

Stephen Prina

Concerto for Modern, Movie, and Pop Music for 10 Instruments and Voice

Artist and performer bios

Stephen Prina is an artist, musician, and composer who was born in 1954 in Galesburg, Illinois, and is based in Los Angeles, California. His solo exhibitions include *English for Foreigners*, Museo Tamayo, Mexico City (2020) and Museo Madre, Naples (2017); *galesburg, illinois+*, Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen, St. Gallen (2015); *As He Remembered It*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles (2013) and Secession, Vienna (2011); *He was but a bad translation.*, Kölnischer Kunstverein (2011); *Stephen Prina: Modern Movie Pop*, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (2010); *The Second Sentence of Everything I Read Is You*, Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden and Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo (CAAC), Seville (both 2008); *To the People of Frankfurt am Main: At Least Three Types of Inaccessibility*, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt am Main (2000); and *It was the best he could do at the moment*, Museum Boijmans-van Beuningen, Rotterdam (1992). Group exhibitions include the 2008 Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; *Departures: 11 Artists at the Getty*, The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles (2000); *Allegories of Modernism: Contemporary Drawing*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York (1992); documenta IX, Kassel (1992); the 51st Carnegie International, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (1991); *Aperto*, Venice Biennale (1990); *A Forest of Signs: Art in the Crisis of Representation*, MOCA, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (1989); and the 74th American Exhibition, The Art Institute of Chicago (1982).

Either/Or (EO) is a flexible chamber ensemble based in New York City with a repertoire drawn from a wide spectrum of experimental traditions. Winner of the 2015 CMA/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming, EO has presented such inclusive concert experiences as surveys of composers like Tālib-Rāsūl Hākīm, Ana-Maria Avram, Chiyoko Szlavnic, and Anthony Braxton; explorations of graphic score approaches by artists like Mendi+Keith Obadike, Joanna Ward, and Raven Chacon; and carefully constructed sets of works with titles such as *Perspectives and Disclosures* and *Time | Again*. EO's directors, Richard Carrick and Chris McIntyre, draw on a broad collective of 10 regular soloists and various guests to realize the specific requirements of each project. Since forming in 2004 the group has premiered more than 300 works (as well as dozens of student compositions), toured throughout the US and Sweden, and recorded for labels such as New Focus, New World Records, Starkland, and Sterling Classics.

Christopher McIntyre is a Brooklyn-based trombonist, curator, composer, band leader, and educator. Known for his involvement in Julius Eastman's music, McIntyre serves as director of TILT Brass, which he cofounded in 2003, and as curator and trombonist for Either/Or Ensemble. As a player, composer, and music director, he specializes in ensemble work that melds improvisatory and interpretive material. He regularly performs in groups such as TILT, Either/Or, SEM and Talea ensembles, and American Composers Orchestra (ACO), among many others. McIntyre leads an active career as an independent concert programmer in New York (at the Kitchen, MATA Festival, Ne(x) works, and ISSUE Project Room) and he currently teaches at Mannes School of Music at the New School and in ACO's Teaching Artist program.

Violinist **Lauren Cauley**, a leading figure in New York's avant-garde music scene, is known for genre-defying performances that push the boundaries of her instrument. Praised as a "mainstay of the local new music scene" (*The New York Times*) and for her "fierce precision" (Cleveland Classical), Cauley has collaborated with renowned artists such as Chance the Rapper, Sigur Rós, George Lewis, Steve Reich, Cécile McLorin Salvant, Wadada Leo Smith, and Saul Williams. Her international career spans prestigious festivals like Venice Biennale, Newport Jazz, Beijing Modern Music Festival, and Lincoln Center Festival. She has premiered her own compositions at the Guggenheim Museum and performed as a guest artist at institutions like Princeton and Harvard universities, University of California, Berkeley, Shanghai Conservatory, and Eastman School of Music. A sought-after recording artist, Cauley has appeared on Grammy Award-winning and Emmy Award-nominated projects. In 2026 she will appear as a soloist with the Columbus Symphony to premiere a new concerto by Jeffrey Mumford.

Michelle Farah is a prominent oboist living in New York City. She has established herself as a sought-after orchestral performer, a versatile chamber musician, and a Grammy-winning recording artist. She has performed on prestigious stages with world-renowned ensembles, including the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Santa Fe Opera, American Ballet Theatre, New Jersey Symphony, Orchestra of St. Luke's, the Knights, A Far Cry, Talea Ensemble, Alarm Will Sound, and the International Contemporary Ensemble. Her performances have garnered acclaim from critics, with the *New York Times* lauding her solo playing as "uniformly excellent." Offstage, Farah has taken on

mentorship roles in the industry, including working as a teaching artist at the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music (GLFCAM) and the Composer's Conference. Born and raised in Miami, Florida, Farah earned her degrees from the Yale School of Music and the Manhattan School of Music. During her time at Yale, she contributed to preserving American musical heritage through her work, under the guidance of Vivian Perlis and Libby Van Cleve, at the Oral History of American Music, an ongoing oral history project collecting interviews with American composers.

Trumpeter, composer, and bandleader **Jonathan Finlayson** was born and raised in Oakland, California. After an invaluable mentorship with trumpeter and composer Robert Porter, Finlayson joined Steve Coleman's Five Elements. While recording and touring internationally with the Five Elements, he completed his BFA at the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music in 2005. Finlayson went on to perform and record in a variety of ensembles led by Muhal Richard Abrams, Henry Threadgill, Craig Harris, Ravi Coltrane, Mary Halvorson, Steve Lehman, Vijay Iyer, and Craig Taborn, among others. In 2013 Finlayson released the first of three critically acclaimed albums with PI Recordings: *Moment & The Message*, followed by *Moving Still*, which he toured internationally, and *3 Times Round*. After he attended the Jazz Composer Orchestra Institute in 2016, his composition *If Not for the Moon* was selected to be performed by the ACO Orchestra at Miller Theatre. As a 2021 artist-in-residence at Roulette, he premiered new compositions for quartet and quintet. His composition *Yet to Be* was commissioned by the violin duo String Noise and recorded for their 2021 release *Alien Stories*. Recent collaborations include Orchestre National de Jazz, ICE, Either/Or Ensemble, Terrance Etc, the Mark Morris Dance Group, Panorchestra, and Jamie Baum Septet+.

Stephen Gosling earned his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees at the Juilliard School, where he was awarded the Mennin Prize for Outstanding Excellence and Leadership in Music and the Sony Elevated Standards Fellowship. He is a piano soloist at New York City Ballet and a member of New York New Music Ensemble and Talea Ensemble. He has also been a frequent guest artist in many other groups, including the New York Philharmonic (most notably as a soloist in Messiaen's Sept Haïkai), Orpheus, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Chamber Orchestra of Europe, the Orchestra of St. Luke's, and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

Brooklyn-based horn player, writer, and performance artist **Nicolee Kuester** divides her time between experimental music and the older stuff. She has recently performed with the International Contemporary Ensemble, the Knights, Talea Ensemble, Illinois on Broadway, and the New York Pops in New York City; with Ensemble Intercontemporain in Paris; with Alarm Will Sound in St. Louis; and with Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra in Los Angeles. She is a cofounder of MEANINGLESS WORK, a performance series that happily meanders between sounds, performance art, text, and movement theater.

A “new-music luminary” (*The New York Times*) and multihyphenate creative, flutist, performance artist, actor, and dancer **Margaret Lancaster** has built a large repertoire of cross-disciplinary solo works that employ electronics and mixed media. Performance highlights include Lincoln Center Festival, Spoleto Festival USA, Art Basel Miami, Santa Fe New Music, NIME Copenhagen, Mérida Clásica Moderna, and the seven-year global run of the OBIE-winning *Mabou Mines Dollhouse* (as Helene). She is a member of Either/Or, Ensemble Ipse, Ghost Ensemble, and One System, and guest appearances include Argento and the New York Philharmonic. Lancaster is passionate about collaborating, spontaneous dance parties, and cellophane.

Kal Sugatski is a violist and imaginative creator known for their “soul satisfying, bold, political and creative” organizing and curating. Sugatski has performed with the New York Philharmonic, Pittsburgh Symphony, NYC Ballet, International Contemporary Ensemble, and ChamberQUEER, and with such recording artists as the National, Andrea Bocelli, and Stevie Wonder. Sugatski’s season highlights include performances as principal violist of the Orchestra of St. Luke’s, a collaboration with Paul Taylor Dance Company, touring with American Contemporary Music Ensemble, backpacking the entire Sierra Nevada range on the Pacific Crest Trail, and performing on Broadway. Sugatski was named Mainer of the Year for Vigorous Tenderness, their outdoor chamber music series in Maine centered around composers of color and other marginalized voices in classical music. They were a 2021–22 season musician with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and have been featured on NPR as both a soloist and a chamber musician.

Trombonist **Zander Theiss** is an active performer and educator in New York City. He regularly performs throughout the city in a variety of settings, including full orchestras, Broadway shows, chamber music groups, brass choirs, and solos. He is a cofounder of the New York City Brass Choir and also runs many Oktoberfest and Christmas events through his group ZBrass. During the summers, Theiss performs at festivals such as Festival Napa Valley and Lake George Music Festival. He is currently a faculty member at the Mannes School of Music Prep Division.

Grammy-nominated clarinetist and bass clarinetist **Christa Van Alstine** is committed to sophisticated, thoughtful performance and building new works through collaboration and exploration. Whether on tour with Joe Jackson or collaborating with composers, writers, artists, and dancers, Van Alstine is happiest when working with colleagues to create new music. Her closest collaborators include the composers of IPSE, Red Light New Music, and Hotel Elefant; composers Ted Hearne, Aaron Siegel, Paola Prestini, Miguel Frasconi, Ricardo Gallo, Scott Miller, Larry Polansky, Ellen Lindquist, and Stefan Lipwin; and distinguished ensembles including Either/Or, Talea, International Contemporary Ensemble, Mantra Percussion, Wet Ink, Beth Morrison Projects, A Far Cry, Iktus Percussion, Ascolta, and Toca Loca. Van Alstine is a professor of clarinet, bass clarinet, and chamber music at New York University and is a faculty member at the United Nations International School.