

Image: Ebru Yildiz



Laurie Anderson & Ensemble

Creative team

Violinist

Laurie Anderson (United States)

Violist

Eyvind Kang (United States & Canada)

Taonga pūoro

Horomona Horo (Aotearoa/New Zealand)

Bassist

Greg Cohen (United States)

Cellist

Rubin Kodheli (Albania)

Gamelan Wellington

(Aotearoa/New Zealand)

Lou Reed Drones

Stewart Hurwood (United States)

Percussionist

Shahzad Ismaily (Pakistan)

The Calling

Megan Collins
Jo Hilder
Budi Putra
Gregory Street

Here Comes the Ocean

Megan Collins
Budi Putra

Curated by **Laurie Anderson**

The Calling

Wed 4 Mar, 6.30pm
Lower Hutt Events Centre

Thanks to:



A partnership between Wellington City Council, Hutt City Council, Upper Hutt City Council and Porirua City Council.

Here Comes the Ocean

Fri 6 Mar, 8pm
Michael Fowler Centre

Partnered by:

MinterEllison
RuddWatts

Thanks to:



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New Zealand
Festival OF THE ARTS

21 Feb – 15 Mar 2020

Biographies

Laurie Anderson

Laurie Anderson is one of America's most renowned – and daring – creative pioneers. Known primarily for her multimedia presentations, she has cast herself in roles as varied as visual artist, composer, poet, photographer, filmmaker, electronics whiz, vocalist and instrumentalist. Initially trained in violin and sculpting, Laurie pursued a variety of performance art projects in New York during the 1970s, focusing particularly on language, technology and visual imagery. She became more widely known outside the art world when her single 'O Superman' reached number two on the UK singles chart in 1981.

Laurie has toured the United States and internationally numerous times with shows ranging from simple spoken word performances to elaborate multimedia events. She has published six books and has written the entry for New York for the Encyclopedia Britannica. Her visual work has been presented in major museums throughout the United States and Europe.

As a composer, Laurie has contributed music to films by Wim Wenders and Jonathan Demme; dance pieces by Bill T. Jones and Trisha Brown, and a score for Robert Lepage's theatre production, *The Far Side of the Moon*. In 1997 she curated the two-week Meltdown Festival at Royal Festival Hall in London and she was Guest Director of Brighton Festival in 2016.

In February 2019, Laurie won her first Grammy Award after four nominations, for the album *Landfall*, which was a collaboration with Kronos Quartet. A haunting cycle of songs observing the devastating wake of Hurricane Sandy, the album reflects on how human memory can be stronger than catastrophe, as well as on her own loss of many items of personal significance.

She lives in New York City.

Eyvind Kang

Eyvind Kang is a composer, violist and conductor who has released many acclaimed albums and worked on hundreds of recordings as an instrumentalist and arranger. His compositions have been played by the Iceland Symphony Orchestra, the Winnipeg Symphony, the Seattle Chamber Players, Orchestra del Teatro Comunale di Bologna and the Israeli Contemporary Players, among other ensembles.

As a violist he has been featured by a wide range of independent musicians including Bill Frisell, Laurie Anderson, John Zorn, the Sun City Girls and Secret Chiefs.

Eyvind has studied North Indian Classical music under Dr. N. Rajam, and is currently a long time student of Classical Persian Music under Ostad Hossein Omoumi.

Shahzad Ismaily

Multi-instrumental and multi-disciplinary performer Shahzad Ismaily was born in the United States to Pakistani immigrant parents. He is a largely self-taught composer and musician, having mastered the electric and double bass, guitar, banjo, accordion, flute, drums, various percussion instruments and various analog synthesisers and drum machines.

Shahzad has recorded or performed with an incredibly diverse assemblage of musicians and has composed regularly for dance, theatre and film.

Currently based in New York, Shahzad has studied music extensively in Pakistan, India, Turkey, Mexico, Santiago, Japan, Indonesia, Morocco and Iceland. He is the founder of the *figureight* record label and artist collective.

Greg Cohen

Besides his life as a bass player, Greg Cohen stays busy teaching music in Berlin. He is a Professor of Music at the Jazz-Institut-Berlin and also continues to tour and record on a regular basis.

Greg has worked as an arranger, producer, musical director and composer for theatre, film, television and in recording studios. The recordings he has been a part of have received various critical acclaim – including the Pulitzer Prize (Ornette Coleman), gold records and many 'album of the year' awards.

He has worked with a variety of artists in many styles of music, from A (Woody Allen, Laurie Anderson, Fiona Apple) to Z (John Zorn, Tom Ze, Karim Ziad).

Rubin Kodheli

Rubin Kodheli composes music and has contributed compositions to the widely acclaimed film *Precious* (2009) among compositions for modern dance, orchestras and chamber ensembles. He also writes music for his band Blues in Space.

In March of 2017, Rubin performed with Laurie Anderson and Christian McBride at New York City's Town Hall as part of a new series called Improvisations which was hailed as one of the top 10 best jazz concerts of the year by the *New York Times*. In the same year Rubin collaborated with Philip Glass and Laurie Anderson as part of a series of concerts in London called *American Style*.

Horomona Horo

Māori composer Horomona Horo is a specialist practitioner of Traditional Māori Instruments. His extensive history in performance and collaborative work spans more than 20 years. During this time he has worked with a vast array of creative disciplines and genre as well as recently completing artist residencies at Government House Wellington and Brandeis University, Boston (USA).

Horomona's work features alongside New Zealand and international artists including Maisey Rika, Dame Gillian Whitehead, Black Arm Band, QSO, Small Island Big Song. Events include WOMAD, The Rainforest Festival (Borneo), WOMEX, Rugby and Cricket World Cups, Olympic and Commonwealth Games, The Celtic Festival, Jazz and Blues Festival (Australia), and many more.

Stewart Hurwood

Originally from the UK, Stewart Hurwood grew up in a town near Cambridge. Stewart was a guitarist in school which led to forming a band and joining the local music scene. In 1995, he left the UK and moved to NYC. Once in the Big Apple, he took a position at a prominent New York music studio.

Stewart's technical skills were quickly noticed and he began to work in many New York venues and soon found himself on tour with Duran Duran. Soon after his return home, he received the call to work with Lou Reed. Stewart worked with Lou Reed as his right hand man and guitar technician until Lou's death on October 27, 2013.

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