



Press Information
24.03.09

Philip Glass to appear at Futuresonic - Etudes and Other Work for Solo Piano to be performed live at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, UK, May 16th 2009

“The most powerful composer of our time...what Glass is doing is changing the face of music for our time and all time.” - *The Daily Telegraph*

Futuresonic, the UK's urban festival of art, music & ideas, has just announced Philip Glass will be making a rare UK appearance in May. Simultaneously stirring and meditative, this special evening of Philip Glass' solo piano will be an opportunity to experience this influential composer's work first-hand.

Debuting a program that features his most recent Etudes for piano as well as classics in Glass' repertoire, this concert provides a glimpse into the intricacies of the composer's work in its most elemental form. Speaking from the piano bench, Glass personally introduces the program. An intimate and unique look at a visionary at work, this evening provides a fond re-acquaintance for Glass fans and a perfect introduction for a new audience.

This UK performance consists of original music composed for solo piano as well as a number of arrangements for organ or instrumental combinations. All the music comes from the period dating from 1976 to the present and will include a selection of the following works:

Etudes (1994-1999)

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

Metamorphosis I-V (1989)

Metamorphosis includes five pieces, and its title is from a play based on Kafka's short story, *Metamorphosis*. Pieces Three and Four are from Glass' music to the staging of Kafka's *Metamorphosis* by Gerald Thomas, first performed in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Pieces One, Two, and Five were drawn from his soundtrack for the acclaimed Errol Morris film, *The Thin Blue Line*. As both projects were undertaken at the same time, the music seemed to lend itself well to a synthesis of this kind.

Mad Rush (1980)

This piece 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 theatre 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 explored the theme of social change through non-violence as seen in the politics and life of Mahatma Gandhi. The trilogy as a whole was performed in Stuttgart, Germany in 1989. The music heard in this piano arrangement appears at the conclusion of Act III and serves as an epilogue to the opera.

Concert Details

Futuresonic and OH Digital present
Etudes and Other Work for Solo Piano by Philip Glass
May 16th 2009
RNCM
124 Oxford Road
Manchester, M13 9RD

Doors 7.30pm / Performance from 8.00pm
Tickets £37.50

Tickets available from RNCM Box Office / 0161 907 5555 or online www.futuresonic.com

Philip Glass is presented in association with the Norfolk & Norwich Festival

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About Futuresonic

Established in 1995, Futuresonic is an international festival featuring world premieres of astonishing artworks, an explosive city-wide music programme, and visionary thinkers from around the world. Featuring 50,000 festival visitors and 300 artists at 100 events in a city-wide urban festival experience.

In addition to Philip Glass Futuresonic's music line-up includes a breathtaking AV show by Mexican electronic pioneer Murcof, a highly anticipated UK performance from Icelandic composer Johann Johannsson, and the legendary NYC based hip-hop crew Anti-Pop Consortium. Plus Kode 9, for many the UK's hottest DJ, headlining a showcase of UK bass music, and the finger-picking prowess of guitarist Marnie Stern, hailed as 2009's most exciting rock act by *New York Times*.

For more information and book tickets go to: www.futuresonic.com or call 0161 907 555
In 2010 Futuresonic will return as FutureEverything



About Philip Glass

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Philip Glass 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 and, while there, 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 had 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 co-founded.

This period culminated in *Music in Twelve Parts*, followed by the landmark opera, *Einstein on the Beach*, created with 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, along with winning 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 last year. Glass has received an Oscar nomination for his *Notes* score.

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

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' *Satyagraha*, which appeared in New York in April 2008. Woody Allen's recent film, *Cassandra's Dream*, with an original score by Glass, premiered in January 2008.