

fivebyfive & the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC) present

Light & Dark: Eclipse Music



PROGRAM

Totality (World Premiere) Glenn McClure (b. 1964)

Under the Shadow (World Premiere) Kamala Sankaram (b. 1978)

In the Path of Totality (World Premiere) Jessica Meyer (b. 1974)

INTERMISSION

I Can Take (World Premiere) Julie Herndon (b. 1986)
in a new version for fivebyfive by the composer *Guest conductor, Armand Hall*

Eclipse (World Premiere) Marc Mellits (b. 1966)

fivebyfive

Laura Lentz, *flute, Artistic Director* | Marcy Bacon, *clarinet* | Ken Luk, *electric guitar*

Eric J. Polenik, *bass* | Haeyeun Jeun, *piano* | Marc Webster, *audio & video engineer, Executive Director*

Saturday & Sunday
January 20 & 21 | 4pm
pre-concert talk | 3:30pm
Strasenburgh Planetarium

Today's performance is generously sponsored in part by Jonathan Kruger, Ray Santana, Mariko Tamate, David Tang, and other anonymous individual donors, Pollok Studios, and by the New York State Council on the Arts and Rochester Area Community Foundation.

Jewelry by **Bead Breakout**

After-concert party

@ The Spirit Room | 139 State St, Rochester



About the concert

A total solar eclipse will occur in North America on April 8, 2024. To mark and celebrate this breathtaking celestial event, fivebyfive is creating a one-of-a-kind concert experience with immersive video presented on the full dome of the RMSC Strasenburgh Planetarium.

This solar eclipse is expected to be the largest mass travel event ever in the U.S.—a celestial experience expected to be breathtaking, spiritual, and impactful. Landscapes become transformed, the sky becomes a dark deep twilight, and changes in animal behavior, wind and temperature occur during the time around totality. The experience is emotionally powerful and unforgettable, and it will be the last great opportunity for large segments of our country to experience a total solar eclipse until 2045. The path of totality will include 125 miles, along with fivebyfive’s hometown of Rochester, NY.

fivebyfive will present its eclipse-inspired program *Light & Dark: Eclipse Music* in Rochester at the Planetarium and other communities within the path of totality. Performances featuring newly commissioned works by composers Glenn McClure, Jessica Meyer, Marc Mellits, Kamala Sankaram, and a new arrangement by Julie Herndon.

To build awareness and excitement for the upcoming eclipse, fivebyfive is inspired to connect people in an engaging public event. fivebyfive thanks the Rochester Science and Museum Center’s Strasenburgh Planetarium Directors Steve Fentress and Jim Bader for their support and help in partnering to make today’s concert happen. fivebyfive also thanks Bead Breakout for their eclipse-inspired jewelry worn by fivebyfive musicians, and The Spirit Room for providing a space for an after-concert party.

We hope to see you there!

About fivebyfive

Described as “classical turned loose in the toy store,” “top-flight,” and “imaginative,” **fivebyfive** is an award-winning, artist-led ensemble known for its impeccable musicianship, adventurous spirit that permeates innovative, cross-genre programming and community engagement.

Based in Rochester, NY and formed in 2015, the group has a mission to engage audiences in the collaborative spirit and creativity of today’s dynamic chamber music.

To realize its mission, **fivebyfive** presents innovative programs featuring today’s chamber music by commissioning, developing, and performing music by the most forward-thinking composers, advocating for creators who are underrepresented in the field and collaborating with a wide range of partners.

www.fivebyfivemusic.com



About the Rochester Museum & Science Center

(RMSC) The Rochester Museum & Science Center ignites a passion for lifelong learning and equips our community with the foundational skills, knowledge, and understanding of the technologies needed to help solve our society's most pressing challenges. The mission of the RMSC (Rochester Museum & Science Center) is to inspire a better future for all through curiosity, exploration, participation in science, culture, and the natural world.

www.rmhc.org



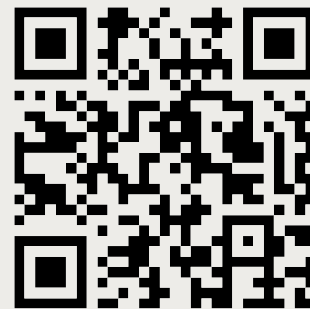
About the eclipse-jewelry in today's concert

fivebyfive enjoys collaborating with artists who use a medium other than music to express their art, and in today's concert you will see the musicians are wearing necklaces, bracelets, and rings all designed by the creative team led by Valerie Bubb. Valerie is an artist and the owner of **Bead Breakout LLC** located at 2314 Monroe Avenue, Rochester. These pieces have been specifically designed for the wearer to highlight their connection to the universe while not interfering with how they play their instruments.

For Valerie, the creative process is finding the combination of beads and gemstones and other materials to generate memorable treasures that connect time and place with moods and feelings. There is an entire collection of solar eclipse jewelry at her store, plus there is a large selection of beads, beading supplies, and tools for those who want to create their own "wearable experience." She regularly offers classes to help new artists design and make their own. The next Solar Eclipse Jewelry class is February 10, 2024.

Use the QR code to find out more.

www.beadbreakout.com



Eclipse program notes

Totality opens and closes with musical images of the sun without an eclipse. The emergence of the triplet figure introduces the beginning of the eclipse and its movement across North America. This rhythm drives the voyage of the eclipse, not only through places on a map but also places in our souls.

The melodic content of *Totality* is drawn from the sonification of “duration” data that shows the varying time intervals of totality at selected locations along its path. Sonification is the mathematical translation of numerical data points into musical pitches and rhythms. This melody, drawn from the data describing its path, provides the unifying motifs that recur throughout the piece.

While the structural elements of the piece are driven by data sonification, its arrangement explores the varied human responses to the eclipse. The first section dramatizes fearful responses. The darkening of the sun has terrified human populations. In the absence of scientific explanations, this phenomenon has been interpreted as an omen for crop failure, for impending punishment for misdeeds, or for anger from the gods. The second section demonstrates an acceptance of the moving phenomenon as a part of our cosmic lives, linked to things much bigger in space and time. The third section celebrates the playful impulses that drive many folks to become “eclipse tourists,” traveling to places along the totality path with food, drink, and an unstoppable force of wonder.

— Glenn McClure

Under the Shadow draws inspiration from the sonification of visual phenomena that occur as an eclipse progresses toward totality. As the sun disappears under the moon’s shadow, the light creates a series of illusory effects: Shadow Bands, Bailey’s Beads, and the Diamond Ring. Similarly, this piece moves through musical gestures inspired by each of these phases,

alternating between moments of light and dark with brief bursts of high intensity, before giving in to the darkness.

— Kamala Sankaram

As a child, one of my favorite places to go was the Vanderbilt Planetarium in Long Island, NY. I loved being enveloped by the hugeness of the screen and the depth of the sounds while learning about how our world exists within the universe. That feeling of awe still rushed through me whenever I brought my son to Hayden Planetarium here in NYC.

After becoming a composer, I noticed that emotional states and nature are recurring themes in my work. So when this project came about to write a piece commemorating the upcoming 2024 eclipse that would be premiered in an actual planetarium, I have to say my inner child was quite happy.

In the Path of Totality outlines the actual process of an eclipse: the anticipation, first contact, second contact, “Bailey’s beads”, totality (in which the length of this section of the piece is the same length of totality folks in Maine will experience), and the Diamond Ring effect (when the sun blindingly reappears from behind the moon). “Afterglow” is a purely emotional response to what I can imagine to feel after witnessing such an event while also feeling the sense of community in connecting to those also present around me. Deep thanks and appreciation to the ensemble fivebyfive and the NYSCA for this wonderful opportunity.

— Jessica Meyer

I Can Take uses light signals to cue improvisation. This visual language is a re-imagining of the traditional cuing system between conductor and ensemble. Based on Lawrence Mark’s formative studies on cross-modality, some of the conductor’s light cues are intuitive, while others are cryptic. They prompt the players to depart from the notated material and make it their own by twisting, interpreting, interpolating it in idiosyncratic ways.

The piece was originally composed for Ensemble Proton Bern in 2018 and arranged for fivebyfive in commemoration of the 2024 full solar eclipse.

— Julie Herndon

Eclipse was commissioned by fivebyfive to commemorate the total solar eclipse occurring on April 8, 2024. The music begins with the sun slowly being eclipsed by the moon. Once the eclipse is underway, a world of shifting rhythms and hidden melodies start to appear. The music slowly points out contours and lines that were once hidden in plain sight, but now in the shadow of the total solar eclipse, have their one and only chance to “shine.” The moon gleams in dancing rhythms and funky lines that together, with the shadowed sun, present an alternate role reversed musical universe.

— Marc Mellits

Bios

Glenn McClure is an Eco-musician and scholar. He has served on the faculties of the Eastman School of Music, SUNY Geneseo, and Paul Smiths College. He received the Chancellor’s Award for Adjunct Teaching from SUNY. His music has been performed on every continent including multiple performances at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, NY. “St. Francis in the Americas: A Caribbean Mass” has become a regular part of choral repertoire in the US and Germany. Mr. McClure was awarded the National Science Foundation Artists and Writers Fellowship in which he traveled to Antarctica to compose music that dramatizes climate science. He received the National Teaching Artist Fellowship (2008-9) by the Kennedy Center/VSA program that supports art making by adults and children with disabilities around the world. He recently composed a work for choir and string quartet for the European Space Agency that transformed orbital data from the Rosetta Mission into melodies and harmonies. His music has been featured on several national broadcasts including the 2005 broadcast of

Enter the Light, the CBS Christmas Special and a 2006 edition of National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered.” McClure served as an artist-in-residence with the National Parks Arts Foundation at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and is currently directing a team of composers in sonifying data for the Lake Champlain Basin Program. His current project The Water is Me gives voice to bodies of water around the globe with partnering musicians and scientists.

www.artforbrains.com

Praised as “strikingly original” (NY Times), **Kamala Sankaram** moves freely between the worlds of experimental music, creative music, and contemporary opera. Known for pushing the boundaries of form and style, she has created work for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (as 2023 artist-in-residence), an opera for the trees of Prospect Park, a techno-noir featuring live data mining of the audience and a chorus of 25 singing tablet computers, and the world’s first virtual reality opera, among other pieces. She has been commissioned by the Glimmerglass Festival (as 2022 artist-in-residence), Washington National Opera, Houston Grand Opera, the PROTOTYPE Festival, and Creative Time, among others. As a biracial Indian-American and trained sitarist, Kamala has drawn on Indian classical music in many of her works, including Thumbprint, A Rose, Monkey and Francine in the City of Tigers, and the Jungle Book. Select awards, grants and residencies include: Composer-in-Residence at the Kaufman Music Center, Jonathan Larson Award, NEA ArtWorks, MAP Fund, Opera America, HERE Artist Residency Program, the MacDowell Colony, and the Watermill Center. Also an accomplished performer, Kamala has been hailed as “an impassioned soprano with blazing high notes” (Wall Street Journal). Notable collaborations include Anthony Braxton’s Trillium E, Trillium J, and GTM (Syntax) 2017; Meredith Monk’s Atlas with the LA Philharmonic, The Wooster Group’s LA DIDONE (Kaaitheater, Brussels, Edinburgh International Festival, Rotterdam Schouberg, Grand Théâtre de la Ville, Luxembourg, St. Anne’s Warehouse, NY, REDCAT, Los Angeles), and the PROTOTYPE Festival’s

THUMBPRINT (Baruch Performing Arts, NY, REDCAT, Los Angeles), among others. Kamala is the leader of Bombay Rickey, an operatic Bollywood surf ensemble whose accolades include two awards for Best Eclectic Album from the Independent Music Awards, the 2018 Mid-Atlantic touring grant, and appearances on WFMU and NPR. Dr. Sankaram holds a PhD from the New School and is currently a member of the composition faculties at the Mannes College of Music and SUNY Purchase.

www.kamalasankaram.com

With playing described as ‘fierce and lyrical,’ works labeled as ‘other-worldly’ (The Strad) and ‘evocative’ (New York Times), **Jessica Meyer** is an award-winning composer and violist. Her passionate musicianship radiates accessibility and emotional clarity. Her first composer/performer portrait album in 2019 debuted at #1 on the Billboard traditional classical chart. ‘Knife-edge anticipation opens onto unexpected, often ecstatic musical realms, always with a personal touch and imaginatively written for the instruments,’ praised Gramophone Magazine. Since embarking on her composition career a decade ago, premieres have included performances by acclaimed vocal ensembles Roomful of Teeth and Vox Clamantis, the St. Lawrence String Quartet as composer-in-residence at Spoleto Festival USA, the American Brass Quintet, PUBLIQuartet, NOVUS NY of Trinity Wall Street, A Far Cry, the Julliard School, and the Lorelei Ensemble for a song cycle that received the Dale Warland Singers Commission Award from Chorus America.

Her first Symphonic Band piece was recently premiered by the President’s Own Marine Band (with a sold-out NY premiere in Carnegie Hall), and her orchestral works have been performed at Tanglewood in Seiji Ozawa Hall, and all around the country as part of Carnegie Hall’s nationwide Link Up Program. She was the winner of the 2nd Annual Ellis-Beauregard Foundation Composer’s Award to write a piece for the Bangor Symphony, and a winner of Chamber Music America’s Commissioning Program Award to write for

the Argus Quartet. Recent premieres included works for the Dorian Wind Quintet, Hausmann Quartet, Hub New Music, the Portland Youth Philharmonic in collaboration with the female vocal ensemble In Mulieribus, and her viola concerto “GAEA” with the Orchestra of the League of Composers at Miller Theatre in NYC. Since the Fall of 2023, she has joined the Viola Faculty of the Manhattan School of Music.

www.jessicameyermusic.com

Julie Herndon is a composer, performer, and sound artist exploring the body’s relationship to sound. Her electro-acoustic work has been described as “truly brilliant and utterly affected” (Kulturpunkt), “like a signal from another world” (Tages-Anzeiger), and “blended to inhabit a surprisingly expressive space,” (SFCV). Her compositions and installations have been presented at MATA Festival and National Sawdust in New York, Artistry Space in Singapore, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Oaxaca (MACO) in Mexico, Music Biennale Zagreb (MBZ), Sogar Theater in Zurich, and by Forest Collective in Australia. Recent collaborations include the Decoder Ensemble, JACK Quartet, and Ensemble Dal Niente. Julie is the recipient of the Elisabeth Crothers Award for Music Composition, American Composers Forum Bay Area Residency, National Sawdust New Works Commission, Chamber Music America Commissioning Grant, New Music America Creator Fund, and Georges Lurcy Fellowship. As an artist in residence, she has collaborated with institutions such as the Cité Internationale des Arts, Goethe Institut, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Center for Music and Audio Technologies (CNMAT) at Berkeley, Djerassi, and I-Park Foundation. Julie is currently Assistant Professor of Music Technology and Composition at California Polytechnic State University. She holds a DMA from Stanford University, and her writing, “Embodied Composition: Composing the Body with Sound” can be found in Leonardo with MIT Press.

www.julieherndonmusic.com

Armand Hall joined Gateways Music Festival in March of 2022 as Director of Programs. In this role, Dr. Hall plans, develops, and oversees all musical activities associated with the Festival. Since the 2019 Festival, Dr. Hall has served as Director of Gateways' Young Musicians Institute (YMI). Prior to his role at Gateways, he served as the Executive and Artistic Director of ROCmusic, Rochester's El Sistema-inspired community-based, free music learning program. Prior to ROCmusic, Dr. Hall served as Associate Director of Bands and Coordinator of Instrumental Music Education at the University of Memphis and, prior to that, as a middle and high school band director. Dr. Hall is the board chair of El Sistema USA® and serves on the boards of the Archipelago Project and the Rochester Youth Philharmonic. A conductor and clarinetist, Dr. Hall earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music Education from the University of Michigan and a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Wind Conducting from Michigan State University.
www.gatewaysmusicfestival.org/bio-armand

Composer **Marc Mellits** is one of the leading American composers of his generation, enjoying hundreds of performances throughout the world every year, making him one of the most performed living composers in the United States. From Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center, to prestigious music festivals in Europe and the US, Mellits' music is a constant mainstay on programs throughout the world. His unique musical style is an eclectic combination of driving rhythms, soaring lyricism, and colorful orchestrations that all combine to communicate directly with the listener.

Mellits' music is often described as being visceral, making a deep connection with the audience. "This was music as sensual as it was intelligent; I saw audience members swaying, nodding, making little motions with their hands" (New York Press). He started composing very early, and was writing piano music long before he started formal piano lessons at age 6. He went on to study at the Eastman School of Music, Yale School of Music, Cornell University,

and Tanglewood. Mellits often is a miniaturist, composing works that are comprised of short, contrasting movements or sections. His music is eclectic, all-encompassing, colorful, and always has a sense of forward motion.

Mellits' music has been played by major ensembles across the globe and he has been commissioned by groups such as the Kronos Quartet, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra (Holland), Duo Assad, Bang On A Can All-Stars, Eliot Fisk, Canadian Brass, Nexus Percussion, Debussy Quartet, Third Coast Percussion, Real Quiet, New Music Detroit, Four-In-Correspondence (National Symphony Orchestra), Musique En Roue Libre (France), Fiarì Ensemble (Italy), Percussions Claviers de Lyon (France), Talujon, the Society for New Music, Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, and the Albany Symphony's Dog's Of Desire. Additionally, Mellits' music has been performed, toured, and/or recorded by members of the Detroit Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Minneapolis Symphony, Brooklyn Philharmonic, eighth blackbird, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, New Millennium Ensemble, Da Capo Chamber Players, and the American Modern Ensemble, among many others.

On film, Mellits has composed numerous scores, including the PBS mini-series "Beyond The Light Switch" which won a 2012 Dupont-Columbia award, the most prestigious award in documentaries. Mellits also directs and plays keyboards in his own unique ensemble, the Mellits Consort. He was awarded the prestigious 2004 Foundation for Contemporary Arts Award. On CD, there are over 50 recorded works of Mellits' music that can be found on Black Box, Endeavor Classics, Cantaloupe, CRI/Emergency Music, Santa Fe New Music, Innova, & Dacia Music. Marc Mellits is an Associate Professor of music at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He lives in Chicago with his wife and two daughters, and spends significant time in Romania.
www.marc mellits.com



making a difference together

We are devoted to being a good neighbor in every community we serve. That's why we're working with customers like you to help our communities thrive. Your support allows us to give more and do more to improve lives and make our neighborhoods stronger.

Thank you for helping us make a difference.

Wegmans