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Pianist Sarah Cahill performs Lou Harrison's *Concerto for Piano with Javanese Gamelan* with Gamelan Sari Raras at Two Berkeley Events

Sunday, October 13, 2019 at 5:30pm & 7:30pm

BAMPFA | 2155 Center Street

Tickets included with museum admission. www.bampfa.org

Friday, November 8, 2019 at 8pm

Hertz Concert Hall | UC Berkeley | 101 Cross-Sproul Path

Tickets \$5 - \$16 available at the door or online. events.berkeley.edu

“a persuasive advocate for American experimentalist composers” –
The Chicago Tribune

Sarah Cahill: www.sarahcahill.com



Photo by Kathleen Kam (Gamelan Sari Raras) available upon request. Photos by Miranda Sanborn (Sarah Cahill) available at www.jensenartists.com.

Berkeley, CA – **Sarah Cahill**, “sterling pianist and intrepid illuminator of the classical avant-garde” (*The New York Times*) announces two performance dates of **Lou Harrison**’s *Concerto for Piano with Javanese Gamelan* – **Sunday, October 13** and **Friday, November 8**. Cahill joins forces with **Gamelan Sari Raras**, a performing ensemble in the Department of Music at UC Berkeley focusing on traditional Javanese gamelan music and contemporary works under the direction of Midiyanto and Ben Brinner.

Lou Harrison’s compositions for Indonesian gamelan and Western instruments represent his distinctive transcultural voice and musical synthesis between the Western and Indonesian classical styles. His *Concerto for Piano with Javanese Gamelan* (1986) is in a standard three-movement form and the music is precisely notated, yet many sections have improvisatory characteristics and the piano is retuned to match the gamelan, showcasing Harrison’s creative method of integrating the traditions. Performances of this work are rare, since the piece requires a radical retuning of the piano to match the gamelan’s temperament.

On **Sunday, October 13, 2019** at **Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA)**, the concerto will be presented twice in one evening, at **5:30pm** and **7:30pm**. Museum visitors are welcome to stay for both performances. Along with Harrison’s concerto, Gamelan Sari Raras will perform traditional Javanese music.

Friday, November 8, 2019 at **8pm** at the **UC Berkeley’s Hertz Concert Hall**, the concerto is paired with late twentieth-century works by leading Javanese composers K.R.T. Wasitodiningrat (known as Pak Cokro, 1909-2007), and Ki Nartosabdh (1925-1985) performed by Gamelan Sari Raras with vocalist Heni Savitri. They will also perform with master dancers I Nyoman Wenten and Nanik Wenten, of the California Institute of the Arts, in an excerpt from a traditional Javanese dance drama.

In 2017, Cahill performed the concerto with Gamelan Galak Tika, directed by Evan Zipoyrn and Jody Diamond, at ICA Boston and at the Cleveland Museum of Art, where they recorded the concerto for an imminent LP release. The instruments for these performances was Gamelan Si Betty, which was built by Lou Harrison and his life partner Bill Colvig.

Cahill had the opportunity to work closely with Harrison, and has championed many of his works for piano. She visited him several times at his home in Aptos, California, and copied rare scores from his collection. She continues to research his music through people who knew him and the Harrison archives at University of California Santa Cruz. In 1997, Cahill was chosen to premiere Harrison's *Festival Dance* for two pianos with Aki Takahashi at the Cooper Union, and worked with Harrison in rehearsals. She was also chosen to perform his *Dance for Lisa Karon*, discovered only a few years ago and not heard since its premiere in 1938, and has performed his *Varied Trio* and a number of solo and chamber works in a Lou Harrison festival in Tokyo. In preparing Harrison's Piano Concerto for performances with the La Jolla and Berkeley Symphonies, Cahill worked extensively with several of his colleagues and close collaborators.

Cahill performed Harrison's solo, chamber, and orchestral repertoire across the country and in Japan from January 2017 through March 2018. *The New York Times* praised her "fascinating program" of Harrison's works at Le Poisson Rouge in April, while the *Los Angeles Times* described her performance at Tuesday@MonkSpace that month as, "important ... Cahill played more as Harrison himself might have – boldly, exuberantly, with an ear for color and a foot for rhythm."

About Sarah Cahill: Sarah Cahill has commissioned and premiered over sixty compositions for solo piano. Composers who have dedicated works to Cahill include John Adams, Terry Riley, Pauline Oliveros, Julia Wolfe, Yoko Ono, Annea Lockwood, and Ingram Marshall. She was named a 2018 Champion of New Music, awarded by the American Composers Forum (ACF).

Recent appearances include the Interlochen Arts Festival, the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Boston Institute for Contemporary Art, a performance at Alice Tully Hall with the Silk Road Ensemble, Stanford Live, Le Poisson Rouge, and concerts at San Francisco Performances, Sacramento State's Festival of New American Music, the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival in the United Kingdom, and Toyusu Civic Center Hall in Tokyo. Cahill's latest project is *The Future is Female*, a ritual installation and communal feminist immersive listening experience featuring more than sixty compositions by women around the globe, ranging from the 18th century to the present day. Recent and upcoming performances of *The Future is Female* include Carolina Performing Arts, Carlsbad Music Festival, Detroit Institute of Arts, Bowling Green New Music Festival, and North Dakota Museum of Art.

Sarah Cahill's discography includes more than twenty albums on the New Albion, CRI, New World, Other Minds, Tzadik, Albany, Cold Blue, Other Minds, and Pinna labels. In September 2017, she released her latest album, *Eighty Trips Around the Sun: Music by and for Terry Riley*, a box set tribute to Terry Riley, on Irritable Hedgehog Records. The four-CD set includes solo works by Riley, four-hand works with pianist Regina Myers, and world premiere recordings of commissioned works composed in honor of Riley's 80th birthday.

Cahill's radio show, *Revolutions Per Minute*, can be heard every Sunday evening from 8 to 10 pm on KALW, 91.7 FM in San Francisco. She is on the faculty of the San Francisco Conservatory, and curates a monthly series of new music concerts at the new Berkeley Art Museum. For more information, visit www.sarahcahill.com.

About Gamelan Sari Raras: Founded in 1988 by Midiyanto and Ben Brinner, Gamelan Sari Raras brings together current UC Berkeley students, faculty, and alumni of Berkeley and other gamelan programs across the country. Coming from a family of shadow play puppeteers and musicians, Midiyanto first came to the United States in 1985, partly thanks to Lou Harrison. He has taught gamelan in the Department of Music at UC Berkeley, where he is a full-time lecturer, since 2004, with prior stints at San Diego State University and Lewis and Clark. He is much in demand as a musician and a shadow play puppeteer, giving workshops and performing with leading groups around the United States, as well as Australia and Singapore. Ben Brinner is a professor of ethnomusicology in UC Berkeley's Department of Music where he also completed his graduate degrees and first studied gamelan. Other members of the ensemble include Heni Savitri, an acclaimed Javanese singer, who graduated from the Indonesian Institute of the Arts (ISI) in Surakarta, and Lisa Gold, an ethnomusicologist who teaches Balinese gamelan and courses on music in Indonesia at UC Berkeley. While Gamelan Sari Raras usually plays traditional works for Javanese gamelan, members of the group have performed works by Lou Harrison on several occasions, including at the Ojai Festival and Berkeley's Ojai North Festival in 2013, where Harrison's piano concerto was featured.

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