

AMOC*

AMERICAN MODERN OPERA COMPANY
2021-2022 SEASON REVIEW





“Many in the arts these days talk a big game about interdisciplinary collaboration, but few walk the walk like AMOC”
/ The New York Times

2022 was a year of tremendous growth and opportunity for our company. In June, we served as Music Director of the Ojai Music Festival—the first interdisciplinary ensemble to hold the position in the festival’s 75-year history. We also received a three-year grant from the Mellon Foundation, allowing our young organization to propel forward, including welcoming Executive Director Courtenay Casey, whose leadership underscores and accelerates this momentum. But, most importantly, we were able to gather—deepening our process through supportive collective authorship and social consciousness — and consistently share these ideas with a live audience. Whether we saw you in California, New York, in between, or online, we thank you for joining our trajectory, bringing unexpected and hopeful works to everyone daring to behold them.

With very best wishes,

Matthew Aucoin and Zack Winokur / Co-Founders
Courtenay Casey / Executive Director
Jennifer Chen / Managing Director

AMOC*

AMERICAN MODERN OPERA COMPANY

The mission of AMOC* (American Modern Opera Company) is to build and share a body of collaborative work. As a group of dancers, singers, musicians, writers, directors, composers, choreographers, and producers united by a core set of values, AMOC* artists pool their resources to create new pathways that connect creators and audiences in surprising and visceral ways.

www.runningamoc.org

THE COMPANY

CORE ENSEMBLE

JONNY ALLEN, percussionist
PAUL APPLEBY, tenor
DOUG BALLIETT, double bassist, composer
JULIA BULLOCK, soprano
JAY CAMPBELL, cellist
ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZO, countertenor
MIRANDA CUCKSON, violinist, violist
JULIA EICHTEN, dancer, choreographer
EMI FERGUSON, flutist
KEIR GOGWILT, violinist, writer
CONOR HANICK, pianist
COLEMAN ITZKOFF, cellist
OR SCHRAIBER, dancer, choreographer
BOBBI JENE SMITH, dancer, choreographer
DAVÓNE TINES, bass-baritone

CO-FOUNDERS
MATTHEW AUCOIN, composer, conductor, pianist
ZACK WINOKUR, director, choreographer, dancer

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
ZACK WINOKUR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COURTENAY CASEY

MANAGING DIRECTOR
JENNIFER CHEN

PRODUCER
CATH BRITTAN

PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR
KEIR GOGWILT

ARTISTIC LIASON
MARY MCGOWAN

ARTISTIC ASSOCIATE
LANDON WILSON

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
KATHY SCHUMAN, president
MARTA MILLER, vice president
MATTHEW BIRD, treasurer
ADAM CHARLAP HYMAN, secretary
STEPHEN A. NOVICK

The No One's Rose

Stanford Live
Stanford University, CA
August 25-29, 2021

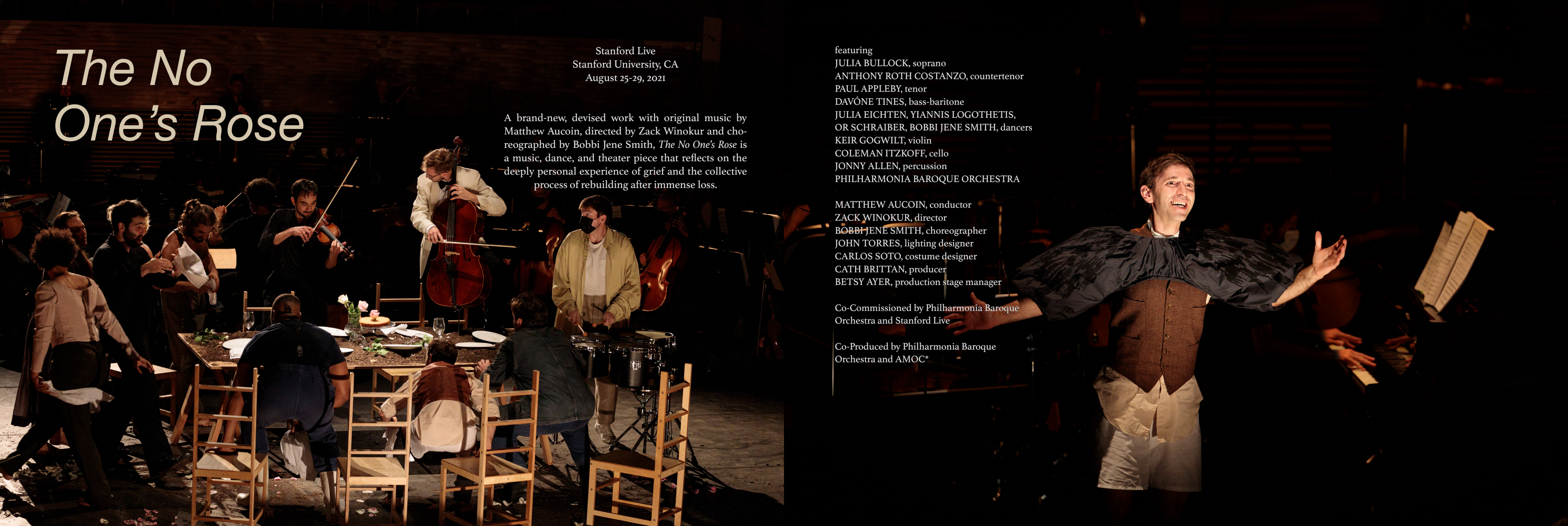
A brand-new, devised work with original music by Matthew Aucoin, directed by Zack Winokur and choreographed by Bobbi Jene Smith, *The No One's Rose* is a music, dance, and theater piece that reflects on the deeply personal experience of grief and the collective process of rebuilding after immense loss.

featuring
JULIA BULLOCK, soprano
ANTHONY ROTH COSTANZO, countertenor
PAUL APPLEBY, tenor
DAVÓNE TINES, bass-baritone
JULIA EICHTEN, YIANNIS LOGOTHETIS,
OR SCHRAIBER, BOBBI JENE SMITH, dancers
KEIR GOGWILT, violin
COLEMAN ITZKOFF, cello
JONNY ALLEN, percussion
PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

MATTHEW AUCOIN, conductor
ZACK WINOKUR, director
BOBBI JENE SMITH, choreographer
JOHN TORRES, lighting designer
CARLOS SOTO, costume designer
CATH BRITTAN, producer
BETSY AYER, production stage manager

Co-Commissioned by Philharmonia Baroque
Orchestra and Stanford Live

Co-Produced by Philharmonia Baroque
Orchestra and AMOC*



EASTMAN

Little Island Festival
September 3-4, 2021

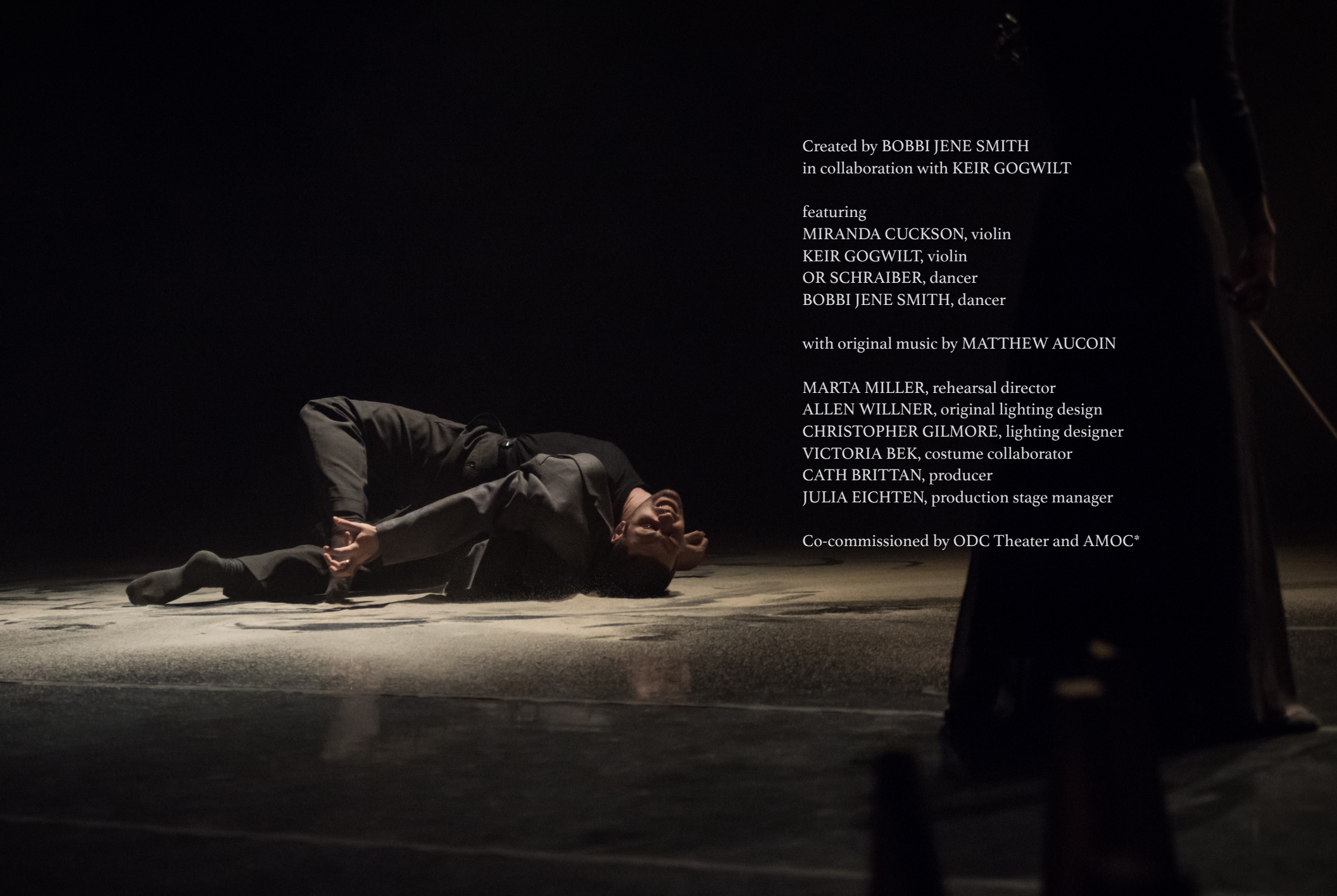
EASTMAN is a multi-dimensional performance piece that reflects the performers' consideration of Julius Eastman's art and the larger context of his life, creativity, and humanity. AMOC* was thrilled to make our return to live performance in New York by closing the inaugural Little Island Festival with an in-process presentation of the production.

Conceived by ZACK WINOKUR
and company

featuring
DOUG BALLIETT, double bass
MIRANDA CUCKSON, violin
EMI FERGUSON, flute
CONOR HANICK, piano
DAVÓNE TINES, bass-baritone
SETH PARKER WOODS, cello

IAN ASKEW and MARY MCGOWAN,
assistant directors
JOHN TORRES and TESS BOOKWALTER,
lighting designers
MARK GREY, sound designer
CATH BRITTAN, producer
BETSY AYER, production stage manager





Created by BOBBI JENE SMITH
in collaboration with KEIR GOGWILT

featuring
MIRANDA CUCKSON, violin
KEIR GOGWILT, violin
OR SCHRAIBER, dancer
BOBBI JENE SMITH, dancer

with original music by MATTHEW AUCOIN

MARTA MILLER, rehearsal director
ALLEN WILLNER, original lighting design
CHRISTOPHER GILMORE, lighting designer
VICTORIA BEK, costume collaborator
CATH BRITTAN, producer
JULIA EICHTEN, production stage manager

Co-commissioned by ODC Theater and AMOC*

WITH CARE

Art of Élan, San Diego, CA
Thursday, April 14, 2022

92Y, New York, NY
Thursday, April 28, 2022
New York Premiere

With Care is a visceral, moving work for two dancers and two violinists. Building on the cross-disciplinary work of *A Study on Effort* (“chilling, thrilling rawness” — *The New York Times*), *With Care* investigates the dynamics of caregiving, carelessness, and loss through a theatrical fusion of dance, music, and spoken word.



OJAI MUSIC FESTIVAL

June 9-12, 2022

AMOC* served as the 76th Music Director of the Ojai Music Festival, only the second ensemble and first explicitly interdisciplinary company to do so in the Festival's history. With over two dozen guest collaborators joining our eighteen events, AMOC* presented eight world premieres, including six new theatrical productions, over the jam-packed long weekend.

“gloriously raucous” / The New Yorker



THURSDAY, JUNE 9

3:00PM – OJAI TALKS

Matthew Aucoin and Zack Winokur, AMOC* Co-Founders | Anthony Cheung, Andrew McIntosh, and Celeste Oram, composers-in-residence | Ara Guzelimian, OMF Artistic and Executive Director | John Schaefer, WQXR/New Sounds host

A conversation previewing the weekend's festivities

*

5:00PM – A PASSAGEWAY BETWEEN SHORES

Paul Appleby, tenor | Keir GoGwilt, violin | Carolyn Chen, composer and performer | Divya Victor, poet

A musical-poetic meditation weaving together a tapestry of original compositions, traditional songs, and familiar refrains, melding original music with Irish, Scots, and Tamil tunes

*

7:15PM – POP-UP PERFORMANCE / TOM JOHNSON'S *NINE BELLS*

Jonny Allen, percussion | Julia Eichten, dancer

*

8:00PM – OPENING NIGHT

AMOC* Artists | Garrett Arney, percussion | Gleb Kanasevich, clarinet | Carrie Frey, viola

A musical welcome to the festival including music by Matthew Aucoin, Julius Eastman, Orlando Gibbons, Michael Hersch, Celeste Oram, Frederic Rzewski, Kate Soper, Eric Wubbels, and Iannis Xenakis

“Everything for AMOC is sacred in that it needs to perform at the highest level, but nothing is so sacred that it can’t be rethought musically, socially, racially, sexually, theatrically, physically” / The LA Times



FRIDAY, JUNE 10

8:00 AM – OJAI DAWNS / LEWIS + MITCHELL

Emi Ferguson, flute | Gleb Kanasevich, clarinet | Clay Zeller-Townson, bassoon | Jonny Allen, percussion | Matthew Aucoin, piano | Elliot Figg, keyboards | Miranda Cuckson, violin | Carrie Frey, viola | Doug Balliett double bass

A meditative, playful, improvisatory program featuring George Lewis’s *Artificial Life* and Roscoe Mitchell’s *Cards* from *At 440 Oakwood Drive*, a new work under development through Metropolis Ensemble and co-commissioned by Metropolis Ensemble, Ruckus, and the Immanuel Wilkins Quartet

*

11:00AM – EASTMAN

Conceived by Zack Winokur and company

Davóne Tines, bass-baritone | Emi Ferguson, flute | Miranda Cuckson, violin | Seth Parker Woods, cello | Doug Balliett, double bass | Conor Hanick, piano | Matthew Aucoin, piano | Jonny Allen, percussion

*

2:30PM – OPEN REHEARSAL World Premiere and AMOC* Commission

Directed by Bobbi Jene Smith

Choreographed and performed by Paul Appleby, tenor | Julia Eichten, dancer | Vinson Fraley, dancer | Jonathan Fredrickson, dancer | Keir GoGwilt, violin | Conor Hanick, piano | Coleman Itzkoff, cello | Jesse Kovarsky, dancer | Yiannis Logothetis, dancer | Or Schraiber, dancer | Bobbi Jene Smith, dancer | Stephanie Troyak, dancer

A new, collaborative dance-theater piece by Bobbi Jene Smith, made specially for the 2022 Ojai festival, which explores themes of power, love, and trust through the theatrics of rehearsal

5:00PM – THE ECHOING OF TENSES

Arthur Sze, poet | Victoria Chang, poet | Paul Appleby, tenor | Miranda Cuckson, violin | Anthony Cheung, piano | David Bird, sound design

The world premiere of Anthony Cheung’s the *echoing of tenses*, a song cycle setting texts by Asian-American poets interconnected by the larger theme of memory, made complicated by the circumstances and tensions of cultural and personal identity, family, migration, loss, and reflection

*

8:00PM – SPECIAL RECITAL FEATURING MASS: PART I

Davóne Tines, bass-baritone | Richard Valitutto, piano | Conor Hanick, piano | Jonny Allen, percussion | Coleman Itzkoff, cello

COVID-19 did not leave AMOC* untouched this season, and unfortunately the world premiere of *Harawi*—a staging of Messaien’s song cycle directed by Zack Winokur and featuring Julia Bullock, Conor Hanick, Bobbi Jene Smith, and Or Schraiber—was unable to take place during this festival.

However, Davóne Tines and company quickly came together to conceive a moving program featuring new music by Tyshawn Sorey and a bespoke version of Tines’s critically acclaimed recital *MASS: Part I*, which has been seen in the most prestigious venues across the country



SATURDAY, JUNE 11

9:00AM – MEDITATION / CATHERINE LAMB’S CROSS/COLLAPSE

Jay Campbell, cello

*

11:00AM – ABOUT BACH

Emi Ferguson, flute | Miranda Cuckson, violin | Keir GoGwilt, violin |
Carrie Frey, viola | Coleman Itzkoff, cello | Ruckus

A program featuring contemporary interpretations of J.S. Bach’s instrumental music, including selections from Emi Ferguson and Ruckus’s album *Fly the Coop*, followed by composers Cassandra Miller and Reiko Fütting’s musical responses to Bach’s Chaconne from his Violin Suite in D Minor.

*

2:30PM – HOW TO FALL APART
World Premiere and AMOC Commission*

Composed by Carolyn Chen

Keir GoGwilt, violin | Jay Campbell, cello | Julia Eichten, dancer and movement director | Yiannis Logothetis, dancer | Matilda Sakamoto, dancer

A new production describing cosmic, natural, and human processes of disintegration, aging, and falling apart.



4:30PM – THE CELLO PLAYER
World Premiere / Co-produced by AMOC and Orsolina28*

Created by Or Schraiber
in collaboration with Yiannis Logothetis and Coleman Itzkoff

Coleman Itzkoff, cello | Yiannis Logothetis, dancer | Or Schraiber, dancer |
Jesse Kovarsky, actor

Bobbi Jene Smith, dramaturg | Victoria Bek, costumes |
Jules Itzkoff, furniture design

A dance-music piece excavating the complexity of ancient relationships: the tortured conception of friendship as a messy amalgam of love, hatred, insecurity, and neediness

*

8:00PM – LITTLE JIMMY AND FAMILY DINNER

Ariadne Greif, soprano | Anthony Roth Costanzo, countertenor | Paul Appleby, tenor | Davóne Tines, bass-baritone | Emi Ferguson, flute | Gleb Kanasevich, clarinet | Clay Zeller-Townson, bassoon | Miranda Cuckson, violin | Keir GoGwilt, violin | Carrie Frey, viola | Coleman Itzkoff, cello | Doug Balliett, double bass | Jonny Allen, percussion | Garrett Arney, percussion | Conor Hanick, piano

Featuring the World Premiere of Matthew Aucoin’s *Family Dinner*, a gathering of toasts and music celebrating a core tenet of AMOC*’s residencies, dinner, preceded by Andrew McIntosh’s *Little Jimmy*



SUNDAY, JUNE 12

9:00AM – MEDITATION / MUSIC OF JULIUS EASTMAN

Doug Balliett, double bass | Miranda Cuckson, violin | Emi Ferguson, flute | Davóne Tines, bass-baritone | Seth Parker Woods, cello

*

10:00AM – THE BOOK OF SOUNDS

Conor Hanick, piano

A rare performance of Hans Otte’s *The Book of Sounds*, a remarkable cycle of 12 solo piano pieces shaped by Otte’s immersion in both European and Easter spirituality

*

12:00PM – DANCE IN THE PARK

EICHTERLING (Julia Eichten and Bret Eastering), dance and choreography

A free, wild (dinosaur costumes included) happening in Libbey Park celebrating tenderness, togetherness, and fierce joy

*

2:30PM – OPEN REHEARSAL

[See credits and description from Friday, June 10]



4:00PM – ROME IS FALLING
World Premiere and AMOC* Commission

Composed by Doug Balliett

Ariadne Greif, soprano | Paul Appleby, tenor | Davóne Tines, bass-baritone | Emi Ferguson, flute | Keir GoGwilt, violin | Coleman Itzkoff, cello | Doug Balliett, double bass | Jonny Allen, percussion | Matthew Aucoin, piano | Ruckus | Ojai Festival Children’s Choir, Emily Redman Hall, choir conductor

A zany lesson on the absurdity of what can happen when powerful people lose power in the form of a musical journey for all ages, featuring everything from lollipops to an emperor with a chicken fetish

*

5:30PM – FINALE

Full festival company

AMOC* raucously closed out the 2022 Festival featuring music from Vivaldi to Philip Glass, culminating in Julius Eastman’s epic, indomitable party, *Stay on It*



THANK YOU, FROM AMOC*

“AMOC is critically essential to my life as an artist. Far more than a collection of brilliant artists and incredible work, AMOC* is the incarnation of an intentional, generous, and generative way of working that is urgently necessary.*

It is a blessing and a lifeline to be a part of a community that continues to help articulate and form my own artistic values, output and aspirations.” / Davóne Tines

“One thing I really love with AMOC is that, besides coming from different disciplines, every member also has a strong sense of themselves as an artist—what their motivations are, and what they’re curious about. These driving impulses are so strong that the collaborations are so very stimulating—they can knock you out of your comfort zone in a way that’s tremendously exciting.” / Miranda Cuckson*

“These are some of the most visionary, forward-looking creative, competent, smart, probing people making art today. And I think what we’ve proved over the course of our short life is that the work is actually much greater than the sum of its parts. That’s what we’re supporting.” / Conor Hanick

FOUNDERS CIRCLE

AMOC gratefully acknowledges the supporters who donated \$10,000+ in its inaugural year:*

Susan Baker & Michael Lynch
Bay Family Foundation
Lois Conway Foundation Fund
The Kovner Foundation
William and Helen Little Family Foundation
Barbara Goldstein and Margot Falkner
Ellen Marcus / The James S. Marcus Foundation
The Steve Novick Charitable Gift Fund
David Parker
Shutzer Family Charitable Trust
Howard and Sarah D. Solomon Foundation
Elizabeth Tunick
Robert L. Turner / The RLT Foundation



	\$10,000 - \$19,999 Susan Baker & Michael Lynch Philippe Bigot Paul Bittenwieser The Mertz Gilmore Foundation Edythe Gladstein The GoGwilt Family Pamela & Don Michaelis David Parker Carol & Richard Seltzer The Robert & Jane Toll Foundation Elizabeth Tunick Susan & David Young Anonymous (2)
\$250,000+ The Mellon Foundation	
\$150,000+ Bill and Patricia O'Connor	
\$100,000+ The Kovner Foundation	
\$50,000 - \$99,999 Matthew Aucoin Ellen Marcus / The James S. Marcus Foundation The Steve Novick Charitable Gift Fund Howard and Sarah D. Solomon Foundation Robert L. Turner / The RLT Foundation	\$1,000 - \$9,999 Norman Benzaquen Matthew Bird Susan Bienkowski Gordan Brodfuehrer Gracie Brown Noreen Buckfire Adam Charlap Hyman Shiwen & Zhong Chen Deborah & Estia Eichten Allen R. and Judy Brick Freedman Venture Fund for Opera Stephanie French Pamela Friedman Ann & Graham Gund Christopher Ho / CK and Kay Ho Foundation Susan Kessler Graham Parker Betsy Rudnick & Bruce Posner Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation Robert Shapiro Daisy Soros Ann Teixeira Peter Wender Judy Zankel
\$20,000 - \$49,999 Mogens Bay / Bay Family Foundation Lois Conway Foundation Fund The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation Barbara Goldstein & Margot Falkner Kaori Kitao William and Helen Little Family Foundation Kathy Schuman Shutzer Family Charitable Trust	



\$0 - \$999 Samuel Adams Carol & Don Aucoin Mary Biedebach Gavin Black Dennis Boutsikaris Jan Constantine Bruce Creditor Mary Ann Downs Pamela Drexel Bridget Haile Stephen Haskell & David Stark James Kaddaras Kenneth Kanter Charles Klein Ellen Klyce Faina Kofman Karen Leopardi John & Debbie Loeffler Elaine Louie Andrew Martin Weber Theodore McCombs Erin McKay Hannah Mafalda Millies Donald Mitchell Katalin Mitchell Peter Modest Julie & Jake Moerschel Michael Nock Molly O'Laughlin Jill & Peter Olive R. Lynn Rardin & Lynne O'Connell Noah David Robbins Teresa Robinson Meredith Rubin	Lawrence Ruttman Katie Schick Ellen Schon Nancy Schon Jill Steinberg George Venson Martha & Jeff Winokur Lisa Wong & Lynn Chang Sidney Worthen Steve Zinner
<i>Lifetime giving as of June 30, 2022</i>	



*Image credits: Joshua S Bright, Lili Holzer-Glier, Harry
McFann, Natalia Perez, Stanford Live, Timothy Teague/Ojai
Music Festival, Taylor West*