



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC EXPLORES AFROMODERNISM Beginning October 2024**

**Thomas Wilkins Leads Subscription Program,  
featuring NY Phil Debut of Cellist Seth Parker Woods in  
New York Premiere by Nathalie Joachim, October 17 & 18**

**Young People's Concert: *The Future Is Unity*, October 19**

**NY Phil Presents Artistic Partner International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE)  
on Free *Sound On* Concert, Co-Presented with The Museum of Modern Art,  
October 25**

**Complemented by Museum Exhibition, Pre-Concert Talks, and  
Panel Discussions as Part of *The Unanswered Questions***

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The New York Philharmonic announces details of its 2024–25 season exploration of Afromodernism. The NY Phil celebrates the work of Black creators and examines the influence that the arts and cultures of contemporary Africa and the African diaspora have had on modern arts movements — from music to fashion and more — through subscription concerts, a free performance by the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE) co-presented by The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), an NY Phil Young People's Concert, and a suite of complementary presentations.

### **Concerts**

On October 17 and 18, 2024, at the Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall, **Thomas Wilkins** conducts works by four Black American composers spanning nearly a century: **Carlos Simon's** *Four Black American Dances* (a work whose New York Premiere the NY Phil gave, also conducted by Wilkins, on the June 2024 Concerts in the Parks, Presented by Didi and Oscar Schafer); the New York Premiere of **Nathalie Joachim's** *Had To Be* (a Philharmonic co-commission with Spoleto Festival USA, Orchestre Métropolitain, and Chautauqua Institution), featuring cellist **Seth Parker Woods** (NY Phil debut) as soloist; jazz composer **David Baker's** *Kosbro*; and **William Grant Still's** Symphony No. 4, *Autochthonous*.

- The October 18 concert includes a pre-concert talk — accessible to all ticketholders for that concert — which takes place at 6:00 p.m. in the Wu Tsai Theater. Moderated by Juilliard professor Fredara Hadley, the panel includes Seth Parker Woods, Nathalie Joachim, Barnard College professor Monica L. Miller, and Harvard University professor Carol Oja.

On October 19, 2024, also at the Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall, **Thomas Wilkins** conducts the **Young People’s Concert: *The Future Is Unity***. The program includes selections from **Carlos Simon’s** *Four Black American Dances*; selections from Nigerian composer **Fela Sowande’s** African Suite; a selection from **Florence Price’s** Symphony No. 1; a selection from **William Grant Still’s** Symphony No. 4, *Autochthonous*; and Very Young Composer **Isai Rabiou’s** *Aye Ni Ilu*. In addition to conducting, Wilkins also serves as co-host along with **Gary A. Padmore**, the NY Phil’s Vice President, Education and Community Engagement, The Sue B. Mercy Chair. The concert is directed by **Jonathan McCrory**, executive artistic director of **National Black Theatre**, which serves as a creative partner.

On October 25, 2024, The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) joins the NY Phil in presenting a free performance by **International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE)** — a Philharmonic 2024–25 [Artistic Partner](#) — as part of the NY Phil’s [Sound On](#) contemporary music series, held at MoMA’s Roy and Niuta Titus Theater I. Titled ***Composing While Black, Volume II***, the concert examines international perspectives of the Afrodiasporic experience on a program featuring **Jalalu Kalvert-Nelson’s** Prelude No. 1; **Daniel Kidane’s** *Foreign Tongues*; **Hannah Kendall’s** *Tuxedo: Diving Bell 2.*; **Tebogo Monnakgotla’s** *Wooden Bodies*; selections from **Joshua Uzoigwe’s** *Talking Drums*; and **Leila Adu-Gilmore’s** *Alyssum*. The concert builds on ICE’s *Composing While Black, Volume I*, which was held at Kaufman Music Center’s Merkin Hall in November 2023, as well as on *Composing While Black*, the scholarly compilation of essays compiled by George E. Lewis, ICE’s artistic director, in collaboration with Harald Kisiedu.

### **Free Events**

In addition to the musical performances, the New York Philharmonic presents several events and a museum exhibition that complement the exploration of Afromodernism.

**Africa’s Fashion Diaspora:** a museum exhibition co-presented with and taking place at the Museum at FIT, October 7, 9, 21, and November 20, 2024, that examines fashion as a medium for storytelling and as a vital way for designers to contribute to longstanding and evolving ideas of transnational Black cultural spaces. The exhibition, which also comprises talks and tours, explores designers from Africa, the Americas, and Europe who construct and interpret their distinct local and community cultures for an international audience, while reaching across geography to tie together Black cultural practices through their designs.

***The Unanswered Questions*** free panel discussions:

- **“Afromodernism and the Arts”** examines the decolonization of modernism by highlighting the impact of the African diaspora on music and the arts. Moderated by Tanisha C. Ford and featuring panelists Amy Andrieux, Nathalie Joachim, and Sade Lythcott, the event takes place October 15, 2024, at Elebash Recital Hall at CUNY’s Graduate Center.

- “**Styled for Survival: How Music and Fashion Converge**” traces the intentional connections between sound and attire, the history of Black dandyism, and more. Featuring Elizabeth Way and other panelists to be announced, the event takes place February 19, 2025, at The Museum at FIT.

### **Biographies**

[Amy Andrieux](#), [Tanisha C. Ford](#), [Nathalie Joachim](#), [Sade Lythcott](#), [Thomas Wilkins](#), [Seth Parker Woods](#), [International Contemporary Ensemble \(George Lewis, artistic director\)](#), [New York Philharmonic](#)

### **Tickets**

Tickets to New York Philharmonic performances may be purchased online at [nyphil.org](https://nyphil.org) or by calling **(212) 875-5656**, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday; and noon to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Tickets may also be purchased at the **Welcome Center at David Geffen Hall**. The Welcome Center opens at 10:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and at noon on Sunday. On performance evenings, the Welcome Center closes one-half hour after performance time; other evenings it closes at 6:00 p.m.

Reservations for Africa’s Fashion Diaspora and *The Unanswered Questions: Afromodernism and the Arts* are free but required, and can be made online now at the following links:

- [Africa’s Fashion Diaspora](#)
- [The Unanswered Questions: Afromodernism and the Arts](#)

Reservations for *Composing While Black, Volume II* and *The Unanswered Questions: Styled for Survival* are also free but required, and will be available at a later date.

For press tickets, contact Lanore Carr at (212) 875-5714 or [carrl@nyphil.org](mailto:carrl@nyphil.org).

### **Event Listing**

#### **AFRICA’S FASHION DIASPORA Co-Presented with the Museum at FIT**

The Museum at FIT  
227 West 27th Street

Monday, October 7, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 11:00 a.m.

Monday, October 21, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 11:00 a.m.

Exhibition and related talks and tours examining fashion as a medium for storytelling and as a vital way for designers to contribute to longstanding and evolving ideas of transnational Black cultural spaces

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***THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS:  
AFROMODERNISM AND THE ARTS***

Elebash Recital Hall at the Graduate Center  
365 Fifth Avenue

Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Amy Andrieux, panelist  
Nathalie Joachim, panelist  
Sade Lythcott, panelist  
Tanisha C. Ford, moderator

Free panel discussion that explores the decolonization of modernism by highlighting the impact of the African diaspora on music and the arts

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**EXPLORING AFROMODERNISM:  
THOMAS WILKINS CONDUCTS NY PREMIERE OF  
JOACHIM'S CELLO CONCERTO WITH SETH PARKER WOODS**

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Thursday, October 17, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 18, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

*Pre-concert talk on October 18 begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Wu Tsai Theater.*

Thomas Wilkins, conductor  
Seth Parker Woods\*, cello

Carlos SIMON  
Nathalie JOACHIM

*Four Black American Dances*  
*Had To Be*, for cello and orchestra  
(New York Premiere—New York  
Philharmonic Co-Commission with Spoleto  
Festival USA, Orchestre Métropolitain, and  
Chautauqua Institution)

D. BAKER  
STILL

*Kosbro*  
Symphony No. 4, *Autochthonous*

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**EXPLORING AFROMODERNISM:  
YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERT: *THE FUTURE IS UNITY***

Wu Tsai Theater, David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center

Saturday, October 19, 2024, 2:00 p.m.  
*YPC Overtures at 1:00 p.m.*

Thomas Wilkins, conductor / co-host  
Gary A. Padmore, co-host  
Jonathan McCrory, director  
National Black Theatre, creative partner

Carlos SIMON  
SOWANDE  
PRICE  
STILL

*Ring Shout*, from *Four Black American Dances*  
Selections from African Suite  
*Juba Dance: Allegro*, from Symphony No. 1  
*Slowly and reverently*, from  
Symphony No. 4, *Autochthonous*  
*Aye Ni Ilu* (Very Young Composer)  
*Holy Dance*, from *Four Black American Dances*

Isai RABIU  
Carlos SIMON

Exploration of the African diaspora’s influence on reimagining a unified future

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**ICE AS ARTISTIC PARTNER:  
EXPLORING AFROMODERNISM IN *SOUND ON***

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater I, The Museum of Modern Art  
11 West 53rd Street

Friday, October 25, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE)  
George Lewis, artistic director

Jalalu KALVERT-NELSON  
Daniel KIDANE  
Hannah KENDALL  
Tebogo MONNAKGOTLA  
Joshua UZOIGWE  
Leila ADU-GILMORE

Prelude No. 1  
*Foreign Tongues*  
*Tuxedo: Diving Bell 2.*  
*Wooden Bodies*  
*Ukom and Egwu Amala*, from *Talking Drums*  
*Alyssum*

*Composing While Black*, Volume II: building on ICE’s *Composing While Black*, Volume I, an examination of various perspectives of the Afrodiasporic experience

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***THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS:***  
**STYLED FOR SURVIVAL: HOW MUSIC AND FASHION CONVERGE**

The Museum at FIT  
227 West 27th Street

Wednesday, February 19, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Way, panelist

Free panel discussion exploring the intentional connections between sound and attire, the history of Black dandyism, and more

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*\*New York Philharmonic debut*

**ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

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Support for the New York Philharmonic's Young People's Concerts is provided by the **Laura Chang & Arnold Chavkin Music Education Endowment.**

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The New York Philharmonic's Young People's Concerts are presented by **Evalyn E. and Stephen E. Milman.**

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Photography and video are available in the New York Philharmonic's online press room, [nyphil.org/pressroom](http://nyphil.org/pressroom), or by contacting the Public Relations Department at (212) 875-5700 or [pr@nyphil.org](mailto:pr@nyphil.org).

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