

## 21C Music Festival

### Terry Riley: Live at 85!

Friday, January 18, 2019 at 8:00pm

Pre-concert Talk at 7:00pm

This is the 904<sup>th</sup> concert in Koerner Hall

**Tracy Silverman**, electric violin

**Terry Riley**, piano, vocals, synthesizer & melodica

**Gyan Riley**, electric guitar

#### PROGRAM:

Excerpts from *The Palmian Chord Ryddle* (arr. Tracy Silverman)

*Sri Camel* (arr. Tracy Silverman)

#### INTERMISSION

Program will include some of the following pieces

*Mongolian Winds*

Selections from *Salome Dances for Peace*

*Ebony Horns*

*Emerald Runner*

*The Bull*

*Song From the Old Country*

Tonight's program consists of intricate and often improvisational structures containing elements of minimalism, jazz, ragtime, and north Indian raga, the combination of which have defined Terry Riley's diverse and prolific career.

Tracy Silverman will perform works including excerpts from *The Palmian Chord Ryddle*, an electric violin concerto written for Silverman, commissioned by the Nashville Symphony Orchestra and premiered at Carnegie Hall in 2012, available on Naxos Records.

"Nothing I have done in this life has given me more satisfaction than improvising on these songs with Gyan. Nothing I have done can match the intuitive synchronicity we have shared many times on the stage. Gyan supplies a brilliant counterpoint to the strands, and moods of these pieces always surprising me with a virtuosity that serves and energizes his musical invention. I could not have dreamed up a better marriage of mind and spirit than this collaboration."

- Terry Riley

## Terry Riley

Terry Riley (composer, pianist, vocalist) launched the minimalist movement with his classic *IN C*, composed in 1964, a seminal work which was to have an enormous impact on the course of western music. His music has been played in the great concert halls throughout the world and his discography includes 60 recordings on labels such as Columbia Masterworks, Wergo, and Nonesuch.

He attended San Francisco State University and the University of California graduating with a master's degree in music. He studied composition with Robert Erickson and piano with Adolf Baller.

Mr. Riley was professor of composition 1971-1981 at the prestigious Mills College in Oakland, California. Besides concertizing, he has given lectures and seminars in the USA, Europe, and Australia.

He is a recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts grants, a Guggenheim fellowship, and a Fromm foundation grant for music composition. He holds honorary doctorate degrees from Chapman University and Cal Arts.

In addition to his solo piano concerts, Mr. Riley performs extensively with his son, classical guitarist Gyan Riley, and also appears in duo with saxophone virtuoso, George Brooks. Over his career, he has worked with Zakir Hussein, Chet Baker, Krishna Bhatt, John Zorn, Leonard Slatkin, and the Kronos Quartet.

Mr. Riley has been a student of Indian classical music since 1970, when he became a disciple of the great Kirana master, Pandit Pran Nath. He accompanied Pran Nath-ji in his many concerts over a period of 26 years until his passing in 1996.

He is a prolific composer, having written in virtually every form, including solo piano, a chamber opera, a triple concerto for two guitars and violin, a violin concerto, a piano concerto, works for choir and orchestra, and 23 works for string quartet, which include a string quartet concerto and a piano quintet. His concerto for electric violin was premiered at Carnegie Hall in New York on May 13, 2012 and a new concerto for organ and orchestra premiered at Walt Disney Hall in Los Angeles April 9-11, 2014.

Mr. Riley was named one of the 1,000 makers of the 20th century by *The Times* of London. His music is published worldwide exclusively by G. Schirmer.

## **Gyan Riley**

Gyan Riley won his first guitar in a raffle when he was 12 years old. Shortly after learning all of the songs in his cassette collection by ear, he became the first full-scholarship graduate guitar student at the San Francisco Conservatory. His diverse work now focuses on his own compositions, improvisation, and contemporary classical repertoire, and he has been commissioned by the Kronos Quartet, New Music USA, the Carnegie Hall Corporation, the American Composers Forum, and the New York Guitar Festival.

He has performed with Zakir Hussain, Lou Reed, John Zorn, the Kronos Quartet, Lee Ranaldo (of Sonic Youth), Iva Bittova, Julian Lage, the Bang-On-A-Can All-Stars, Bryce Dessner, Nico Muhly, Secret Chiefs 3, the San Francisco Symphony, the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra, and his father, the composer/pianist/vocalist Terry Riley.

Various tours have taken him throughout Europe, Canada, Latin America, Asia, and the US, both as a soloist and in various ensembles.

Terry and Gyan recently scored a new film by writer/director François Girard, entitled *Hochelaga, Terre des Âmes*, which premiered at the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival. Gyan has four solo CD titles and many ensemble/collaborative recordings, most recently working with the Tzadik Records label in New York.

## **Tracy Silverman**

Redefining the role of the violin in contemporary music, Tracy Silverman has contributed significantly to the repertoire and development of the 6-string electric violin and what he calls "post-classical violin playing."

Lauded by *BBC Radio* as "the greatest living exponent of the electric violin," Silverman's ground-breaking work defies musical boundaries. Formerly first violinist with the innovative Turtle Island String Quartet, he was named one of 100 distinguished alumni by The Juilliard School. A concert electric violinist, he is the subject of several electric violin concertos composed specifically for him by Pulitzer Prize winner John Adams, "Father of Minimalism" Terry Riley, Nico Muhly, and Kenji Bunch, as well as the composer of three electric violin concertos of his own.

*All artists are making their Royal Conservatory debuts tonight.*