

Photo: Samantha West



Tessellatum | A Collaboration
With Creative Associate
Nadia Sirota

Monday, February 17, 2020 • 6 and 8:30pm
Rosemary and Meredith Willson Theater

Juilliard

The Juilliard School
presents

Tessellatum | A Collaboration With Creative Associate Nadia Sirota

Tessellatum in Conversation

Damian Woetzel, Moderator

Nadia Sirota, Creative Associate

Donnacha Dennehy, Composer

Steven Mertens, Animator

DONNACHA DENNEHY
(b. 1970)

Tessellatum (2015; revised 2019)

Conducted by **Alan Pierson** with solo viola by **Nadia Sirota**

Viola

Sean Juhl

Claire Satchwell

Yoonsoo Cha

Kayla Cabrera

Lindan Burns

Madeleine Pintoff

Cello

Elena Ariza

Noah Koh

Joseph Staten

Keina Satoh

Mizuki Hayakawa

Hsi-yuan (Elisabeth) Chang

Bass

Bennett Norris

Bowen Ha

Animation by **Steven Mertens**, cued by composition student
Webster Gabois

Paul Hudson, Lighting Designer

Angie Turro, Production Stage Manager

Juilliard's creative enterprise programming, including the Creative Associates program, is generously supported by Jody and John Arnhold.

Special thanks to Juilliard's public affairs department, production team, orchestra office, concert office, recording department, and the Center for Innovation of the Arts for their collaboration on this project.

Large
Print

Please turn off all electronic devices. Taking photographs and using recording equipment are not permitted. Large Print and Braille programs are available for select Juilliard performances. Please ask an usher or a house manager for assistance.

Nadia Sirota

Nadia Sirota (BM '04, MM '06, viola)—whose career spans performance, curation, and broadcasting—brings classical music to a broader audience. Her singular sound and expressive execution have served as muse to composers including Nico Muhly, Missy Mazzoli, Daniél Bjarnason, Marcos Balter, and David Lang. She has been a soloist with many orchestras and has released four solo albums of commissioned music: *first things first* (2009), *Baroque* (2013), *Keep in Touch* (2016), and *Tessellatum* (2017). Sirota is a member of Bedroom Community, a collective of musically diverse artists who work and collaborate at Reykjavík's Greenhouse Studios. She has also lent her sound to recording and concert projects by the National, David Bowie, John Legend, and Björk. Sirota is a member of the chamber sextet yMusic and since 2018 she has been the New York Philharmonic's Marie-Josée Kravis Creative Partner, a position created for her. She is also artist-in-residence at UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance and a Creative Associate at Juilliard, where she studied with Heidi Castleman, Misha Amory, and Hsin-Yun Huang.



Photo: Shervin Lainez

Alan Pierson

Alan Pierson is the artistic director and conductor of Alarm Will Sound and served for three years as the artistic director and conductor of the Brooklyn Philharmonic. Pierson has also appeared as a guest conductor with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, the London Sinfonietta, the Steve Reich Ensemble, the Orchestra of St. Luke's, Carnegie Hall's Ensemble ACJW, the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, L.A. Opera, the New World Symphony, and the Silk Road Project, among other ensembles. He is principal conductor of the Dublin-based Crash Ensemble, co-director of the Northwestern University Contemporary Music Ensemble, and has been a visiting faculty conductor at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, the Eastman School of Music, and at the Banff Centre for the Arts and Creativity. Pierson received bachelor degrees in physics and music from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a doctorate in conducting from the Eastman School of Music.



Photo: Ros Kavanagh

Donnacha Dennehy

Donnacha Dennehy's music has been featured at the Edinburgh Festival, Carnegie Hall, Muziekgebouw (Amsterdam), Barbican (London), and BAM. In addition to *The Hunger*, recent works include two operas with writer Enda Walsh, *The Last Hotel* and *The Second Violinist* (2017 Fedora Prize for opera); *Broken Unison* for Sō Percussion (co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall and Cork Opera House); *Overcasting* (commissioned by the L.A. Philharmonic); and pieces for Dawn Upshaw, Third Coast Percussion, and the Kronos and Doric quartets. Recordings have been released by Nonesuch, New Amsterdam, Cantaloupe, NMC, and Bedroom Community. Dennehy joined the music faculty at Princeton in 2014. His music is published by G. Schirmer, New York.



Photo: Britt Olson-Ecker



Photo: Brian Geltner

Steven Mertens

Steven Mertens is a Los Angeles-based director and animator who has worked in many formats, from traditional stop-motion animation to 3D motion graphics, live action, and design. He has directed music videos for artists including Sheryl Crow, Regina Spektor, Cedric Gervais, The Chainsmokers, Dan Auerbach, Lil Peep, Nickel Creek, Elohim/Wiz Khalifa, Louis the Child/K Flay, and Deca. Before starting his career in animation, Mertens toured extensively as a bassist with the Moldy Peaches, Adam Green, and Here We Go Magic, among others. This background allows him to seamlessly connect his visual creations to music.



Photo: Richard Termine

Damian Woetzel

Damian Woetzel is the seventh president of The Juilliard School. Since retiring in 2008 from a 20-year career as a principal dancer with New York City Ballet, Woetzel has taken on multiple roles in arts leadership, including artistic director of the Vail Dance Festival since 2007 and director of the Aspen Institute Arts Program (2011-18). His recent projects as an independent director, choreographer, and producer include *DEMO* at the Kennedy Center; *Spaces* by Wynton Marsalis for Jazz at Lincoln Center; Kennedy Center Honors tributes to Natalia Makarova, Patricia McBride, and Carmen De Lavallade; an arts salute to Stephen Hawking for the World Science Festival; two Turnaround Arts performances at the White House and the first performance of the White House Dance Series, all hosted by Michelle Obama. Woetzel has collaborated on numerous performances and initiatives with Yo-Yo Ma, including the Silk Road Connect program in New York City public schools. In 2009 Woetzel became the founding director of the Jerome Robbins Foundation's New Essential Works (NEW), a five-year program that initiated grants to support the production of 35 new dance works. That same year President Obama appointed Woetzel to the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, and he served throughout the Obama administration. Woetzel holds a Master in Public Administration degree from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and has been a visiting lecturer at Harvard Law School. He received the Harvard Arts Medal in 2015 and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.