



JAAP VAN ZWEDEN
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Thursday, February 1, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

THE 65TH STREET SESSION

Chris Thile, Curator / Performer

Billy Strings, Guitar / Vocals

with special guest

Cory Henry, Organ / Piano

Wu Tsai Theater

David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Home of the New York Philharmonic

This program will last approximately two hours.
There will be no intermission.



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A Note from the Curator

When a music haven as righteous as the new David Geffen Hall enters its second year, the entire music community rejoices, regardless of genre. *The 65th Street Session* is a series of concerts where that community can gather in all of its varied beauty, a number of artists at a time, performing separately and together, to remind us and each other that while our similarities may start conversations, our differences can deepen them beyond our wildest imagination.

— **Chris Thile**
Curator, *The 65th Street Session*
2023–24 Season Creative Partner

THIS CONCERT WILL BE PERFORMED WITHOUT AN INTERMISSION.

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The Artists



MacArthur Fellow and Grammy Award-winning mandolinist, singer, and songwriter **Chris Thile** is a founding member of the critically acclaimed bands Punch Brothers and Nickel Creek. For four years he hosted the public radio favorite *Live from Here with Chris Thile* (formerly known as *A Prairie Home Companion*). With his broad outlook, he creates a distinctly American canon and a new musical aesthetic for performers and audiences alike.

Thile recorded *Laysongs*, released in June 2021 on Nonesuch. The album is his first truly solo album — just Thile, his voice, and his mandolin, on new recordings of six original songs and three covers, all of which is contextualized with banter including his ideas about spirituality. Recorded in a converted upstate New York church during the pandemic, *Laysongs*'s centerpiece is the three-part *Salt (in the Wounds) of the Earth*, which was inspired by C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*. The album also features a song that Thile wrote about Dionysus; a performance of the fourth movement of Bartók's Sonata for Solo Violin; *God*

Is Alive, Magic Is Afoot, based on Buffy Sainte-Marie's adaptation of a Leonard Cohen poem; a cover of bluegrass legend Hazel Dickens's *Won't You Come and Sing for Me*; and *Ecclesiastes 2:24*, an original instrumental loosely modeled after the Prelude from J.S. Bach's Partita for Solo Violin in E major.



Grammy Award winner **Billy Strings** — raised in Michigan and based in Nashville, Tennessee — is known as one of music's most compelling artists. Most recently, he unveiled

California Sober — a collaboration with legendary artist Willie Nelson — his first release since partnering with venerable label Reprise Records. The collaboration follows Strings's full-length album, *Me / And / Dad*, which was released in 2022 and features him alongside his father, Terry Barber. The realization of a long-held dream, the record features new versions of 14 bluegrass and country classics that the two have been playing together since Strings was a young child.

Since making his debut in 2017, Strings has been awarded Best Bluegrass Album at the 63rd Grammy Awards, and been named Artist of the Year at the 2022 and 2023 Americana Music Awards; Entertainer of the Year at the 2021, 2022, and 2023 International Bluegrass Music Awards; Best New Headliner at the 2022 Pollstar Awards; and Breakthrough Artist of the Pandemic at the 2021 Pollstar Awards. He has performed on the 64th Grammy Awards, *The Late Show with*

Stephen Colbert, *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, PBS's *Austin City Limits*, *Bluegrass Underground*, and in countless sold-out tour dates worldwide.



Cory Henry is a Grammy Award-winning artist, composer, producer, multi-instrumentalist, and all-around keyboard master. Henry's album *Something to Say* was

nominated for a 2022 Grammy for Best Progressive R&B Album, and he was nominated as a producer on Eric Bellinger's *New Light*. In 2022 Henry won his first

Latin Grammy for Album of the Year for his work on Rosalía's album *Motomami*, which also received a 2023 Grammy for Best Latin Rock or Alternative Album. Henry received a 2023 Grammy nomination for his album *Operation Funk* for Best Progressive R&B Album, and a 2024 nomination for Best Alternative Jazz Album for *Live at the Piano*. The many other artists with whom he has collaborated include Imagine Dragons, Smino, and Lucky Daye. Henry was previously a member of Snarky Puppy; during his time in the band he won three Grammys. Cory Henry's most recent works have garnered attention from fans all over the world as he delivered sold-out shows in venues from North America to Asia, as well as at most of the major music festivals.

Jaap van Zweden and the New York Philharmonic



Jaap van Zweden became Music Director of the New York Philharmonic in 2018. In 2023–24, his farewell season celebrates his connection with the Orchestra's musicians as he leads performances in which six Principal players appear as concerto soloists. He also revisits composers he has championed at the Philharmonic, from Steve Reich and Joel Thompson to Mozart and Mahler. He is also Music Director of the Hong Kong Philharmonic, since 2012, and becomes Music Director of the Seoul Philharmonic in 2024. He has appeared as guest with the Orchestre de Paris; Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw and Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestras; Vienna, Berlin, and Los Angeles philharmonic orchestras; and London Symphony, Chicago Symphony, and Cleveland orchestras.

Jaap van Zweden's NY Phil recordings include David Lang's *prisoner of the state* and Julia Wolfe's Grammy-nominated *Fire in my mouth* (Decca Gold). He conducted the first performances in Hong Kong of Wagner's *Ring* Cycle, the Naxos recording of which led the Hong Kong Philharmonic to be named the 2019 *Gramophone* Orchestra of the year. His performance of Wagner's *Parsifal* received the Edison Award for Best Opera Recording in 2012.

Born in Amsterdam, Jaap van Zweden became the youngest-ever concertmaster of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra at age 19 and began his conducting career almost 20 years later. He was named *Musical America's* 2012 Conductor of the Year, was profiled by CBS *60 Minutes* on arriving at the NY Phil, and in the spring of 2023 received the prestigious Concertgebouw Prize. In 1997 he and his wife, Aaltje, established the Papageno Foundation to support families of children with autism.

The **New York Philharmonic** connects with millions of music lovers each season through live concerts in New York and around the world, broadcasts, streaming, education programs, and more. In the 2023–24 season — which builds on the Orchestra's transformation reflected in the new David Geffen Hall — the NY Phil honors Jaap van Zweden in his farewell season as Music Director, premieres 14 works by a wide range of composers including some whom van Zweden has championed, marks György Ligeti's centennial, and celebrates the 100th birthday of the beloved Young People's Concerts.

The Philharmonic has commissioned and / or premiered important works, from Dvořák's *New World* Symphony to Tania León's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Stride*. The NY Phil has released more than 2,000 recordings since 1917, and in 2023 announced a partnership with Apple Music Classical, the new streaming app designed to deliver classical music lovers the optimal listening experience. The Orchestra builds on a longstanding commitment to serving its communities — which has led to annual free concerts across New York City and the free online New York Philharmonic Shelby White & Leon Levy Digital Archives — through a new ticket access program.

Founded in 1842, the New York Philharmonic is the oldest symphony orchestra in the United States, and one of the oldest in the world. Jaap van Zweden became Music Director in 2018–19, following titans including Bernstein, Toscanini, and Mahler. Gustavo Dudamel will become Music and Artistic Director beginning in 2026 after serving as Music Director Designate in 2025–26.

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT:

Cameron

NY
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NY
PHIL



Carpenter

FEBRUARY 7 | 7:30PM

Experience J.S. Bach's *Goldberg Variations* and Musorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* like never before, in groundbreaking arrangements by virtuoso organist and composer Cameron Carpenter, hailed as "extravagantly talented" by *The New York Times*.

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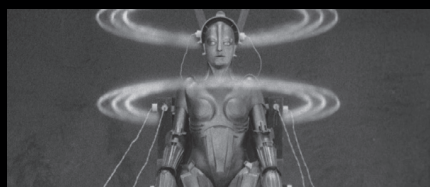
The Digital Organ is made possible by **Ronnie P. Ackman** and **Lawrence D. Ackman**. Photo by Dovile Sermokas.

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THE ART OF THE SCORE

E.T. the Extra- MAY 17-19 Terrestrial in Concert

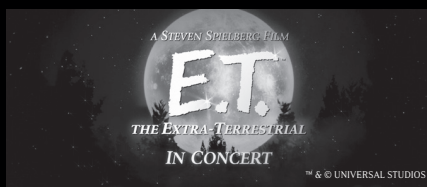
Don't miss Steven Spielberg's cinematic masterpiece *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* in Concert with John Williams' Academy Award®-winning score performed live to picture by the New York Philharmonic, and experience the magic once more! Constantine Kitsopoulos conducts.



***Metropolis* in Concert**

Featuring organist Cameron Carpenter

FEBRUARY 6



***E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* in Concert**

Music by John Williams

MAY 17-19

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