

BANG ON A CAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press contact (Bang on a Can): Maggie Stapleton, Jensen Artists (New York, NY)
+1 646.536.7864 x2, maggie@jensenartists.com

Bang on a Can All-Stars Perform in the UK at Brighton Dome and Kings Place Featuring the UK Premiere of Julia Wolfe's Pulitzer Prize-Winning Work *Anthracite Fields* Performed by the Bang on a Can All-Stars & The BBC Singers, Tecwyn Evans, conductor



Julia Wolfe's *Anthracite Fields* at Carnegie Hall. Photo by Richard Termine.

15 January at 7:30pm: Brighton Dome, Brighton, UK
Tickets and info: www.brightondome.org/event/20307/bang-on-a-can-all-stars/

18 & 19 January at 7:30pm at Kings Place, London, UK – *Venus Unwrapped*
Tickets and info: www.kingsplace.co.uk/whats-on/bang-on-a-can

Bang on a Can: www.bangonacan.org

New York, NY — New York's electric chamber ensemble, the **Bang on a Can All-Stars**, presents three performances in the UK: **15 January 2019 at Brighton Dome** (Brighton) and **18 & 19 January 2019 at Kings Place** (London). The final performance on 19 January features the UK Premiere of Bang on a Can co-founder **Julia Wolfe's** Pulitzer Prize-winning work, *Anthracite Fields* as part of the **Venus Unwrapped** series.

On **Tuesday, 15 January at 7:30pm** (Brighton Dome, Brighton) Bang on a Can All-Stars perform a concert featuring blockbuster UK and US composers including the All-Stars' acclaimed live arrangement of **Brian Eno's** ambient classic *Music for Airports*; NY legends **Philip Glass**, **Steve Reich** and **Meredith Monk**; plus Bang on a Can co-founder **Julia Wolfe** and Britain's own late great **Steve Martland**.

On **18 January at 7:30pm** (Kings Place, London), **Julia Wolfe** curates a program of core repertoire written for the ensemble as part of the **Venus Unwrapped** series highlighting many of today's most innovative women composers. The All-Stars perform UK premieres from their multimedia commissioning project *Field Recordings* by **Caroline Shaw** and **Anna Thorvaldsdottir**; exclusive newly orchestrated songs by renowned composer **Meredith Monk**; a video score by composer and acclaimed visual artist **Christian Marclay**; plus music by **Kate Moore** and visceral works by Bang on a Can co-founders **Julia Wolfe** and **Michael Gordon**.

On **19 January at 7:30pm** (Kings Place, London), Bang on a Can All-Stars joins forces with the BBC Singers, led by conductor Tecwyn Evans, to perform Bang on a Can co-founder **Julia Wolfe's** Pulitzer Prize-winning work *Anthracite Fields*. Julia Wolfe's haunting, poignant, and relentlessly physical *Anthracite Fields* is an examination of the coal-mining industry so musically and socially provocative that it netted the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Music. In *Anthracite Fields*, Wolfe draws on oral

histories, interviews, speeches, geographic descriptions, local rhymes, and coal advertisements to create a work that gives an intimate look at a particular slice of American life. With visually stunning projections by scenographer Jeff Sugg and music that is at times elegiac, hard-driving, and tender, *Anthracite Fields* is a deeply moving oratorio which honors the people who persevered and endured in the Pennsylvania Anthracite coal region during a time when the industry fueled the nation. Mark Swed of *The Los Angeles Times* remarks, “[*Anthracite Fields*] captures not only the sadness of hard lives lost...but also of the sweetness and passion of a way of daily life now also lost. The music compels without overstatement. This is a major, profound work.”

Presented by Kings Place, the year-long **Venus Unwrapped** series focuses on the creative firepower of women composers. It is about women from all races and backgrounds as much as it is about a wide and eclectic range of music from jazz and folk, contemporary to electronic, and the artists who inspired them. Learn more here: www.kingsplace.co.uk/venus and watch the series trailer here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=qz2PxpAhyso

The Bang on a Can All-Stars are **Ashley Bathgate, cello; Robert Black, bass; Vicky Chow, piano and keyboards; David Cossin, percussion; Mark Stewart, electric guitar; and Ken Thomson, clarinets.** Known worldwide as some of the best contemporary musicians, the Bang on a Can All-Stars formed in 1992 and are recognized for their ultra-dynamic live performances and recordings of today’s most innovative music. Freely crossing the boundaries between classical, jazz, rock, world and experimental music, this six-member amplified ensemble has consistently forged a distinct category-defying identity. With a massive repertoire of works written specifically for the group’s distinctive instrumentation and style of performance, the All-Stars have become a genre in their own right.

Performing throughout the U.S. and internationally, the Bang on a Can All-Stars have shattered the definition of what concert music is today. The group’s celebrated projects include their landmark recording of Brian Eno’s ambient classic *Music for Airports* and Terry Riley’s *In C*, as well as live performances with Philip Glass, Meredith Monk, Don Byron, Iva Bittova, Thurston Moore, and others. Recent project highlights include *Road Trip*, an immersive and visually stunning concert collaboratively-composed by Michael Gordon, David Lang, and Julia Wolfe to commemorate the 30+ year journey of Bang on a Can; the premiere performances and recording of Julia Wolfe’s Pulitzer Prize winning *Anthracite Fields including their recent sold out performance at Carnegie Hall; Field Recordings*, a major multi-media project featuring over 30 commissioned works by Tyondai Braxton, Mira Calix, Anna Clyne, Bryce Dessner, Michael Gordon, Jóhann Jóhannsson, David Lang, Christian Marclay, Steve Reich, Caroline Shaw, Julia Wolfe; the world premiere and album release of *Cloud River Mountain*, a collaboration featuring Chinese superstar singer Gong Linna; and more. The All-Stars record on Cantaloupe Music and have released past recordings on Sony, Universal, and Nonesuch.

Complete Programs & Information:

Tuesday, 15 January 2019, 7:30pm at Brighton Dome, Brighton, UK
Bang on a Can All-Stars

Steve Reich: *Electric Counterpoint*
Meredith Monk: *Spaceship* (arr. Michael Gordon)
Meredith Monk: *Totentanz* (arr. David Lang)
Brian Eno: *Music for Airports 1/1* (arr. Michael Gordon)
Julia Wolfe: *Believing*
Philip Glass: *Closing*
Steve Martland: *Horses of Instruction*

Information: www.brightondome.org/event/20307/bang_on_a_can_all-stars/

Friday, 18 January 2019, 7:30pm at Kings Place, London, UK
Bang on a Can All-Stars

Julia Wolfe: *Reeling*
Caroline Shaw: *Really craft when you* (UK Premiere)
Anna Thorvaldsdottir: *Fields* (UK Premiere)
Kate Moore: *Ridgeway*
Michael Gordon: *Gene Takes a Drink* with film by Bill Morrison
Christian Marclay: *Fade to Slide* with film by Christian Marclay
Meredith Monk: *Spaceship* (arr. Michael Gordon)
Meredith Monk: *Totentanz* (arr. David Lang)
Julia Wolfe: *Believing*

Saturday, 19 January 2019, 7:30pm at Kings Place, London, UK
***Anthracite Fields* with Bang on a Can All-Stars and BBC Singers, Tecwyn Evans conductor**

Julia Wolfe's haunting, poignant and relentlessly physical *Anthracite Fields* is an examination of the coal-mining industry so musically and socially provocative that it netted the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Music.

Information: www.kingsplace.co.uk/whats-on/bang-on-a-can

About Bang on a Can: Bang on a Can is dedicated to making music new. Since its first Marathon concert in 1987, Bang on a Can has been creating an international community dedicated to innovative music, wherever it is found. With adventurous programs, it commissions new composers, performs, presents, and records new work, develops new audiences, and educates the musicians of the future. Bang on a Can is building a world in which powerful new musical ideas flow freely across all genres and borders. Bang on a Can plays "a central role in fostering a new kind of audience that doesn't concern itself with boundaries. If music is made with originality and integrity, these listeners will come." (*The New York Times*)

Bang on a Can has grown from a one-day New York-based Marathon concert (on Mother's Day in 1987 in a SoHo art gallery) to a multi-faceted performing arts organization with a broad range of year-round international activities. "When we started Bang on a Can, we never imagined that our 12-hour marathon festival of mostly unknown music would morph into a giant international organization dedicated to the support of experimental music, wherever we would find it," write Bang on a Can Co-Founders Michael Gordon, David Lang and Julia Wolfe. "But it has, and we are so gratified to be still hard at work, all these years later. The reason is really clear to us – we started this organization because we believed that making new music is a utopian act – that people needed to hear this music and they needed to hear it presented in the most persuasive way, with the best players, with the best programs, for the best listeners, in the best context. Our commitment to changing the environment for this music has kept us busy and growing, and we are not done yet."

Current projects include the annual **Bang on a Can Marathon**; **The People's Commissioning Fund**, a membership program to commission emerging composers; the **Bang on a Can All-Stars**, who tour to major festivals and concert venues around the world every year; recording projects; the **Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival at MASS MoCA** - a professional development program for young composers and performers led by today's pioneers of experimental music; **Asphalt Orchestra**, Bang on a Can's extreme street band that offers mobile performances re-contextualizing unusual music; **Found Sound Nation**, a new technology-based musical outreach program now partnering with the State Department of the United States of America to create **OneBeat**, a revolutionary, post-political residency program that uses music to bridge the gulf between young American musicians and young musicians from developing countries; cross-disciplinary collaborations and projects with DJs, visual artists, choreographers, filmmakers and more. Each new program has evolved to answer specific challenges faced by today's musicians, composers and audiences, in order to make innovative music widely accessible and wildly received. Bang on a Can's inventive and aggressive approach to programming and presentation has created a large and vibrant international audience made up of people of all ages who are rediscovering the value of contemporary music.

###