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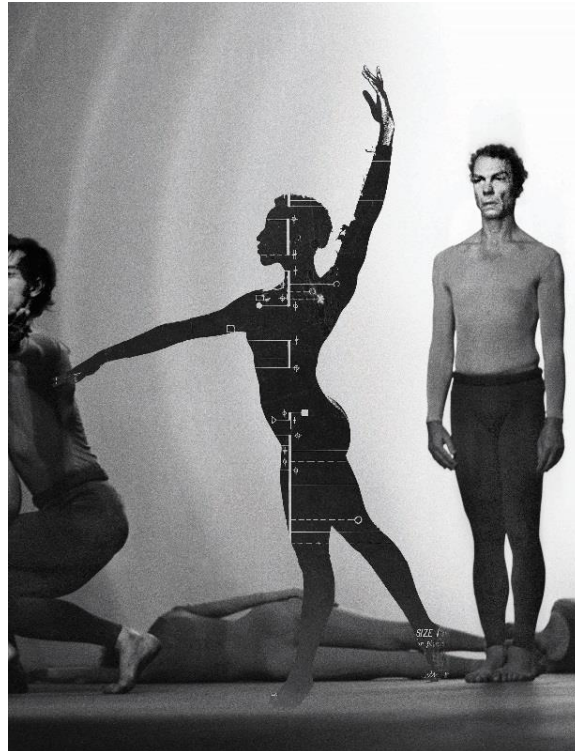
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**MCA AND CONTEMPO PRESENT
MATTHEW DUVALL AND GUESTS: WHISPER(S)
April 23, 2017**



The **Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago** and **Contempo** of the **University of Chicago Presents** host **Matthew Duvall and Guests: Whisper(s)**, a concert exploring sound and volume led by the percussionist and co-Artistic Director of Eighth Blackbird, **Matthew Duvall**, and featuring the world premiere of composer Marta Ptaszyńska's *Voice of the Winds*. In the spirit of Merce Cunningham, his artistic and life partner John Cage, and composer Morton Feldman, Duvall crafts a program that finds form and meaning in dynamic extremes—from a focused scream to the expansive edge of silence. The concert takes place on Sunday, April 23, 2017 at the MCA Stage.

The three-part program features scores from pioneers of 20th-century music and their various experimentations with the duration, symmetry, and boundaries of sound. Duvall, known for his ensemble work, is on stage in a rare solo performance.

Part I begins with Matthew Burtner's *Broken Drum*, in which Duvall uses an automobile's brake drum as an instrument. The program then moves into John Luther Adams' *Wail*, which evolves from a series of loud, angular sounds to a singular, soaring note. The first section concludes with Yu-Hui Chang's *Binge Delirium*, created to showcase the technical skill of a solo percussionist—in this case Duvall—as he plays a melodic score on a non-pitched instrument.

Part II opens with David Lang's *wed*, part of the composer's "memory pieces" collection. *Wed* is followed by *Composition as Explanation*, a lecture on art composed by Gertrude Stein, and Morton Feldman's *The King of Denmark*. Only six minutes long, *The King of Denmark* is one of Feldman's rare short works, and is performed without sticks or mallets. Then, Third Coast Percussion joins Duvall for John Cage's *Inlets*, an exploration of soft sounds performed on materials from the natural world.

Part III transitions from the theater to the upper floors of the museum, where Duvall is joined by 99 other percussionists for the world premiere of *Voice of the Winds*, a new ambient work composed by the Artistic Director of Contempo, Marta Ptaszyńska, and co-directed by Third Coast Percussion. Influenced by Cage's fascination with silence, Ptaszyńska's score creates a haunting, immersive soundscape throughout the MCA's upper floors and adjacent to the *Merce Cunningham: Common Time* exhibition.

ABOUT MATTHEW DUVALL

Matthew Duvall is co-Artistic Director, a founding member, and the percussionist for internationally acclaimed performance ensemble Eighth Blackbird, known for redefining the chamber music experience. Now in its twenty-first season, Eighth Blackbird boasts four Grammys, a MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions, multiple recordings on Cedille Records, and ensemble-in-residence positions at MCA Chicago, Curtis Institute of Music, University of Chicago, and the University of Richmond. Duvall studied Percussion Performance in the Oberlin Conservatory at Oberlin College.

ABOUT CONTEMPO

The University of Chicago's **Contempo** is one of the most successful new music collectives in the nation, with a reputation for innovative performances of scores by living composers. Its distinguished list of world premieres by both established and emerging composers includes works by Roger Sessions, Ralph Shapey, George Perle, Mario Davidovsky, John Harbison, Sofia Gubaidulina, Gunther Schuller, Shulamit Ran, and John Eaton. The 2016/17 season marks Contempo's 52nd season, the second season under artistic director Marta Ptaszyńska.

ABOUT THIRD COAST PERCUSSION

Third Coast Percussion is a Grammy Award-winning, artist-run quartet of classically trained percussionists based in Chicago. The ensemble has performed at venues including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Le Poisson Rouge, New York; and the National Gallery, Washington, D.C. Bringing a multidisciplinary approach to classical music, Third Coast Percussion has collaborated with engineers at the University of Notre Dame and architects at the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. Other collaborators include the chamber ensemble Eighth Blackbird, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, the Adler Planetarium, and Chicago-based composers Augusta Read Thomas and Glenn Kotche. They have also held residencies at the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. Alongside their own composition recordings, Third Coast Percussion has put its stamp on iconic percussion works by John Cage and Steve Reich, and created first recordings of commissioned works by Augusta Read Thomas, David T. Little, and Ted Hearne. In 2017, the ensemble was nominated for a Grammy for Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance for their recording of Steve Reich's works for percussion.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION MERCE CUNNINGHAM: COMMON TIME

February 11 - April 30, 2017

The MCA and the Walker Art Center together present the largest survey ever of the legendary choreographer and dancer Merce Cunningham and his dynamic artistic collaborations. This immersive exhibition, organized by the Walker, runs at both museums concurrently, with performances by international touring companies and former Merce Cunningham Dance Company (MCDC) dancers. The exhibition embodies both institutions' dedication to cross-disciplinary programming and artistic practice. Merce Cunningham revolutionized dance in the 20th century and continues to influence generations of artists, composers, and choreographers. His innovations and philosophies over a prolific 60-year career changed the course of modern dance and provided the impetus and inspiration for key movements in postwar artistic practice. Performance backdrops, costumes, artworks, photographs, documentary video and video installations, sets, and ephemera engage viewers in Cunningham's creative activities. The exhibition highlights partnerships with artists including lifelong collaborator John Cage as well as Jasper Johns, Robert Morris, Bruce Nauman, Nam June Paik, Robert Rauschenberg, Frank Stella, and Andy Warhol, all of whom developed work for MCDC.

TICKET INFORMATION

Matthew Duvall and Guests: Whisper(s) takes place on April 23 at 3 pm, and has a running time of ninety minutes. Tickets are \$12 and available through the MCA Box Office at 312.397.4010 or www.mcachicago.org.

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Composite image: Gordon Mumma, score for "A Choreography for Pianists" from *MEDIUM SIZE MOGRAPH* (detail) 1962, Walker Art Center Study Collection, Merce Cunningham Dance Company Collection, Gift of Jay F. Ecklund, the Barnett and Annalee Newman Foundation, Agnes Gund, Russell Cowles and Josine Peters, the Hayes Fund of HRK Foundation, Dorothy Lichtenstein, MAHADH Fund of HRK Foundation, Goodale Family Foundation, Marion Stroud Swingle, David Teiger, Kathleen Fluegel, Barbara G. Pine, and the T. B. Walker Acquisition Fund, 2011 (interior); Merce Cunningham in *Canfield* 1970, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Photo: James Klostym, Courtesy James Klostym (exterior).

Lead support for the 2016-17 season of MCA Stage is provided by Elizabeth A. Liebman. Generous support for MCA Dance is provided by David Herro and Jay Franke. Additional generous support is provided by Caryn and King Harris, Ms. Shawn M. Donnelley and Dr. Christopher M. Kelly, and Lois and Steve Eisen and the Eisen Family Foundation. The MCA is a proud member of the Museums in the Park and receives major support from the Chicago Park District. Season support is provided by Alphawood Foundation. MCA Stage is a proud partner of the National Performance Network.

Merce Cunningham: Common Time is organized by the Walker Art Center with major support provided by the Barnett and Annalee Newman Foundation and the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Generous support is also provided by Agnes Gund and the Roy Lichtenstein Foundation.

Lead support for the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago's presentation of *Merce Cunningham: Common Time* is provided by Cari and Michael Sacks. Major support is provided by Abby McCormick O'Neil and D. Carroll Joynes; Anonymous; and the Nancy Lauter McDougal and Alfred L. McDougal Exhibition Fund. Additional generous support is provided by Irving W. Harris Foundation; the NIB Foundation and the Robert Lehman Foundation.

The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The museum is generously supported by its Board of Trustees; individual and corporate members; private and corporate foundations, including the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; and government agencies. Programming is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency. Museum capital improvements are supported by a Public Museum Capital Grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The MCA is a proud member of Museums in the Park and receives major support from the Chicago Park District. The MCA is located at 220 E. Chicago Avenue, one block east of Michigan Avenue. The museum and sculpture garden are open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm and Tuesday from 10 am to 8 pm. The museum is closed on Monday. Tuesdays are Community Free Days with free admission for Illinois residents. Suggested general admission is \$12 for adults and \$7 for students and seniors. Children 12 years of age and under, MCA members, and members of the military are admitted free. Information about MCA exhibitions, programs, and special events is available on the MCA website at mcachicago.org or by phone at 312.280.2660.