Without Music* on April 20 as part of *Unbound*: A Book Launch Series with BAM and Greenlight Bookstore. Novelist and public radio host Kurt Andersen, a trustee of Pratt Institute, will moderate. This evening is part of the Pratt Presents public programs series which features high-profile artists, designers, thought leaders, and influencers who have made major contributions to contemporary culture.

A versatile composer whose works include symphonies, operas, film scores, and small-scale compositions, Philip Glass crafted the dominant sound of late 20th-century classical music. In *Words Without Music* (Liveright), he traces his artistic arc, from childhood in post-World War II Baltimore to student days in Chicago, to Juilliard, and on his first journey to Paris, where he studied under the formidable composer/conductor Nadia Boulanger. Glass movingly recalls his early mentors, while reconstructing the places that helped shape his artistic consciousness. From a life-changing trip to India, where he met with gurus and first learned of Gandhi’s Salt March, to the gritty streets of New York in the 1970s, where the composer worked day jobs as a furniture mover, cabbie, and an unlicensed plumber, while methodically building his music career.

Tickets are $25 for event only and $45 with book. Tickets are on sale March 4 (Friends of BAM: February 25). For ticket information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100 or visit BAM.org.

Philip Glass, one of America’s most celebrated composers, applies his musical encounters in India, North Africa, and the Himalayas to his own compositions, creating a large body of work in a distinct idiom which can be heard in his operas, film scores, dance music, symphonic work, and string quartets. More than 20 of his pieces have been performed at BAM since 1981, including several benchmark works such as *Einstein on the Beach*, first presented at BAM’s 1984 Next Wave Festival (revived for Next Wave 1992 and 2012). Other BAM performances include *The Photographer/Far From the Truth* (BAM, 1983); *The CIVIL wars, Act V—The Rome Section* (Next Wave 1986); the world premieres of *Low Symphony* (Next Wave 1992) and Symphony No. 2 (Next Wave 1994); the New York premieres of *Orphée* (Next Wave 1993) and *La Belle et la Bête* (Next Wave 1994), and a presentation of *Les Enfants Terribles: Children of the Game* (Spring 1996)—all parts of his operatic trilogy...
based on the work of Jean Cocteau; Next Wave 1998’s Monsters of Grace; a live musical performance accompanying a screening of Koyaanisqatsi (Spring 1999); and Dracula: The Music and Film (Next Wave 1999) featuring the Kronos Quartet. Glass collaborated with director Mary Zimmerman for the opera Galileo Galilei, presented as part of the 20th anniversary season of the Next Wave Festival (2002). Glass’ more recent works at BAM include the collaborative concert work Orion and Symphony No. 6 and No. 8 (2005 Next Wave); and his opera Kepler (Next Wave 2009). During Next Wave 2014, the Philip Glass Ensemble appeared with Steve Reich and Musicians as part of the Nonesuch Records at BAM celebration, and later in that festival he and nine other pianists performed his complete piano etudes.

**Kurt Andersen** is a writer and the host and co-creator of the Peabody Award-winning public radio program *Studio 360*. His most recent novel *True Believers* was called by *Vanity Fair* "a great American novel," and according to *Fortune* "the best reverie on the 1960s and their legacy." His previous novel, *Heyday*, a *New York Times* bestseller, won the 2008 Langum Prize for the year's best work of American historical fiction. He has written primetime network television programs and pilots for NBC, ABC, and HBO, and co-authored *Loose Lips*, an off-Broadway theatrical revue that had long runs in New York and Los Angeles. Andersen is a regular contributor to *The New York Times*, among other publications. Earlier in his career, he was the architecture and design critic as well as a weekly cultural columnist for *Time*, a staff writer and columnist for *The New Yorker*, and a columnist for *New York*. He was also co-founder and editor-in-chief of *Spy* magazine and editor-in-chief of *New York*. He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College, and is a member of the boards of trustees of the Cooper-Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum and the Pratt Institute. He lives with his wife in Brooklyn.

**About Pratt Institute**
Founded in 1887, Pratt Institute is a global leader in higher education dedicated to preparing its 4,700 undergraduate and graduate students for successful careers in art, design, architecture, information and library science, and liberal arts and sciences. Located in a cultural hub with historic campuses in Brooklyn and Manhattan, Pratt is a living lab of craft and creativity with an esteemed faculty of accomplished professionals and scholars who challenge their talented students to transform their passion into meaningful expression.

**About Greenlight**
Founded in October 2009, **Greenlight Bookstore** is a general independent bookstore located in Fort Greene/Clinton Hill in Brooklyn, and serving the wider literary community. In addition to partnering with BAM on the Unbound series, Greenlight hosts literary events in the bookstore several nights a week. More information and details can be found at [greenlightbookstore.com](http://greenlightbookstore.com).

For press information, contact David Hsieh at dhsieh@BAM.org or 718.636.4129 x9, or Bob Meadows and Lauren Hiznay for Pratt at pratt@goodmanmedia.com or 212-576-2700.

**Credits**
Programming in the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House is supported and endowed by The Howard Gilman Foundation.

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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: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

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