



AUGUST 27, 2015 | CONTACT: STUART WOLFERMAN | STUART@UNFINISHEDSIDE.COM | 718-938-7679

COMPOSERS NOW LAUNCHES DIALOGUES SERIES

LISTEN. COMMUNICATE. RELATE.



New York, NY - [Composers Now](#) is pleased to announce the launch of its innovative new initiative, **Dialogues**. Hosted by Composers Now Founder/Artistic Director **Tania León**, Dialogues is a series of inspiring performances, thought provoking conversations, and stimulating exchanges of ideas between composers, performers and audiences.

The first Dialogues takes place on September 25 at the [Dwyer Cultural Center](#). Occurring in each borough, Dialogues is a series of five events that will focus on a different theme each year. The theme for the inaugural year is “The impact of the arts in our society.”

DIALOGUES NO. 1

Friday, Sept 25 @7PM

Dwyer Cultural Center

258 St. Nicholas Ave (Manhattan)

tickets: \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door/\$15 students+seniors

(LIMITED SEATING, ADVANCED TICKETS RECOMMENDED)

[info/tickets](#)

COMPOSERS & PERFORMERS:

Marcos Balter, composer; Ryan Muncy, saxophone

Eric Chasalow, composer; Miranda Cuckson, violin

Valerie Coleman, composer/performer

Rahzel, composer/beatboxer

CONVERSATION CATALYSTS:

Leading voices for the conversation are composers Elizabeth Hoffman, John Kaefer and Nkeiru Okoye, members of the Composers Now Board of Advisors and Distinguished Mentors Council.

Composers Now is proud to collaborate with the International Communications Association, Dwyer Cultural Center, Harlem Cultural Archives, and Harlem Arts Alliance.



{more}

Composers Now celebrates living composers, the diversity of their voices, and the significance of their contributions to our society. Composers Now is a project partner of **The Fund for the City of New York**. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the **ASCAP Foundation**, **Rockefeller Brothers Fund**, **Lower Manhattan Cultural Council**, **BMI Foundation**, **Cheswatyr Foundation** and the **Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation**.

Composers Now will be accepting event registrations for the NYC-wide February 2016 festival in September.



* * *

MARCOS BALTER / composer

Praised by the *Chicago Tribune* as “minutely crafted” and “utterly lovely,” the *New York Times* as “whimsical” and “surreal,” and the *Washington Post* as “dark and deeply poetic,” the music of composer Marcos Balter (b.1974, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) is at once emotionally visceral and intellectually complex, primarily rooted in experimental manipulations of timbre and hyper-dramatization of live performance. His works have been featured worldwide in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Köln Philharmonie, the French Academy at Villa Medici, New World Symphony Center, Park Avenue Armory, Teatro de Madrid, Tokyo Bunka Kaykan, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Teatro Amazonas, Le Poison Rouge, and the Museum of Contemporary Art of Chicago. www.marcosbalter.com

ERIC CHASALOW / composer

Eric Chasalow is widely recognized as a composer equally at home with electro-acoustic music as with music for traditional instrumental ensembles. Eric is the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Irving G. Fine Professor of Music at Brandeis University, and Director of BEAMS, the Brandeis Electro-Acoustic Music Studio. Among his honors are awards from the Guggenheim Foundation, Koussevitzky Music Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Fromm Foundation, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2011 the Library of Congress established an Eric Chasalow collection. www.ericchasalow.com

VALERIE COLEMAN / composer

Valerie Coleman is the founder, flutist and resident composer of the Grammy-nominated Imani Winds. Through her music and vision, she has created a legacy of innovation that breaks down cultural and social barriers in classical music. A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Coleman began her music studies at the late age of eleven. Today, her works and performances are heard regularly on Classical radio stations throughout the country: Sirius XM, *Performance Today*, NPR's *All Things Considered*, and *The Ed Gordon Show*; WNYC's *Soundcheck*, MPR's *Saint Paul Sunday*, and globally through Radio France. She is best known for Imani Winds' signature piece *Umoja*, which was listed as one of the “Top 101 Great American Works” by Chamber Music America. www.imaniwinds.com

RAHZEL / composer

The Rahzel (born Rahzel M. Brown) is an American rapper. He is a hip hop MC who specializes in beatboxing or vocal percussion. He is probably best known as a member of Grammy Award-winning band The Roots. He is also called The Godfather of Noyze. Growing up in the Bronx, Rahzel went to Grandmaster Flash's shows regularly and later became a roadie of the Ultramagnetic MCs. He was also influenced by artists like Doug

{more}

E. Fresh, Biz Markie, Bobby McFerrin, Buffy of the Fat Boys, and Al Jarreau. Rahzel has expanded the art of beatboxing in a unique way, creating vocal beats while singing lyrics simultaneously, as is best displayed by his famous acapella “If Your Mother Only Knew” (an interpretation of Aaliyah’s song “If Your Girl Only Knew”) which is an interlude on his album *Make The Music 2000*.

* * *

TANIA LEÓN / ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Tania León is a highly regarded composer and conductor recognized for her accomplishments as an educator and advisor to arts organizations. She has been the subject of profiles on ABC, CBS, CNN, PBS, Univision, Telemundo and independent films. Recent commissions include: the score for the opera, *The Little Rock Nine*, with a libretto by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., commissioned by the University of Central Arkansas’s College of Fine Arts and Communications, with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation and the Fred Darragh Foundation; *Acana* for orchestra; and *Inura* for voices, strings and percussion.

Appearances as guest conductor include those with the Symphony Orchestra of Marseille, France the Gewandhausorchester Orchestra, Germany and Orquesta Sinfonica de Guanajuato, Mexico among others. Tania León’s honors include the New York Governor’s Lifetime Achievement Award, the ASCAP Victor Herbert Award and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. A founding member of the Dance Theatre of Harlem, she instituted the Brooklyn Philharmonic Community Concert Series, was co-founder of the American Composers Orchestra “Sonidos de las Americas Festivals” and New Music Advisor to the New York Philharmonic. She has lectured at Harvard University, served as visiting professor at Yale University and as guest composer/conductor at the Hamburg Musikschule, Germany, the Beijing Central Conservatory, China and the Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, South Africa.

León has received Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Colgate University, Oberlin and SUNY Purchase Colleges. She served as US Artistic Ambassador of American Culture in Madrid, Spain. A Professor at Brooklyn College since 1985, she was named Distinguished Professor of the City University of New York in 2006. In 2010 Ms. León was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

AMY ROBERTS FRAWLEY / PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Amy Roberts Frawley is the performing arts curator at Wave Hill in addition to her role as program director of Composers Now and for the upcoming New York run of Shirish Korde’s multi-media chamber opera, *Phoolan Devi - The Bandit Queen*. She produced the *Keyed Up Music Project* for pianist Marc Peloquin. Her prior organizational experience includes thirteen years as executive vice president of Concert Artists Guild and positions at John Gingrich Management, Speculum Musicae, Chamber Music International and Young Concert Artists. An active volunteer, Ms. Frawley is a former president and current member of the board of directors of the Look & Listen Festival.

* * *

LINKS

- www.composersnow.org
- [www.twitter.com/ComposersNow](https://twitter.com/ComposersNow)
- www.facebook.com/ComposersNow