

DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC
AT PRINCETON

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STEVE REICH AT 80: A PRINCETON CELEBRATION

FEATURING A FREE PANEL DISCUSSION AND CONCERT BY SŌ PERCUSSION & GUESTS

Sō Percussion, Princeton University's Edward T. Cone Artists-in-Residence, will host a celebration—**free** and open to all—of iconic American composer **Steve Reich** on **Tuesday, March 14, 2017** at **Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall**. The festivities will commence with a **panel discussion at 4PM** on Reich and his legacy, featuring conductor **David Robertson**, composer **Julia Wolfe**, and cellist **Maya Beiser** in conversation with musicology **Professor Simon Morrison**, and a second panel discussion at **5PM** with Professor Morrison, composition **Professor Donnacha Dennehy** and **Professor Steven Mackey** in conversation with percussionist **Adam Sliwinski** of Sō Percussion. A **mini-marathon concert**, entitled *Six Decades of Reich*, will follow at **7:30PM**, sampling works from each decade of the composer's prolific career. Sō Percussion will be joined onstage by vocalist **Beth Meyers**, soprano **Daisy Press**, flutist **Jessica Schmitz**, pianists **Orli Shaham** and **Corey Smythe**, and cellist **Maya Beiser**. Ms. Beiser will perform *Cello Counterpoint*, written for her in 2003. The concert will culminate with Reich's breakthrough masterpiece, *Drumming*, which Sō Percussion had performed at the Lincoln Center Festival this past fall to critical acclaim. **Though admission for both the discussion and the concert are free, reservations are required for the concert.** Please visit tickets.princeton.edu, or call the Frist Center Box Office at 609-258-9220.

"To hear [Sō Percussion], with their clarity and vivacity, in Mr. Reich's music was like staring at a Rothko canvas: The ears were flooded with ever more detail, much of it serendipitous and unexpected, the harder you listened... Here, musical tension combined with visual: the basic geometry of eight bongos, all in a line, with percussionists approaching them and then departing from the corners of the stage, in great but never pompous ceremony; the arc that the drumsticks trailed through the air, a blurring of the precise beats they created; the clash of sticks as players came dangerously close together." – *The New York Times*

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Sō Percussion will also be performing on the Princeton University campus the week prior to the Celebration of Steve Reich. On **Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 8PM**, the ensemble will perform new works by

Princeton graduate composers as part of the **Princeton Sound Kitchen** at Taplin Auditorium. The following afternoon, **Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 12:30PM**, the group will play during a **Live Music Meditation** in Richardson Auditorium, as part of Princeton University Concerts and the Princeton University Office of Religious Life's "**Mindfulness with Music**" program. This event will include Steve Reich's *Music for Pieces of Wood*. For further information about both events, please visit music.princeton.edu.

ABOUT STEVE REICH

Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Steve Reich was recently called "our greatest living composer" (*The New York Times*), "America's greatest living composer" (*The Village VOICE*), "...the most original musical thinker of our time" (*The New Yorker*) and "...among the great composers of the century" (*The New York Times*). Mr. Reich's path has embraced not only aspects of Western Classical music, but also the structures, harmonies, and rhythms of non-Western and American vernacular music, particularly jazz. "There's just a handful of living composers who can legitimately claim to have altered the direction of musical history and Steve Reich is one of them," states *The Guardian* (London).

ABOUT SŌ PERCUSSION

With its innovative multi-genre original productions, sensational interpretations of modern classics, and "exhilarating blend of precision and anarchy, rigor and bedlam," (*The New Yorker*), Sō Percussion has redefined the scope of the modern percussion ensemble. Their repertoire ranges from "classics" of the 20th century, to commissioning and advocating works by contemporary composers, to distinctively modern collaborations with artists who work outside the classical concert hall.

The members of the dynamic percussion quartet are the Princeton University Edward T. Cone Performers-in-Residence, teaching graduate and undergraduate students as both classroom lecturers and performance coaches. They workshop and premiere new works by student and faculty composers, teach chamber music, present regular masterclasses, and perform two major concerts in the Princeton community each year. In addition, the annual Sō Percussion Summer Institute brings some of the most promising young percussionists and composers from around the world to Princeton each July to premiere new works, many by Princeton graduate students.

LISTING INFORMATION

STEVE REICH AT 80: A PRINCETON CELEBRATION

Hosted by SŌ PERCUSSION, Princeton University Edward T. Cone Performers-in-Residence

WHEN: Tuesday, March 14, 2017

Panel Discussions: 4:00PM – 6:00PM

Concert: 7:30PM

PROGRAM: Works by Steve Reich: *Come Out*, *Cello Counterpoint* (written for Maya Beiser, who will perform this work), *Vermont Counterpoint*, *Nagoya Marimbas*, *Quartet*, *Drumming*.

WHERE: Richardson Auditorium in Alexander Hall, Princeton University

TICKETS: Free admission. Reservations required for the concert and can be made online at tickets.princeton.edu, by phone at 609-258-9220, or in person at the Frist Campus Center Box Office and two hours prior to the concert at the Richardson Auditorium Box Office

PHOTOS: sopercussion.com/media/photos/

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