

Philip Glass

Etudes and Other Work for Solo Piano

Friday, October 16, 2009



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Founded in 1998 by Linda Brumbach, Pomegranate Arts is an independent production company dedicated to the development of international contemporary performing arts projects. Since its inception, Pomegranate Arts has conceived, produced, or represented projects by Philip Glass, Laurie Anderson, London's Improbable, Sankai Juku, Dan Zanes, and Goran Bregovic. Special projects include *Dracula: The Music And Film* with Philip Glass and the Kronos Quartet; the music-theater work *Shockheaded Peter*; Brazilian vocalist Virginia Rodrigues; Drama Desk Award-winning *Charlie Victor Romeo*; *Healing The Divide*, *A Concert for Peace and Reconciliation*, presented by Philip Glass and Richard Gere; and Hal Willner's *Came So Far For Beauty, An Evening Of Leonard Cohen Songs*. Recent projects include the first North American tour of Goran Bregovic and the remounting of Lucinda Childs's 1979 classic *DANCE*.

Philip Glass

Etudes and Other Work for Solo Piano

This evening's program consists of original music composed for solo piano as well as a number of arrangements for organ or instrumental combinations. from 1976 to the present. The program includes a selection of the following works:

Etudes (1994–99)

These études are part of an evening length work of 16 études for piano completed in 1999. Each étude approaches the piano in a somewhat different way, producing a highly diverse set.

Four Metamorphoses (1989)

This is a set of piano pieces drawn from Errol Morris's film *The Thin Blue Line* and a staging of Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*, part of the Kafka Trilogy (*The Process*) by Gerald Thomas, first performed in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Mad Rush (1980)

This work was commissioned by Radio Bremen and originally composed for organ. Lucinda Childs choreographed a solo dance to this piece shortly after its premiere.

The Fourth Knee Play (1976)

The "Knee Plays" from *Einstein on the Beach*, composed in collaboration with theater director, designer, and author Robert Wilson, formed a series of short interludes, which appeared throughout this six-hour, four-act work. The original version, from which this arrangement was made, was scored for male chorus and the solo violinist who played the part of Einstein.

Satyagraha (1980)

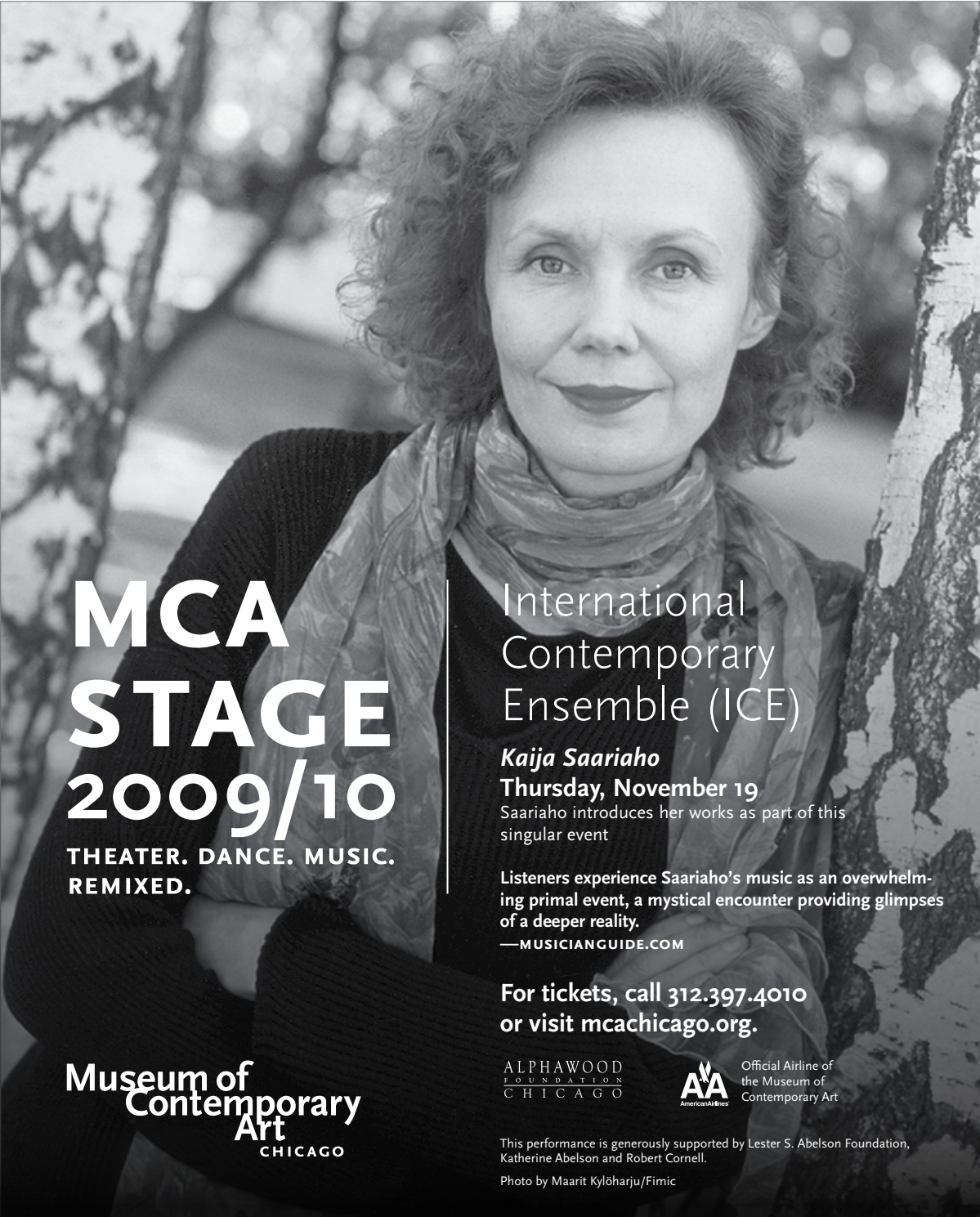
Satyagraha is the second in a trilogy of operas, which began with *Einstein on the Beach* and concluded with *Akhnaten* in 1984. The opera explores the theme of social change through nonviolence in the politics and life of Mahatma Gandhi. The trilogy premiered in 1989 in Stuttgart, Germany. The music heard in this piano arrangement appears at the conclusion of Act III and serves as an epilogue to the opera.

Excerpts from A Musical Journey (1988)

These piano works by Philip Glass were created in collaboration with Gambian Griot Foday Musa Suso.

This evening's program runs approximately one hour and twenty minutes in length with no intermission.

Music published by: Dunvagen Music Publishers, New York

A black and white portrait of Kaija Saariaho, a woman with curly hair, wearing a dark sweater and a patterned scarf, standing outdoors with trees in the background.

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This performance is generously supported by Lester S. Abelson Foundation,
Katherine Abelson and Robert Cornell.

Photo by Maarit Kylöharju/Firnic

About the artist



Photo by Raymond Meier

Philip Glass

was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1937, and is a graduate of the University of Chicago and the Juilliard School. In the early 1960s, Glass spent two years of intensive study in Paris with Nadia Boulanger, where he earned money by transcribing Ravi Shankar's Indian music into Western notation. Upon his return to New York, he applied these Eastern techniques to his own music. By 1974, Glass was involved in a number of significant and innovative projects, creating a large collection of new music for his performing group, the Philip Glass Ensemble, and for the Mabou Mines theater company, which he cofounded. This period culminated in *Music in Twelve Parts*, followed by the landmark opera *Einstein on the Beach*, created with theatrical producer Robert Wilson in 1976.

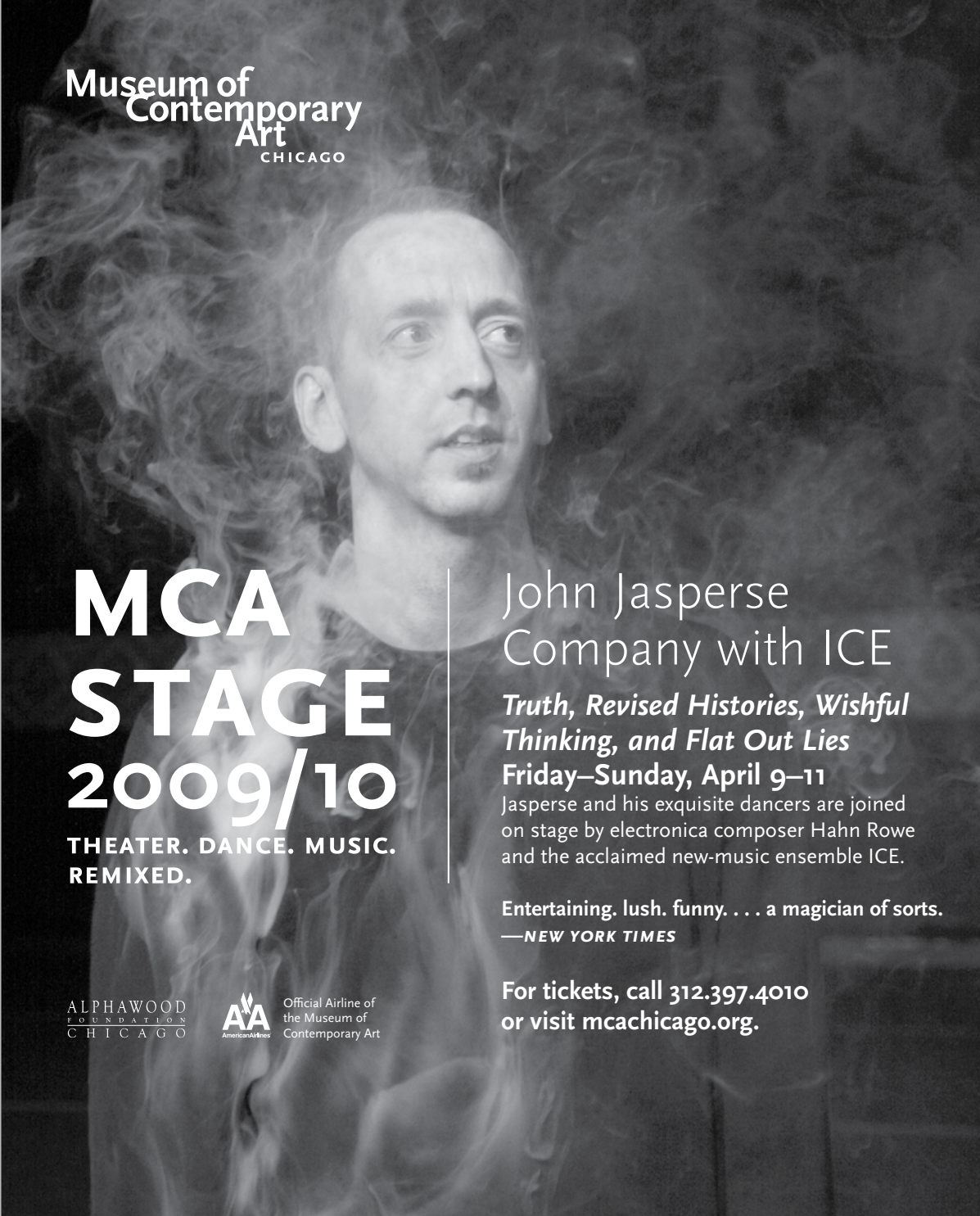
Since *Einstein*, Glass has expanded his repertoire to include music for opera, dance, theater, chamber ensemble, orchestra, and film. His score for Martin Scorsese's *Kundun* received an Academy Award nomination, while his score for Peter Weir's *The Truman Show* won him a Golden Globe. His film score for Stephen Daldry's *The Hours* received Golden Globe, Grammy,

and Academy Award nominations, and won a BAFTA in Film Music from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts. Original scores for the critically acclaimed films *The Illusionist* and *Notes on a Scandal* were released in 2006. Glass received an Oscar nomination for his *Notes* score.

In 2004, Glass premiered *Orion*, a collaboration with Glass and six other international artists, in Athens as part of the cultural celebration of the Olympic Games in Greece, and Piano Concerto No. 2 (*After Lewis and Clark*) with the Omaha Symphony Orchestra. Glass's latest symphonies, Symphony No. 7 and Symphony No. 8, premiered in 2005 with the National Symphony Orchestra at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., and Bruckner Orchester Linz at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, respectively. *Waiting for the Barbarians*, an opera based on the book by J. M. Coetzee also premiered that year. Glass's orchestral tribute to Indian spiritual leader Sri Ramakrishna, *The Passion of Ramakrishna*, premiered in 2006 at the Orange County Performing Arts Center.

Glass maintained a dense creative schedule throughout 2007 and 2008, unveiling several highly anticipated works, including *Book of Longing* and an opera about the end of the Civil War titled *Appomattox*. In April 2007, the English National Opera, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Opera, remounted Glass's *Satyagraha*, which appeared in New York in April 2008. Recent film projects include a score to Woody Allen's film *Cassandra's Dream* and a documentary on Ray Kurzweil titled *Transcendent Man*, which premiered in April 2009.

Glass's new opera, based on the life and work of Johannes Kepler and commissioned by Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture and Landestheater Linz, premiered in September 2009 in Linz, Austria. For more information on Philip Glass, visit philipglass.com.



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