



MIT Sounding 2015-16 New Music Series

Headliners: Maya Beiser, Keeril Makan & Jay Scheib's *Persona*, Johnny Gandelsman, FLUX Quartet, Pamela Z

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Cambridge, MA, August 13, 2015 — Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) announces the 2015-16 lineup for the innovative annual performance series [MIT Sounding](#), curated by Evan Ziporyn. Featured performances by some of the world's leading artists run the gamut, from Bach to Led Zeppelin and Morton Feldman, and from acoustic recitals to electronic manipulations of the human voice. The artists in this season's MIT Sounding offer audiences new ways to regard repertoire, genre and performance practice. In the fall season, Keeril Makan and Jay Scheib reimagine Ingmar Bergman's classic 1966 film [Persona](#) in operatic form; classical cellist [Maya Beiser](#) reinterprets the rock canon in "Uncovered"; and violinist [Johnny Gandelsman](#) reprises his powerful single-evening performance of J.S. Bach's complete Sonatas and Partitas. In winter/spring 2016 the intrepid [FLUX Quartet](#) presents the long-awaited Boston premiere of Morton Feldman's epic uninterrupted six-hour *String Quartet No. 2*; and electroacoustic songstress [Pamela Z](#) explodes our idea of vocal virtuosity.

MIT Sounding – an annual series – is presented by the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST), with support from the School of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences (SHASS) and the Music & Theater Arts program (MTA). The concert by Johnny Gandelsman is the first annual Terry and Rick Stone Concert. A full schedule and information about the musicians is below. Tickets and updated information can be found at arts.mit.edu/sounding

ABOUT THE MIT SOUNDING ARTISTS

Cellist [Maya Beiser](#) has captivated audiences worldwide with her virtuosity, eclectic repertoire, and relentless quest to redefine her instrument's boundaries. At MIT, Beiser performs a program built around her acclaimed album, *Maya Beiser: Uncovered*. This concert of canonical rock tunes, re-imagined and re-contextualized, expands the concept of a "cover tune" to be more than an homage to the original. These "uncovers," in new arrangements by MIT professor and composer Evan Ziporyn, evoke the unprecedented power of the music of Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix, Pink Floyd, Nirvana, Janis Joplin, Howlin' Wolf and AC/DC. The September 25 concert also includes a new work by indie rock bassist/composer Jherek Bischoff.

[Persona](#), a new chamber opera based on Ingmar Bergman's 1966 classic film, composed by Keeril Makan, with direction and libretto by Jay Scheib, previews in a workshop performance at MIT on October 17. Rome Prize winner Makan and Obie-award winner Scheib -- both MIT faculty -- audaciously transplant *Persona*'s famously provocative and complex depiction of human frailty, cruelty and identity into operatic form. (The fully staged production premieres at National Sawdust in Brooklyn, NY October 23-24.) *Persona* stars soprano Amanda Crider, is produced by Beth Morrison Projects (BMP) and conducted by Evan Ziporyn.

Russian-born violinist [Johnny Gandelsman](#)'s singular musical voice comes from the spirit of collaboration. As a member of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble and the string quartet Brooklyn Rider, he has distilled the creative sensibilities of a wide range of master musicians from around the world. At MIT last January, Gandelsman returned to the classical repertoire with a pop-up, unadvertised recital, performing Bach's Complete Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin to a small but packed house. Lloyd Schwartz, describing the event on NPR's *Fresh Air*, said, "I've heard some famous violinists attempt this epic feat, but none of them gripped me and delighted me as thoroughly as Gandelsman." Gandelsman now takes his powerful interpretation of these landmark works to the concert hall, reprising his riveting performance for the first annual Terry and Rick Stone Concert in MIT's Kresge Auditorium on October 30.

[FLUX Quartet](#) will perform the long-awaited Boston premiere of Morton Feldman's epic six-hour uninterrupted *String Quartet No. 2* at MIT in 2016. FLUX was the first group to undertake this late 20th-century masterwork of sustained, quiet intensity, developing new performance techniques to deal with the piece's extremes of stamina and concentration. They have since made the work one of their trademarks, with critic Alex Ross describing their performance as "a disorienting, transfixing experience that repeatedly approached and touched the sublime." Violinist Tom Chiu founded FLUX Quartet in the late '90s, cultivating an uncompromising repertoire that follows neither fashions nor trends, but rather combines yesterday's seminal trailblazers with tomorrow's new voices.

Virtuosic singer, composer, electronic musician, media and performance artist [Pamela Z](#) is a true pioneer of live digital looping techniques and a tireless creator and inventor. She presents a program of her own works at Le Laboratoire, Cambridge. With body-sensors and customized hardware and software of her own design, she uses elegant physical gestures and intricate real-time digital processing to create dense, complex sonic layers in solo works that combine experimental, extended vocal techniques, operatic bel canto, found objects, text and sampled concrete sounds. What results are aural and visual landscapes of stunning beauty and originality.

MIT SOUNDING SCHEDULE

Events take place on and around the MIT campus and times/locations are subject to change. Please check arts.mit.edu/sounding for updated event information.

September 25, 2015 / 8:00 PM concert, 7:30 PM pre-concert talk
Maya Beiser, *Uncovered*

Cellist Maya Beiser, with [Jherek Bischoff](#) on bass and [Matt Kilmer](#) on drums, transforms canonic rock-and-roll in *Uncovered*. Pre-concert talk by composer Evan Ziporyn.

MIT Kresge Auditorium, W16 / 48 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA

\$20, \$10 students, Free with MIT ID

<http://arts.mit.edu/artists/maya-beiser>

October 17, 2015 / 8:00 PM

Persona

A workshop performance of a new chamber opera based on Ingmar Bergman's classic film *Persona*.

MIT Rinaldi Tile Building, E33, 34 Carleton Street, Cambridge MA

Free tickets with advance RSVP, limited first-come first-serve seating

<http://arts.mit.edu/artists/persona/>

October 30, 2015 / 8:00 PM

Johnny Gandelsman / J.S. Bach

The Complete Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin

First Annual Terry and Rick Stone Concert

MIT Kresge Auditorium, W16 / 48 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA

\$20, \$10 students, Free with MIT ID

<http://arts.mit.edu/artists/johnny-gandelsman/>

February 28, 2016 / 2:00-8:00 PM

FLUX Quartet Concert

Morton Feldman, *String Quartet No. 2*

Boston premiere of this monumental six-hour work of quiet and sustained intensity.

Co-presented by MIT Music and Theater Arts

MIT Killian Hall, 14W / 160 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA

Free tickets with advance RSVP, limited first-come first-serve seating

Tickets available soon

<http://arts.mit.edu/artists/flux-quartet/>

March 11, 2016 / evening

Pamela Z, presented by the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology

Works for Voice & Electronics

Le Laboratoire / 650 East Kendall Street, Cambridge, MA

Free and open to the public

Tickets available soon

<http://arts.mit.edu/artists/pamela-z/>

About Evan Ziporyn

Evan Ziporyn, curator of MIT Sounding, is the Faculty Director of the MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology and Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor of Music at MIT. He directs Gamelan Galak Tika, which he founded in 1993, and is a member of Eviyan, a trio with Iva Bittova & Gyan Riley, whose new CD, *Nayive*, was released in May 2015. His opera, *A House in Bali*, directed by Jay Scheib, was featured at BAM Next Wave in 2009. He founded the award-winning Bang on a Can All-Stars in 1992, with whom he toured and recorded for twenty years, producing their seminal acoustic version of Brian Eno's *Music for Airports*. As a clarinetist, he is noted for his 2001 solo CD, *This is Not a Clarinet*, and for his definitive version of Steve Reich's *New York Counterpoint*. He also performed in the Steve Reich Ensemble's Grammy Award winning recording of *Music for 18 Musicians*. His music provided the soundtrack for the PBS film *Tailenders*, and his playing has been featured in numerous soundtracks, including *Fallen* and *(Untitled)*. He has also recorded with Paul Simon, Meredith Monk, Don Byron, Matthew Shipp and Ethel. His recent collaboration with cellist Maya Beiser, *Uncovered*, was released in August 2014. His multimedia work in collaboration with Christine Southworth, *In My Mind & In My Car*, was featured at OFF Festival in Poland, Ars Musica in Brussels, and Contact Intersection in Toronto. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ziporyn.com>

About CAST

The MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST) creates new opportunities for art, science and technology to thrive as interrelated, mutually informing modes of exploration, knowledge and discovery. CAST's multidisciplinary platform presents performing and visual arts programs, supports research projects for artists working with science and engineering labs, and sponsors symposia, classes, workshops, design studios, lectures and publications. The Center is funded in part by a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Evan Ziporyn, Faculty Director; Leila W. Kinney, Executive Director. <http://arts.mit.edu/cast>

About Arts at MIT

Nearly 80 percent of incoming MIT freshmen have prior training in the arts and nearly 50 percent of all MIT undergraduates enroll in arts courses each year. The arts at MIT connect creative minds across disciplines and encourage a lifetime of exploration and self-discovery. They are rooted in experimentation, risk-taking, and imaginative problem solving. The arts strengthen MIT's commitment to the aesthetic, human, and social dimensions of research and innovation. Artistic knowledge and creation exemplify MIT's motto— *mens et manus*, mind and hand. The arts are essential to MIT's mission to build a better society and meet the challenges of the 21st century. For more information: <http://arts.mit.edu>

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