

## BANG ON CAN

### FIELD RECORDINGS

20 March 2012 Barbican Hall, Barbican Centre, London [World Premiere]  
28 April 2012 Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, New York [US Premiere]

Using film, found sound and archival audio and video, Field Recordings – the new evening length program of the Bang on a Can All-Stars - builds a bridge between the seen and the unseen, the present and absent, the present and the past. Rock and Roll's spark came from field recording pioneers the Lomaxes and the Seegers going in to the backwoods South, finding and recording roots music and bringing it to a larger public. Modernism got a jolt when composers like Bartok and Kodaly went into the hills of central Europe, bringing out unpredictable rhythms and gritty harmonies which they used to challenge the status quo. In the 60's, radical composers used recordings as building blocks for mind-blowing works of art. What would we learn from our world if today's genre-blurring composers were encouraged to go into the field, to record something new or find something old, and to have that recording challenge their own music? This new "group commission," written for the Bang on a Can All-Stars to play, asks a terrific range of composers to find out – with new music by: **Tyondai Braxton, Christian Marclay, Nick Zammuto** of The Books, **Mira Calix, Florent Ghys, Evan Ziporyn, Michael Gordon, David Lang, Julia Wolfe**.

### BRIAN ENO: MUSIC FOR AIRPORTS

Bang on a Can offers its landmark live performances of Brian Eno's ambient classic *Music for Airports*. In 1978 Brian Eno redefined how we relate to music in our everyday lives with this mesmerizing, dreamy, intense sonic landscape. In his analog studio, looping bits of tape, Eno never imagined that a new generation of musicians would take his music out of the studio and perform it live. The explosive Bang on a Can All-Stars bring this masterpiece to life.

Since their celebrated 1998 recording of Brian Eno: Music for Airports (Universal), Bang on a Can All-Stars have brought this work to live audiences across the globe with concerts at many of the most prestigious festivals and venues including Lincoln Center, UCLA Live, Royal Festival Hall in London, the Holland Festival, and even public performances at Brussels International Airport, Schipol Airport in Holland, John Lennon Airport in Liverpool, and more. Having performed the work on tour most often in their traditional sextet lineup, the All-Stars are now resurrecting the original 'all live' performances, calling upon local musicians and chorus to join in on strings, winds, brass, and voice.

### BIG BEAUTIFUL DARK & SCARY

#### GORDON LANG WOLFE REICH ANDRIESEN

Bang on a Can All-Stars present a concert of explosive new work by its co-founding composers Michael Gordon, David Lang, and Julia Wolfe, plus premiere performances of Steve Reich's new "double rock quintet" *2x5* written for two sets of two electric guitars, electric bass, piano, and drums – recently recorded by Bang on a Can on Nonesuch, and Dutch master Louis Andriessen's brand new work *Life* with films by Dutch film-maker Marijke Van Warmerdam. [Additional rep on this concert may include new work by composer-guitarist **David Longstreth** of indie rock sensations *Dirty Projectors*].

### JULIA WOLFE: STEEL HAMMER

#### BANG ON A CAN ALL-STARS & TRIO MEDIAEVAL

Premiered to critical acclaim including runner-up for the 2010 Pulitzer Prize, Wolfe's *Steel Hammer* is inspired by her love for the legends and music of Appalachia, and culls from both the music and oral traditions of the region. The text is taken from over 200 versions of the John Henry ballad – based on hearsay, recollection, and tall tales – and through the radiant voices of Trio Mediaeval, explores the subject of human vs. machine in this quintessential American legend. *Steel Hammer* stretches the standard instrumentation of Bang on a Can All-Stars with wooden bones, mountain dulcimer, banjo, and more, to evoke the rich instrumental colors of Appalachia. *The New York Times* calls it a "wild hybrid" and an "obsessive study of the song's many versions."

### AT THE MOVIES

Bang on a Can All-Stars perform visually stunning music and film collaborations including **David Lang's** *Heroin* (new setting of the **Lou Reed/Velvet Underground** classic) with film by **Doug Aitken**; Dutch master **Louis Andriessen** with film by celebrated Dutch video artist **Marijke Van Warmerdam**; British minimalist **Michael Nyman's** *Manhatta* with film by the iconic 1920s American photographer **Paul Strand**; new video scores by video-art phenom **Christian Marclay** and indie rock sensation **Nick Zammuto** of The Books.

### BANG ON A CAN PLAYS STEVE REICH

Bang on a Can All-Stars and special guests combine for landmark performances of Reich's new electric *2x5*, the Pulitzer Prize winning *Double Sextet*, the unique multi-media arrangement *Piano/Video Phase*, and more. Composer Steve Reich joins the group on select occasions.