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PHILIP GLASS OPENS STANFORD LIVE’S FIFTH SEASON AT BING CONCERT HALL WITH PERFORMANCE OF HIS COMPLETE PIANO ÉTUDES ON SEPTEMBER 29

Two decades in the making, these 20 études will feature five pianists — including the composer himself — and celebrate Glass’ 80th birthday

Performance also launches Chris Lorway’s first season as executive director

Stanford, CA, August 30, 2016—When Philip Glass decided he needed to become a better pianist he began work on a series of short compositions that would hone his skills at the keyboard. The first six of these 20 études were a 50th-birthday present for the conductor Dennis Russell Davies and the last one was completed in time for Glass’ own 75th birthday. Next month, the composer, who turns 80 in January, will take a victory lap at Bing Concert Hall when he opens the Stanford Live season with a performance of the complete études on Thursday, September 29 at 7:30 p.m.

The event also marks a milestone for Stanford Live as it begins its fifth season at Bing (it opened in Jan. 2013) and its first under executive director Chris Lorway. Prior to the performance, at 6:30 p.m., Glass will join Lorway for a conversation about his legendary, genre-crossing career.

“Having Philip launch our season was a fortuitous choice,” says Lorway. “We have wonderful history of working together on projects like Book of Longing and the remount of Einstein on the Beach so it’s nice kick off things with an old friend.”

Performing alongside Glass at the Bing will be a quartet of pianists — Anton Batagov, Aaron Diehl, Jenny Lin and the Bay Area’s own Sarah Cahill — who were chosen for their “high level of technical accomplishment, wide range of musical backgrounds and the depth of their interpretive skills,” wrote the composer in his program note.
Glass started composing the études in 1991 (around the time he was making *Hydrogen Jukebox* with Allen Ginsberg and scoring *A Brief History of Time* with filmmaker Errol Morris). “The point of the études, originally, was to strengthen my piano playing and that actually worked,” Glass told Richard Guérin in an online interview. “I actually got to be a better player by learning those pieces — that would be the first ten. I can play No. 17 and maybe No. 16... but here’s the point...If I wanted to take 6 months off and really practice piano I could learn them. But at the same time I could write a string quartet or a film score.”

It took Glass until 2012 to complete the final three (when he composed Orbit for cellist Yo-Yo Ma and street dancer Lil Buck; the Walt Disney-inspired opera *The Perfect American*; and his 10th symphony). The intervening years saw works as varied as string compositions for the Kronos Quartet, to scores for films from *The Truman Show* and *The Hours* to *Candyman II*. Indeed, Glass’ music has been performed so widely — heard everywhere from opera houses, to concert halls to movies theaters — that one would be hard put to come up with a living composer whose signature style can evoke such immediate recognition.

The Glass celebration continues later this season at Stanford Live. On February 12 at Bing Concert Hall, Dennis Russell Davies leads the Bruckner Orchestra of Linz a performance of the composer’s forthcoming Symphony No. 11, commissioned by Davies in honor of his 80th birthday and premiering in January at Carnegie Hall. For more information, visit live.stanford.edu.

**TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for the Complete Piano Études by Philip Glass, presented by Stanford Live on September 29, range from $30-$95 (subject to change) and are $15 for all current Stanford students. Tickets are available at the Bing Concert Hall Ticket Office, by phone at 650-724-2464 (BING) or online at live.stanford.edu.

**VENUE INFORMATION**

Bing Concert Hall is located on the Stanford University campus at 327 Lasuen Street on the corner of Lasuen and Campus Dr. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 PM and on weekends at all times, and may be found in the Galvez Lot across Campus Drive from Bing Concert Hall.
ABOUT STANFORD LIVE
Stanford Live presents a wide range of the finest performances from around the world fostering a vibrant learning community and providing distinctive experiences through the performing arts. With its home at Bing Concert Hall, Stanford Live is simultaneously a public square, a sanctuary and a lab, drawing on the breadth and depth of Stanford University to connect performance to the significant issues, ideas and discoveries of our time.

CALENDAR EDITORS NOTE:
What: The Complete Études by Philip Glass
When: Thursday, September 29, 7:30 p.m. (pre-show with talk with Glass at 6:30 p.m.)
Where: Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen Street, Stanford University
Tickets: $30-$95 (subject to change)

Description: Five exceptional pianists — Anton Batagov, Sarah Cahill, Aaron Diehl, Jenny Lin and the composer himself — kick off season five at Bing Concert Hall with Philip Glass' complete piano études, in celebration of his 80th birthday. Glass joins Stanford’s Live’s new executive director Chris Lorway in a pre-show conversation.