

Sunday, November 24, 2024

JULIUS EASTMAN X KYLE MARSHALL

Kyle Marshall Choreography

JJJ, guitar

Adam Tendler & richard valitutto, piano

Seth Parker Woods, cello

Castle of our Skins, cello ensemble

Touch Him When (1970)

JJJ, guitar

Julius Eastman (1940–1990)

Gay Guerilla (1979)

Eastman

Adam Tendler & richard valitutto, piano
choreography by Kyle Marshall performed by
Khalid Dunton & José Lapaz-Rodriguez, dance
lighting design by Serena Wong

INTERMISSION

The Holy Presence of Joan d’Arc (1981)

Eastman

Seth Parker Woods, cello
Castle of our Skins, cello ensemble

Nathaniel Taylor
Owen Young
Robert Mayes
Patrice Jackson
Miguel Vasquéz
Yansaneh Clayton
Francesca McNeeley
Kamyron Williams
Javier Caballero

choreography by Kyle Marshall performed by
Justin Daniels, Taína Lyons, Kellye Smith,
& Syd Worthy, dance
lighting design by Serena Wong

NOTE ON THE PROGRAM

Five years ago, we teamed up with choreographer Kyle Marshall, cellist Seth Parker Woods, and a "cello army" put together by Castle of our Skins to perform Julius Eastman's amazing dectet. It was a smash. The original choreography to Eastman's work had been lost, so it was a joy to work with such a brilliant choreographer who made something new and beautiful for the music. That work has proven a big hit for Kyle Marshall, so we are delighted to bring it back and to commission a new dance to another Eastman work. And the terrific guitarist JJJ has kindly come to "shred" a little in a solo work she performs on electric guitar (much of Eastman's music offers some openness as to specific instrumentation). Eastman's music is in the middle of a process of reestablishing itself, gloriously. We are grateful for the chance to continue to be a part of that process, and to share his distinctive and personal music with you.

—George Steel, *Abrams Curator of Music*

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Kyle Marshall Choreography

Kyle Marshall, artistic director
Edo Tastic, creative director
Serena Wong, lighting designer
Emily Wong, stage manager
José Lapaz-Rodriguez, performer
Justin Daniels, performer
Kellye Smith, performer
Khalid Dunton, performer
Syd Worthy, performer
Taína Lyons, performer
Madalyn Rupprecht, company manager

Founded in 2014, **Kyle Marshall Choreography** (KMC) is a company that sees the dancing body as a container of history, an igniter of social reform, and a site of celebration. KMC believes in the creation, sharing, and teaching of dance as a way to deepen our knowledge of who we are as individuals, how we develop relationships, and, ultimately, societies. KMC has performed at venues throughout NYC including: the Joyce Theater, Chelsea Factory, BAM Next Wave Festival, Joe's Pub, the Shed, Roulette, and Abrons Arts Center. National touring has included: Jacob's Pillow (Becket, MA), American Dance Festival (Durham, NC), FringeArts (Philadelphia), and New World Center (Miami). Choreographic commissions have included: Philadelphia Museum of Art, Baryshnikov Arts Center, "Dance on the Lawn," Montclair Dance Festival, New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), and Harlem Stage.

Kyle Marshall (Artistic Director) is a choreographer, performer, teacher, and artistic director of KMC. Since its inception in 2014, KMC has performed at venues including: Chelsea Factory, BAM Next Wave Festival, Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out, Actors Fund Arts Center, NJPAC, Little Island, and Roulette. Kyle has received choreographic and dance film commissions from the Baryshnikov Arts Center, "Dance on the Lawn" Montclair Dance Festival, Harlem Stage, and the Shed. Kyle has received a 2018 NY Dance and Performance Juried Bessie Award, a 2020 Dance Magazine Harkness Promise Award, and a 2020 Bessie Honoree for his revival of *Colored* (2017). He has also received choreographic fellowships from Princeton University and NYU Center for Ballet and the Arts and residencies from Monira Foundation, 92Y, CPR, and Bethany Arts Community. As a performer, Kyle is a former member of the Trisha Brown Dance Company, doug elkins choreography etc., and Tiffany Mills Company. A New Jersey native, Kyle currently lives in Brooklyn and is a graduate of Rutgers University with a BFA in Dance.

Edo Tastic (Creative Director) is a visual artist based in New York City. His artistic path began with poetic works. After collaborating to add layers of sound, he paired poetic works with film and photography to paint visual storytelling. To date, he has produced poetic videos, films, and a short documentary, "The Poetic Catharsis Of Edo Tastic." In March 2021, Edo produced his first visual art show in Ma's House Residency titled *Nothing Is Something*, combining sound, poetry, lecture, lighting, and visual art in a span of a week. In October 2021, he self-produced a fashion-forward poetic short film, *Abducted: A Living Poet*, not yet released. In August 2022, he participated in a group showing at La Mama Galleries. He has produced fully conceptualized poetry readings in apartments, rooftops, and art galleries both in New York City and Jersey City. He has published two books: *Effects* and *He Was Here*, part of a 12-book poetic memoir, *BURPS*. He is currently working on a show titled *Land Here!*, consisting of over 150 visual art pieces.

Serena Wong (Lighting Designer) is a Brooklyn-based freelance lighting designer for theater and dance. Her designs have been seen at Lincoln Center, City Center, the Joyce, and Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, among others in the US and abroad—including, oddly enough, a Celebrity cruise ship. Most recently she has designed for choreographers LaTasha Barnes, Gemma Bond, Caleb Teicher, Leonardo Sandoval, and Bill T. Jones. She enjoys biking, baking, and pottery.

Emily Wong (Stage Manager) graduated with a B.A in Dance and is a freelance performer. She has worked in many venues: on Off-Broadway, Perelman Performing Art Center (PAC NYC), Danspace Project, Culture Lab LIC, Butoh Festival 2019, and at Hollins University. As a dancer, she has performed at Queensboro Dance Festival, AOS's AAPI Festival, NACHMO, Dance/NYC Symposium, and in Brookfield Place.

José Lapaz-Rodriguez (Performer) is a freelance dance artist and model from the Dominican Republic currently living in New Jersey. José is a Hanya Holm Award recipient and he graduated from Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University with a BFA in Dance Performance. José researches the interconnection of contemporary dance and voguing in concert dance in queer bodies as he is part of the ballroom

scene. He has performed works by Matthew Rushing, Pam Tanowitz, Jordan Lloyd, Stefanie Batten-Bland, Roderick George, and Darrell Grand Moultrie. Aside from concert dance, he has performed as a cameo artist in the Off-Broadway *Hercules* by Chase Brock; he collaborated with Mandy Moore for a Facebook Messenger commercial; Jermaine Browne for Rowan Papier's Telfar "The Same Beat" project; and danced in Chad Lawson's "Prelude in D Major" VEVO music video.

Justin Daniels (Performer) is an Atlanta native who began his artistic journey at Tri-Cities High School's Visual & Performing Arts Program in East Point, GA. He holds a B.F.A. in Contemporary Dance Performance with a minor in Psychology from The Boston Conservatory and abroad at the Central Academy of Drama in Beijing. Now a New York-based dance artist, choreographer, and photographer represented by BLOC NY, Justin has worked with GRAMMY® Award-winning artist Jon Batiste and recently with global sensation Serpenthwithfeet on *Heart of Brick*, a groundbreaking production intertwining music, theater, and dance. Justin has also been a collaborator in choreographic incubators with Dance Lab New York and residences at Kampnagel Summer Festival, Kaatsban, and Turnpark Summer festival. Featured at Dancetalia! (Spring 2021) and in *VoyageATL* Magazine (Spring 2022), Justin is committed to exploring and expanding the collectiveness of concert, commercial, and digital dance spaces.

Kellye Smith (Performer) is a performer, choreographer, and teacher originally from Richmond, Virginia. In 2023, she graduated cum laude from James Madison University with a BA in Dance, and later received her PreK-12 dance teaching license. While at JMU, Smith had the pleasure of performing original works by Ruben Graciani, Tiffanie Carson, Floyd McLean Jr, Ricky Ruiz, Xiang Xu, Monique Haley and various JMU faculty. Her choreography was chosen to perform in JMU's Mainstage Theatre and was also the recipient of the School of Theatre and Dance Outstanding Choreography Award. In her senior year, Smith was the head artistic director of Mozaic Dance Team, an award winning hip hop team on JMU's campus. Since graduating, she has apprenticed with Lucinda Childs Dance Company and Jon Lehrer Dance Company; performed original work by Brian Brooks at American Dance Festival; and trained at Eisenhower Dance Detroit's New Dance Fest. She is very excited to be joining Kyle Marshall Choreography.

Khalid Dunton (Performer) was born and raised in Washington, DC/Maryland. In 2020, Dunton completed his Bachelor's of Fine Arts in Dance as well as a minor in Business from Montclair State University. Dunton has performed with dance companies such as: Axelrod Contemporary Ballet Theater (2021), McKoy Dance Project (2022), Carolyn Dorfman Dance (2021-2023), and Gaspard & Dancers (2023-2024). During 2021, Dunton worked as a professional dancer in the iconic Black Iris Project which received a New York Emmy Award for *WILD: Bird of Paradise*. Along his dance journey, Dunton had the privilege of performing works by Martha Graham, Stacey Tookey, Juel D. Lane, Bill T. Jones, Carolyn Dorfman, Danial Shapiro and Joanie Smith, Maxine Steinman, Christian Von Howard, Earl Mosley, and many more. Dunton has performed in numerous spaces such as the Joyce Theater, Alexander Kasser Theater, Bryant Park, NJPAC, UTC Fine Arts Center, and

stages around the world. Showcasing his diversity, Dunton had the opportunity to work with celebrity artist Todrick Hall, featured as a dancer in his music video "WIG." Within the midst of his career, Dunton has trained and worked in the commercial dance industry alongside Dana Foglia, James Alonzo, and Yanis Marshall. Dunton strives to improve his artistry as a performer and is grateful to be succeeding in his career.

Syd Worthy (Performer) is a freelance dancer and visual artist. Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, now living in NYC, Syd is a recent graduate from Marymount Manhattan College (Spring 2023), where she received her B.F.A in Dance with a concentration in choreography. Her dance training extends from primary school to a college level of professional training, studying techniques such as ballet, Graham, jazz, Horton, African-Umfundalai Technique, hip hop, and more. Syd has also had opportunities to perform works with many professional choreographers in the larger dance world. This includes individuals such as Andrea Miller-GALLIM, Sekou McMiller, Akira Uchida, Rodney Hamilton, William Isaac, Jennifer Freeman, Darshan Singh Bhuller, April Berry, and Katherine Dunham. She is super excited to explore the depths of her artistry by finding the intersections of dance, art, and spirituality.

Taina Lyons (Performer) is a San Pedro, California, native who began her dance training at the San Pedro Ballet School at the age of four. Her professional dance training started at the Debbie Allen Dance Academy, eventually being mentored by Debbie Allen herself. She graduated from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts (NYU Tisch) with a B.F.A. in Dance and a minor in Spanish in 2020. There she performed in guest works by Ronald K. Brown, Wayne McGregor, and Lar Lubovitch. In the spring of 2019, she also had the pleasure of studying abroad at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, Czechia. Since graduating, she has had the honor of being a founding member of the Limón Dance Company's Limón2 (L2) company; an apprentice with Ronald K. Brown's Evidence; as well as performing and touring with Kyle Marshall Choreography. Most recently she was a Mark Morris Dance Group company member from 2022-2024 and is both a Dance for PD® (Parkinson's Disease) teacher and NYU Tisch Dance Adjunct Professor. Taína is very excited to be working with Kyle Marshall Choreography again.

Madalyn Rupprecht (Company Manager) is a movement-based artist and arts administrator born in Baltimore and now based in Brooklyn. As a performer, Madalyn has performed works by Abby Zbikowski, Alwin Nikolais, Fredrick Earl Mosley, Kathleen Kelley, and Martha Graham, among others. She has performed at the 92nd Street Y, Jacob's Pillow, and the Joyce Theater, and has been selected to present their work at NYU Tisch School of the Arts; Montclair State University; Bridge for Dance's Uptown Rising Performance Series; the Post/Future Performance Festival; and Bailar al Sol International Dance Festival in Puerto Rico. Most recently she was in residence at MOtIVE Brooklyn.

As a dance administrator & marketer, Madalyn has worked with Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, Michelle Tabnick PR, Proteo Media + Performance, and Eryc Taylor Dance. Presently, they are the Communications Coordinator for dance service

organization Dance/NYC and the Company Manager for Kyle Marshall Choreography. Madalyn graduated magna cum laude from Montclair State University with a BFA in Dance and a BA in Journalism.

Praised by the *Washington Post* for her “mesmerizing” and “stirring” performances, **JJLI** is an adventurous guitarist known for her virtuosity and command of diverse repertoire. Equally at home with both acoustic and electric guitar, her concert programs range from traditional and contemporary classical to free improvisation.

Through her compelling musicianship and stage presence, JJLI has solidified her reputation as a top 21st-century guitarist. In recent seasons, JJLI has presented solo recitals at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, 92nd Street Y, and the National Art Gallery, among other distinguished venues. In 2016, she became the first guitarist in 30 years to secure first prize in the Concert Artists Guild Competition.

JJLI's 2024-2025 season demonstrates her range and versatility on her chosen instrument. She performs with the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra, the Marquette Symphony Orchestra, and Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra. Other season highlights include her debut with the Seattle Symphony, a performance at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and an appearance with the Bach Festival Society of Winter Park, FL.

JJLI has also gained a reputation as a sought-after concerto soloist. Equally fluent in classical and contemporary genres, her premieres of new guitar concertos continue to break new ground. Over the last five years alone, JJLI has premiered major concertos by composers Steven Mackey, Natalie Dietterich, Hilary Purrington, and Krists Auznieks.

A committed educator, JJLI is Associate Professor of Music in Guitar at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. She has presented master classes and workshops extensively, including at the Peabody Institute, Yale University, and Dublin's National Concert Hall, among many others.

In addition to advocating for the music of her contemporaries, JJLI also performs and records many of her own works, and she continues to develop her distinctive compositional voice. During her spare time, JJLI enjoys cooking and creating weird sounds on Ableton.

GRAMMY® Award-nominated pianist **Adam Tandler** is a recipient of the Lincoln Center Award for Emerging Artists and the Yvar Mikhashoff Prize and is considered “currently the hottest pianist on the American contemporary classical scene” (*Minneapolis Star Tribune*); “relentlessly adventurous” (*Washington Post*); a “remarkable and insightful musician” (*LA Times*); and an “intrepid... maverick pianist” (*The New Yorker*). A pioneer of DIY culture in classical music, at 23, Tandler performed solo recitals in all 50 United States as part of a grassroots recital tour called “America 88x50,” the subject of his coming-out memoir, *88x50*. He has gone on to become one of today's most recognized and celebrated performers in classical-contemporary music, appearing with the London Symphony Orchestra, LA Philharmonic, Sydney Symphony, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Vermont Symphony Orchestra, New Jersey Symphony, and on the main-stages of Carnegie

Hall, the Barbican Centre, Sydney Opera House, Roy Thomson Hall, BAM, and leading series and stages nationwide. This year he also performed at the Venice Biennale and Milan Fashion Week.

Tandler's recordings include Wild Up's GRAMMY® Award-nominated album of works by Julius Eastman, *If You're So Smart, Why Aren't You Rich?*, as well as solo albums of music by Robert Palmer, Franz Liszt, and his own music. He recently premiered and recorded 16 new works for piano, commissioned using the entire inheritance left to him by his semi-estranged father, in a project called *Inheritances*, a *New York Times* Critic's Pick, which described the program as “emotionally involving...with a sense of true dramatic stakes.” *Inheritances* will be released on New Amsterdam Records this winter and the lead singles “Morning Song” by Devonté Hynes and “Forgiveness Machine” by Missy Mazzoli were released this fall.

Adam Tandler was 2024's Artist-in-Residence at Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery, creating an immersive installation exploring queerness, grief, and identity, called *Exit Strategy*. Adam Tandler is a Yamaha Artist and serves on the piano faculty of NYU.

Described as “a keyboard superstar” (*The New Yorker*), and a “spellbinding,” “vigorously virtuosic,” “all around go-to new music specialist” (*LA Times*), **richard valitutto** is a GRAMMY® Award-nominated piano soloist, chamber musician, and vocal accompanist. They have collaborated and performed with the Martha Graham Dance Company, Tiny Desk Concerts, PBS Great Performances, Kammerensemble Neue Musik Berlin, and the American Academy in Rome, among many others. valitutto is a founding member of the ensemble Wild Up, most notably as “pianist, and resident [Julius] Eastman scholar” (*Vogue*), contributing their piano artistry, incisive writing, and tenacious research efforts to the ensemble's ongoing Julius Eastman Anthology, dedicated to the late composer's music. Released annually on New Amsterdam Records to wide-spread acclaim, both Volumes 2 and 3 were GRAMMY® Award-nominated for Best Classical Compendium, and Volume 4 contained valitutto's deeply personal, virtuosic rendition of Eastman's only surviving piano composition, *Piano 2*. valitutto is currently ABD in Cornell University's Keyboard Studies DMA program with a dissertation project on Julius Eastman, his life, and music. They hold additional degrees from the California Institute of the Arts (MFA) and the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music (BM, summa cum laude). socials: @pianotutto

Two-time GRAMMY® Award-nominated cellist **Seth Parker Woods** has established his reputation as a versatile artist and innovator across multiple genres, prompting *The New York Times* to write, “Woods is an artist rooted in classical music, but whose cello is a vehicle that takes him, and his concertgoers, on wide-ranging journeys.” Woods has served on the faculty of the Thornton School of Music at The University of Southern California since 2022 and was appointed to the Robert Mann Chair in Strings and Chamber Music in 2024.

Among the highlights of his 2024-2025 season, Woods performs in the world premiere of Nathalie Joachim's new cello concerto, *Had to Be*, at Spoleto Festival USA, later performing its New York premiere in his debut with the New York

Philharmonic. He makes his Los Angeles Philharmonic debut in the world premiere of a new cello concerto by Julia Adolphe. A core member of the music collective Wild Up, Woods is featured as soloist in the group's *Eastman Vol. 4: The Holy Presence*, released June 2024 on New Amsterdam Records, and was nominated alongside the group for a 2023 GRAMMY® Award.

During the 2023-2024 season, Woods brought his GRAMMY® Award-nominated, autobiographical tour-de-force *Difficult Grace* to San Diego and Philadelphia, following the world premiere at 92NY and performances at UCLA and Chicago's Harris Theater. *Difficult Grace* was released as an album on Cedille Records in 2023 and nominated for the 2024 GRAMMY® Award for Best Classical Instrumental Solo. Highlights of last season include performances with Hilary Hahn at Konzerthaus Dortmund in Germany and touring a new version of John Adams's *El Niño: Nativity Reconsidered* with American Modern Opera Company (AMOC).

In addition to his post at the University of Southern California, Woods serves on the artist faculty of the Music Academy of the West each summer. He holds degrees from Brooklyn College and Musik Akademie der Stadt Basel, as well as a PhD from the University of Huddersfield.

Learn more at www.sethparkerwoods.com.

Castle of our Skins, cello ensemble

Nathaniel Taylor
Owen Young
Robert Mayes
Patrice Jackson
Miguel Vasquez
Yansaneh Clayton
Francesca McNeeley
Kamyron Williams
Javier Caballero

Known for bringing "an endlessly curious and almost archaeological mind to our programming" (*New York Times*), **Castle of our Skins** is a Black arts institution that centers Black arts, culture, and history in each curated event, musical selection, and artistic collaborator chosen. With our 11-season track record of creating multidisciplinary experiences, building collaborations, and promoting under-celebrated narratives, we are known as being "champions of Black artistry" (*The Strad*) with "ambitious hopes" that "seem right for a world that more often than not seems agonizingly divided" (*Boston Globe*).

Co-founded in 2013 by two African American musicians who met while attending the New England Conservatory, Castle of our Skins has presented thought-provoking programs throughout Greater Boston and beyond at such venues as Hibernian Hall, the Kimmel Center (Philadelphia), and Sheldonian Theatre (Oxford, England). Over the years, we have partnered with diverse organizations ranging from the youth-focused Project STEP, Conservatory Lab Charter School, and the Boston Public Schools system, to cultural institutions including the Celebrity Series of Boston, Boston Symphony Orchestra, and the Museum of African American History, to national and international partners such as the Boulanger Initiative (DC) and Ensemble Recherche (Germany). Across all of our collaborations and programmatic efforts, we strive to reach new audiences—particularly those identifying from the African diaspora—while centering Black culture, arts, and community.

Committed to education—especially early intervention through music and the arts—we are proud to create culturally responsive workshops and curriculum guides for young learners, commission new works by Black composers for primary school music students, and lead multi-day college residencies around the country. In 2024, we released several publications through the newly created Music Inclusion Hub and Rising Tide Music Press in partnership with Boston Public Schools.

Fundamentally, we are storytellers—griots—who engage with a medium of art practices to highlight the multi-dimensionality of Black creativity. Within the Greater Boston classical music and arts scene, we are unrivaled in our dedication to program works by African diasporic composers in collaboration with other artistic disciplines—spoken word, visual arts, dance, multimedia, crafts, fashion design, etc. Our highly collaborative spirit and unwavering commitment to elevating Black creativity are balanced by our long-standing curiosity in history and impactful storytelling.

Mission:

Castle of our Skins is a Black arts institution dedicated to fostering cultural curiosity and celebrating Black artistry through music. In classrooms, concert halls, and beyond, Castle of our Skins invites Black heritage and culture exploration, spotlighting both unsung and celebrated figures of past and present.

Social Media:

Instagram: @castleskins
Facebook: @castleskins
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/castle-of-our-skins-b623161a4>

Kindly turn off all electronic devices during the concert and refrain from any photography or filming in the hall. Also, please note the location of the emergency exit doors: across the hall from the doors through which you entered.

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum resides on the homelands of the Massachusetts Tribe, who belong to this place and continue to regard these lands and waters as sacred.

This performance is made possible by the Anne Hawley Fund for Programs.

Music at the Gardner is supported by Nora McNeely Hurley / Manitou Fund. Hemenway & Barnes LLP is the lead corporate sponsor of the Weekend Concert Series. The Museum thanks its generous concert donors: The Coogan Concert in memory of Peter Weston Coogan; Fitzpatrick Family Concert; James Lawrence Memorial Concert; Alford P. Rudnick Memorial Concert; David Scudder in memory of his wife, Marie Louise Scudder; Wendy Shattuck Young Artist Concert; and Willona Sinclair Memorial Concert. The piano is dedicated as the Alex d'Arbeloff Steinway. The harpsichord was generously donated by Dr. Robert Barstow in memory of Marion Huse, and its care is endowed in memory of Dr. Barstow by The Barstow Fund. Music at the Gardner is also supported in part by New Music USA's Organization Fund, Nicie and Jay Panetta, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which is supported by the state of Massachusetts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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