



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE MARIE-JOSÉE KRAVIS PRIZE FOR NEW MUSIC
AT THE NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC**

**AWARDED TO COMPOSERS
DAVID LANG and MISSY MAZZOLI**

KATE SOPER NAMED KRAVIS EMERGING COMPOSER

Each Honor To Include a New York Philharmonic Commission

[The Marie-Josée Kravis Prize for New Music at the New York Philharmonic](#) — which recognizes extraordinary artistic endeavors in the field of new music — has been awarded to American composers **David Lang** and **Missy Mazzoli**. One of the world’s largest new-music prizes, the Kravis Prize includes \$200,000 and a commission for a work that the New York Philharmonic will premiere. Lang’s new work will be premiered in the 2025–26 season, and Mazzoli’s will be premiered in 2026–27.

Additionally, the NY Phil has named **Kate Soper** the Kravis Emerging Composer, an honor bestowed as part of The Marie-Josée Kravis Prize for New Music. Soper receives a \$50,000 stipend, including a commission to compose a work that the Philharmonic will premiere in May 2025.

Funding for both honors comes from a \$10 million gift to the New York Philharmonic in 2009 by Henry R. Kravis in honor of his wife, Marie-Josée, for whom the Prize is named.

“The 2024 recipients of the Prize and the Emerging Composer are remarkable for the collective range they represent,” said Marie-Josée Kravis. “Each composer’s unique voice and approach to composition will tap into the potential of the New York Philharmonic in distinctive and unexpected ways. Their selection fulfills our hopes in creating these honors: to establish a platform for vibrant works that will catalyze excitement around new music. I look forward to hearing Kate Soper perform in her new work this spring, and to discovering what David Lang and Missy Mazzoli devise when their compositions are premiered in the coming seasons.”

Kravis Honorees’ NY Phil Performance History

In commissioning new works by Kravis Prize winners David Lang and Missy Mazzoli, the New York Philharmonic builds on ongoing collaborations with both composers.

- The NY Phil has performed five works by David Lang, beginning in January 1991 with the New York Premiere of *Eating Living Monkeys*, conducted by Zdeněk Mácal, and most recently with the June 2019 World Premiere of *prisoner of the state* — an NY Phil co-commission — conducted by then Music Director Jaap van Zweden. Additionally, Lang's works have been performed by Musicians from the New York Philharmonic on two NY Phil new-music series: *CONTACT!* (January 2017) and *Sound On* (June 2019; March 2022).
- The Philharmonic has performed two works by Missy Mazzoli: *Sinfonia (for Orbiting Spheres)*, conducted by Dalia Stasevska (October 2021), and *River Rouge Transfiguration*, led by Daniela Candillari (February 2023). Musicians from the NY Phil have also performed Mazzoli's works on *CONTACT!*, the new-music series (November 2014; April 2015), and Kravis *Nightcap* (October 2022). In February 2025 Mazzoli will be a featured speaker at the Young People's Concert: *The Future Is Innovation*, in which the Orchestra, led by Jerry Hou, will reprise *Sinfonia (for Orbiting Spheres)*.

In naming Kate Soper the Kravis Emerging Composer, the NY Phil is commissioning a work that will mark the Philharmonic's first performance of one of her orchestral compositions.

- The NY Phil will give the World Premiere of Kate Soper's *Orpheus Orchestra Opus Onus* — the fulfillment of her commission as part of being named a Kravis Emerging Composer — in May 2025, conducted by Gustavo Dudamel. Soper, in her NY Phil debut, will also perform in the work as the soprano soloist. The only previous occasion on which the Philharmonic presented her work was a *CONTACT!* concert (November 2015), when Musicians from the New York Philharmonic performed *Into That World Inverted* for horn and piano.

History of The Kravis Prize for New Music and the Kravis Emerging Composer

The Kravis Prize

- **Henri Dutilleux**, 2011; he shared the proceeds with Anthony Cheung, Franck Krawczyk, and Peter Eötvös. The NY Phil gave the World Premiere of Anthony Cheung's *Lyra* in June 2014; the World Premiere of Peter Eötvös's *Senza sangue* in Cologne on tour, and its US Premiere in New York City in May 2015; and the World Premiere of Franck Krawczyk's *Après* in April 2016, all conducted by then Music Director Alan Gilbert.
- **Per Nørgård**, 2014; he shared the proceeds of his award with his former student and fellow Danish composer Bent Sørensen, whose *Evening Land* the Philharmonic premiered in November 2017, led by Edo de Waart.
- **Louis Andriessen**, 2016; resulting in the World Premiere of his *Agamemnon* in October 2018, conducted by then Music Director Jaap van Zweden.
- **Unsuik Chin**, 2018; she was also commissioned through the NY Phil's *Project 19*, the all-women's initiative to commission works from 19 composers to mark the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which established the right to vote for American women. Information about the premieres of these works will be announced at a future date.

Kravis Emerging Composer

- **Sean Shepherd**, 2012, which led to the commission and premiere of *Songs* in June 2014, led by then Music Director Alan Gilbert.
- **Anna Thorvaldsdottir**, 2015, leading to the commission and premiere of *Metacosmos* in April 2018, led by Esa-Pekka Salonen.

About Henry R. and Marie-Josée Kravis

Henry R. and Marie-Josée Kravis have long been generous supporters of new music at the New York Philharmonic. In 2009 they made a gift of \$10 million to the Orchestra, which has funded The Marie-Josée Kravis Prize for New Music at the New York Philharmonic; the Kravis *Nightcap* series, inaugurated in the 2018–19 season; The Marie-Josée Kravis Creative Partner position, also inaugurated in 2018–19 by Nadia Sirota; and The Marie-Josée Kravis Composer-in-Residence position. This gift supported the commissioning of Louis Andriessen's *Agamemnon* (October 2018); Anna Thorvaldsdottir's *Metacosmos* (April 2018); Bent Sørensen's *Evening Land* (November 2017); Franck Krawczyk's *Après* (April 2016); Peter Eötvös's *Senza sangue* (May 2015); Christopher Rouse's *Thunderstuck* (October 2014); Sean Shepherd's *Songs* (June 2014); Anthony Cheung's *Lyra* (June 2014); Christopher Rouse's Symphony No. 4 (June 2014) and *Prospero's Rooms* (April 2013); and Magnus Lindberg's Piano Concerto No. 2, written for Yefim Bronfman (May 2012), *Al Largo* (June 2010), *Souvenir (in memoriam Gérard Grisey)* (November 2010), and *EXPO* (September 2009). Before extending this gift Henry R. and Marie-Josée Kravis supported the Philharmonic's commissioning / co-commissioning of six compositions: Peter Lieberman's *The World in Flower* (May 2009); Marc Neikrug's *Quintessence* (March 2008); Bernard Rands's *CHAINS LIKE THE SEA* (October 2008); Esa-Pekka Salonen's Piano Concerto (February 2007); Augusta Read Thomas's *Gathering Paradise*, Emily Dickinson Settings for Soprano and Orchestra (September 2004); and Stephen Hartke's Symphony No. 3 (September 2003).

About the Composers

David Lang (winner of the Kravis Prize for New Music) is one of today's most esteemed and performed American composers. As co-founder and co-artistic director of the music collective Bang on a Can, he has had an indelible impact on new music. As professor of music composition at the Yale School of Music, he continues to shape the landscape of contemporary music and champion its future standard-bearers. A prolific composer whose portfolio includes compositions for choir, orchestra, small ensembles, and soloists, Lang has garnered numerous honors, including the Pulitzer Prize, a Grammy Award, an Obie Award, a Royal Philharmonic Society Award, a Bessie Award, a US Artists Fellowship Award, and a Doris Duke Artist Award, as well as nominations for the Academy and Golden Globe Awards. His works have been championed by distinguished conductors including Gustavo Dudamel, Karina Canellakis, Ludovic Morlot, André de Ridder, Louis Langrée, Jaap van Zweden, and Ilan Volkov. In November 2024 Lang's *composition as explanation* was nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Classical Composition.

Missy Mazzoli (winner of the Kravis Prize for New Music), the Brooklyn-based composer, has had her music performed by the Berlin and Los Angeles Philharmonics, Atlanta and BBC Symphony Orchestras, Scottish and LA Operas, Opéra Comique, the Kronos Quartet, Eighth Blackbird, and many others. She has been nominated for three Grammy Awards, most recently for her orchestral album *Dark with Excessive Bright*, and has served as composer-in-residence at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Opera Philadelphia. In 2018 she became, along with Jeanine Tesori, one of the first two women to receive a commission from the Metropolitan Opera. Mazzoli has created five critically acclaimed operas with librettist Royce Vavrek; their latest work, *Lincoln in the Bardo*, an adaptation of the novel by George Saunders, will premiere at the Met Opera and LA Opera in 2026. In 2016 Mazzoli and composer Ellen Reid founded Luna Composition Lab, a nonprofit mentorship program for young female and nonbinary composers. Mazzoli teaches composition at Bard College, and her works are published by G. Schirmer.

Kate Soper (Kravis Emerging Composer) has been creating unique and uncategorizable musico-theatrical spectacles for more than a decade. Her large-scale works include the monodramas *Voices from the Killing Jar* (2012) and *IPSA DIXIT* (2017) and the operas with original librettos *Here Be Sirens* (2014), *The Romance of the Rose* (2021), and *The Hunt* (2023). A Pulitzer Prize finalist, Soper has received awards and fellowships from the Guggenheim and Koussevitzky Foundations, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the American Academy in Rome. As a vocalist, she performs frequently in her own works and has also given US and world premieres of works by Rick Burkhardt, Beat Furrer, George Lewis, Darius Jones, Sky MacClay, Alex Mincek, Katharina Rosenberger, Eric Wubbels, and others. Soper is a co-director of and performer with Wet Ink, a new-music ensemble dedicated to adventurous music-making across aesthetic boundaries.

For more information, visit nyphil.org/kravis.

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