

Hopkins Center for the Arts

at Dartmouth

presents

The Just and the Blind

Conceived and written by Marc Bamuthi Joseph

Original music composed by Daniel Bernard Roumain

Directed by Michael John Garcés

Thu, Jan 16, 7:30 pm

Spaulding Auditorium • Dartmouth College • 2020

Funded in part by the Wetzel Family Fund for the Arts, the Nathan W. Pearson 1932 and Sons Fund, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Program

Marc Bamuthi Joseph, spoken word
Daniel Bernard Roumain, violin/piano/electronics
Drew Dollaz, choreographer and dancer
Stephanie Goldsmith, vocalist

David Szlasa, Projection Designer
Xia Gordon, Animator
Stacey Boggs, Lighting Designer
Brittsense, Photographer
Lisa Armstrong, Journalist
Rika Iino, Producer
Melissa Higgins, Producer

Program Notes

Poignant and pressing, *The Just and the Blind* illuminates the unseen and under-heard experiences of incarcerated youth and the realities their families face. Spoken word artist and arts activist Marc Bamuthi Joseph (BAMUTHI) joins forces with long-time collaborator composer/violinist Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR) and street dance pioneer and choreographer Drew Dollaz to explore themes of racial profiling, sentencing and the prison-industrial complex from the perspective of fathers of Brown sons.

In addition to spoken word, music, and dance, *The Just and the Blind* features the work of the award-winning investigative journalist Lisa Armstrong, the provocative images of photographer Brittsense, and the illustrative talent of Xia Gordon, woven together by media designer David Szlasa under the direction of Michael Garcés.

Centered on the humanity of the historically marginalized, *The Just and the Blind* provides a framework for the unique voices of the community, striving to humanize the Black and Brown children that are enmeshed in it.

The Just and the Blind was commissioned by Carnegie Hall and presented as part of the 2019 Create Justice Forum.

The Just and the Blind was produced by Sozo Artists, Inc., in partnership with the Sozo Impact Fund and its fiscal sponsor, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, with support from Ford Foundation. Special thanks to Miami Light Project.

Approx duration: 62 minutes

About the Artists

Marc Bamuthi Joseph (BAMUTHI) is a 2017 TED Global Fellow, an inaugural recipient of the Guggenheim Social Practice initiative and an honoree of the United States Artists Rockefeller Fellowship. His opera libretto, *We Shall Not Be Moved*, was named one of 2017's "Best Classical Music Performances" by the *New York Times*. His evening-length work created in collaboration with composer Daniel Bernard Roumain, *The Just and the Blind*, was commissioned by Carnegie Hall and premiered to a sold-out house at Carnegie in March 2019. His upcoming piece, *In His Name*, is inspired by the forgiveness exhibited by the congregation of Emanuel AME church in Charleston, and will premiere at the Perelman Center in New York in 2021. While engaging in a deeply fulfilling and successful artistic career, Bamuthi also proudly serves as Vice President and Artistic Director of Social Impact at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC. He is in high demand for his creative approach to organizational design, brand development and community mediation, and has been enlisted as a strategic partner or consultant for companies ranging from Coca Cola to Carnegie Hall. His TED talk linking sports to freedom among immigrant youth has been viewed nearly 1 million times, and is a testament to his capacity to distill complex systems into accessible and poetic presentations. Bamuthi's community development philosophy, called "The Creative Ecosystem," has been implemented in dozens of cities across the United States and is the subject of several critical writings, including one of the seminal essays in "Cultural Transformations: Youth and Pedagogies of Possibility," published by Harvard Education Press. Bamuthi is the founding Program Director of the exemplary non-profit Youth Speaks, and is a co-founder of Life is Living, a national series of one-day festivals which activate under-resourced parks and affirm peaceful urban life. His essays have been published in Harvard Education Press; he has lectured at more than 200 colleges, and he

has carried adjunct professorships at Stanford and Lehigh, among others.

Daniel Bernard Roumain

Daniel Bernard Roumain's acclaimed work as a composer, performer, educator and activist spans more than two decades, and he has been commissioned by venerable artists and institutions worldwide. "About as omnivorous as a contemporary artist gets" (*New York Times*), DBR is perhaps the only composer whose collaborations span Philip Glass, Bill T. Jones, Savion Glover and Lady Gaga. Known for his signature violin sounds infused with myriad electronic, urban and African American music influences, DBR takes his genre-bending music beyond the proscenium. He is a composer of chamber, orchestral and operatic works; has won an Emmy for Outstanding Musical Composition for his collaborations with ESPN; was featured as keynote performer at technology conferences; and has created large-scale, site-specific musical events for public spaces. DBR earned his doctorate in music composition from the University of Michigan and is currently Institute Professor and Professor of Practice at Arizona State University. An avid arts industry leader, DBR serves on the board of directors of the League of American Orchestras, Association of Performing Arts Presenters and Creative Capital, the advisory committee of the Sphinx Organization, and was co-chair of 2015 and 2016 APAP Conferences. DBR most recently created the musical score for *The Just and the Blind*, a collaboration with spoken word artist and writer Marc Bamuthi Joseph, commissioned by Carnegie Hall; and a new work for Washington State University's Symphonic Band, *Falling Black Into The Sky*, based on the work of the artist James Turrell and his "light work" at Roden Crater. DBR is currently creating Cipher, a new pocket opera for the Philadelphia Boys Choir, with a libretto by Bamuthi, based on the incarceration of young Black boys.

About the Artists *continued*

Drew Dollaz

Drew Dollaz is a pioneer of flexing, a Brooklyn-based genre of street dance also referred to as bone-breaking, which is characterized by rhythmic contortionist movements. A self-taught dancer, Dollaz's signature work blends flexing with other genres of movement, including ballet, to create a transcendent hybrid of movement artistry. Dollaz has performed and partnered with a broad range of artists and brands, including Madonna, Rihanna, Skrillex, Red Bull, Sony, Aloft Hotels and Billboard. His performances on Madonna's MDNA tour in 2012 marked the first time flexing appeared on the world stage. Next Level Squad, a New York City collective of flexing dancers with whom Dollaz performs and choreographs, has garnered more than a million views on YouTube and has been featured on shows including *The Breakin' Convention* and *America's Got Talent*. *Movement For Human Rights*, a component of Dollaz's newest work *#IMPERFECT*, was performed to an audience of more than 70,000 at Budapest's Sziget Festival in 2019. *#IMPERFECT* is currently in creative development and will premiere in 2020. Arts education and youth empowerment are core tenets of Dollaz's work and he currently mentors young dancers and gives master classes around the world, most recently at the Kennedy Center for participants ranging from ages 5 through 70.

Michael Garces

Michael Garces is the Artistic Director of Cornerstone Theater Company, a community-engaged ensemble in Los Angeles where he recently directed *Urban Rez* by Larissa FastHorse. Other productions at Cornerstone include *California: The Tempest* by Alison Carey, *Plumas Negras* by Juliette Carillo and *Café Vida* by Lisa Loomer. He is a company member at Woolly Mammoth Theatre in Washington, DC,

where his directing credits include *Lights Rise* on Grace by Chad Bekim and *The Convert* by Danaí Gurira. Other recent productions include *The Box* by Sarah Shourd at Z Space and *District Merchants* at The Folger Theatre. Other credits include, in New York, BAM, The Atlantic, The Cherry Lane, INTAR and Repertorio Español; and, regionally, South Coast Repertory, A Contemporary Theatre, Hartford Stage, The Huntington Theatre and The Children's Theatre. Garces is the recipient of the Alan Schneider Director Award, the Princess Grace Statue Award, a TCG New Generations Grant, the NEA/TCG Career Development Program for Directors Grant, a Van Lier Directing Fellowship, and a Drama League Director's Residency. He serves as vice president of the executive board of SDC, the theatrical union for stage directors and choreographers.

David Szlasa

David Szlasa designs spaces for performances that occur in collaboration with individuals, institutions and communities. His work has been called "so timely as to feel timeless" by the *San Francisco Chronicle* and has received an Isadora Duncan Award, Future Aesthetics Award and a Gerbode. Szlasa's residency program *Range Studio* was deemed a Living Innovation Zone by the city of San Francisco in 2015 and became a national model for cross-sector partnerships between government, developers, institutional funders and academic institutions. Szlasa has taught design at Stanford University, St Mary's College of California, NYU, and currently at Bard College.

Annie March

Annie March has a contagious passion for production and loves supporting game-changing artists who elevate everyday experiences. Her dedication, flexibility and proclivity for mastering

new skills have made her a Jill-of-all-trades. Production credits include: Producer, DJ Spooky's *Quantopia* (2019 YCBA) and *The Hidden Code* (2015 MoS, Boston); Stage Manager *The Just and the Blind* (2019 Carnegie Hall); and Artist Relations, BAMS Fest (2019 Boston). She manages bluesman Ryan

Lee Crosby, and is the former manager of Haitian singer Emeline Michel and rock band Aloud. An international tour manager emeritus, March now lives in Massachusetts with her husband and their two young children.

Connecting Artists to the Community

While at Dartmouth, artists from *The Just and the Blind* taught a flex dancing master class, visited classes in the African & African American Studies and Film Studies departments, shared dinner and conversation with students, and participated in pre-show and post-show conversations.

For more information about Hop Engagement and Community programs, call 603.646.2010 or visit hop.dartmouth.edu/faculty-staff or hop.dartmouth.edu/community.

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Upcoming Events



Kronos Quartet with Terry Riley

Thu, Jan 23, 7:30 pm

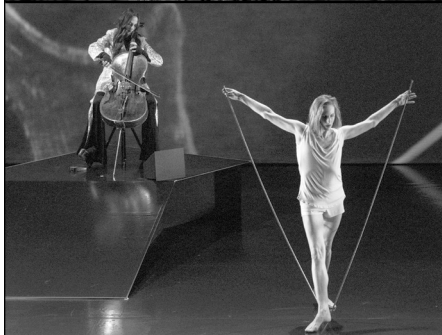
Hear the fascinating result of a 40-year friendship between an iconic American composer and his leading interpreters.



Wu Man and Friends

Sat, Jan 25, 7:30 pm

Internationally acclaimed pipa virtuoso and a brilliant ensemble launch Lunar New Year with an evening of music from the Golden Age of China.



The Day

Fri, Apr 10, 7:30 pm & Sat, Apr 11, 2 & 7:30 pm

“Force of nature” cellist Maya Beiser and “America’s greatest contemporary ballerina” Wendy Whelan explore life, loss and resilience, with music by David Lang and choreography by Lucinda Childs.



For tickets or more info, call the Box Office at 603.646.2422 or visit hop.dartmouth.edu. Share your experiences! #HopkinsCenter



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